

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
257 Eleventh Street Mildura
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502
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Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716

mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 26

Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

Fr. Pat Flanagan

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

Sacred Heart
Mildura

Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull

St. Francis Xavier
Irymple

St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein

*The Sunraysia Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care.
Child Safety Officers:- Mildura—Peter Issanchon, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

MILDURA

Recent Death: Philomena McDonald (Cresp-Melbourne), Jeffrey Murphy (Ballarat)
Anniversaries: Barry Parfrey, Caterina Audino (1st anniversary), Caterina Cirillo (5th anniversary)

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Keith Leamon, Patricia Donnellon
Anniversaries: Rocco, Rosa & Grace Lamattina, Maria Grace & Pasquale Timpano

MERBEIN

Recent Death:
Anniversaries: July 5th Noel Keens, William Gourlay, Giovanna Ienco.

(Only immediate family members of the deceased are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A
5th July 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Zec 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'



Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

If you want a sick person prayed for, ask their permission. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.

Mildura: Fr Paul Jackson SJ (India), Janelle Carney, Bill Antonie, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Teresita Eliquen -Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuionisio, Lily Chung, Lorna Kearney, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy
Merbein: Mary Avery, John Dorman

Red Cliffs: Bill Antonie, Martin Cameron, Maureen Lee, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Reynaldo Chan, Albis Dy, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Maurice O'Connor

**Bulletins are available outside all
main Church doors.**

Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204
St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567
OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258
St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Mark Gibson 5024 1654
St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura
Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000



Sacred Heart Mildura

MASS UPDATE

July & August

Sacred Heart Church will commence **weekday Masses from Tuesday 14th July, weekend Mass from 18th & 19th July.**



Please note that current regulations permit only 20 people to attend each Mass. You must register at the Sacred Heart Parish Office to attend for only one Mass each week. If there are already 20 people registered you will be offered another Mass day. The close off time will be 4pm Friday for each weekend. Sacred Heart Church continues to be opened for personal prayer, funerals and baptisms. Strict guidelines are still in force. Please use the hand sanitiser provided and adhere to the social distancing rules.

Weekday Mass Times: (Subject to change)

Tuesday & Friday—6pm

Wednesday —9.30am

Thursday—9.30 Merbein

Saturday morning—9.30am

Weekend Mass Times: (Subject to change)

Saturday—6pm

Sunday—8.30am—Irymple

Sunday—9am & 5pm

Sunday—10am Red Cliffs

Sunday—10.30am Merbein



SACRED HEART PARISH MILDURA Updated First Eucharist Program 2020

The updated plans for First Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday 29th July at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church. You have already completed the preparation time over four weeks during First Term

Preparation for First Eucharist will commence on Tuesday 21st July at 7pm in the Sacred Heart Church with a parent meeting. Dates for First Eucharist 28th, 29th & 30th August.

Please note: due to current COVID restrictions times of the ceremonies may change.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Thank you!

You can view our **final** STREAMING from 5:30pm this Saturday at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpujOBwu7YYU-LzjhmqE_VQ

We would like to take this opportunity in thanking Robert Klarich for his availability, support and initiative for streaming our Masses since the weekend of 4th & 5th April.

A huge thank you also to Fr Michael, Fr James, Fr Pat, Fr Anthony and our musicians and readers.

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

When we hear the term, *yoke*, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. The yoke of any rabbi was best identified by asking him, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' A rabbi's answer to this question revealed his interpretation of Torah. When Jesus is asked that question, he answers, 'Love God and love your neighbour,' and goes on to say that all of the rest of the Law and the prophets flows on from these two commandments. This is the yoke – the interpretation of Torah – that Jesus taught.

In today's gospel, Jesus calls to him all those who labour and are overburdened. It is the Pharisaic interpretation of the Law that burdens these people. Trying to maintain the Law was burdensome and complicated for the everyday person. Jesus says, 'Shoulder *my* yoke and learn from me ... my yoke is easy.' The yoke of Jesus was easy: Love God and love your neighbour. Compared to the 613 *mitzvot* (commands) set out in the Torah and strictly maintained by the Pharisees, the yoke of Jesus was incredibly easy to understand and adopt. So simple, in fact, that it required a child-like simplicity to accept this yoke.

Historical Context – Jewish education

Education in Galilee at the time of Jesus was highly valued. From the age of five, all boys and girls studied to memorise in totality the five books of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). This period of study was called *Beth Sefer*. From about 10-14 they continued studying and memorising the remaining books of scripture (*Beth Talmud*). From about 14 or 15, only the very best students would enter *Beth Midrash* and apply to a rabbi to become his *talmid* – disciple – and seek to take on that rabbi's yoke.

Living the Gospel – Shoulder my yoke

Jesus invites us to shoulder his yoke and learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart. The yoke he invites us to shoulder is the deceptively simple teaching: love God and love your neighbour. To love God is to consciously make a place in our lives for God. The busy spin that tends to be characteristic of so many people's lives today does not allow room for God; does not allow room for prayer and quiet; does not allow room for compassionate response to others. To love God and love our neighbour we must first make room for them.

Have you thought? Thank God!

Jesus' quite intimate words to the Father in today's passage carry with them an enormous amount of relief and perhaps released frustration. It is almost a cry of 'Thank God!' for his disciples have finally 'got it'. Jesus blesses the Father for revealing the truth to these simple men whom Jesus had chosen to follow him. The men Jesus chose as disciples were not following another rabbi and so had not been the very best students from their village. They had the education of most children but nothing more – otherwise they would have been following someone else!

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. For what is Jesus giving thanks to the Father?
- Q. What advantage do 'mere children' have over the 'learned and the clever'?
- Q. How does this explanation of 'yoke' change your understanding of the passage?
- Q. How might people have reacted to Jesus saying, 'My yoke is easy and my burden light'?
- Q. In what ways do you try to shoulder the yoke of Jesus?

Questions for Adults

- Q. In what ways do the two halves of today's reading complement each other?
- Q. Why might God have hidden things from 'the learned and the clever'?
- Q. How might we find rest for our souls if we take up the yoke of Jesus?
- Q. What message do you take from today's gospel and reflection?

DIOCESAN NEWS

Sea Sunday Appeal – July 12

Sunday, July 12, 2020 is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for those who live and work at sea. There will be a national Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Donations will provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers in these challenging times of COVID-19. Please give generously. Go to bit.ly/seasundayaustralia

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants on Saturday, July 31. The aim of the program is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world. This modified program will be delivered in four pre-recorded sessions of approximately 1 hour in length. Each session will offer input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The program offers flexibility so that you may participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group. This is a free event. For the event program and registration information go to www.catholicmensgathering.com.au.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2020 – July 5, 2020

NATSICC are inviting everyone around Australia - and the world - to join us on July 5, 2020, as we come 'Together in the Spirit' to celebrate the gifts of spirituality and culture. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced NATSICC to rethink the ways in how we empower Catholics to celebrate our special day. This year, we have modified our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday resources to work in a digital setting. We are also holding the first-ever live-streamed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass from the St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide from 11.30am EST. The livestream will be available from the NATSICC homepage. Also available from this website is the full Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Resource Booklet <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2020-atsi-sunday.html?CFID=13023777&CFTOKEN=f0d55cf2e4117806-4E5E27F4-C06C-53FE-02523E7207FBE5F7>



The Marriage Course Remake Launch - New Website and Trainings

To celebrate the launch of The Marriage Course in Australia, we've launched a new website, an Australian Marriage Course builder with new invitational resources and training sessions at <https://www.marriagecourse.org.au/>. 'Launching the Marriage Course' will be held with Nicky & Sila Lee on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 8.00pm. The Marriage Course is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage.

St. Joseph's Red Cliffs

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES with restrictions
Mon, Fri, Sat: 9.30 am; Wed, Thur: 5.30 pm
SUNDAY 10AM—as invited by Fr Pat Flanagan

ROSTER UPDATE

For term 3 are now available at the main and side church entrance.

ROSTER FOR SUNDAY 5 JULY 2020

Money Counters: P Hunt & B Pitt

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

PLANNED GIVING

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

An online thanksgiving portal known as CDFpay is now available for Sacred Heart Parish.



You can now use this portal to support our parish in both/either the first and second collections. Electronic thanksgiving offerings can be made as one off payments or you can set up a regular payment. You will receive an electronic receipt for any payments made. Payment link can be found by using the below link or via the diocesan webpage. Merbein & Red Cliffs will be on board very soon. Please follow the link: <https://ballarat.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=9>

PLEASE NOTE

Sacred Heart Church, Mildura, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Merbein, St Joseph's Church, Red Cliffs, St Francis Xavier Church, Irymple and Our Lady of Lourdes, Werrimull are now a Smoke Free Zone, please, **NO SMOKING on Church grounds.**



All Churches will be fitted with automatic dispensers in the coming weeks for hand sanitiser, please find where they are located and use as per COVID-19 health code.

Second Reading Rom 8:9.11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

A commonly heard phrase, or rather media cliché, is that after the COVID-19 crisis 'things will never be the same.' It is an understandable sentiment, given the seemingly unprecedented nature of recent events. But how novel is what happened, and how much will actually change?

The creation of what have effectively become police states (in Victoria the army was briefly called in) to counter the effects of a perceived health threat is historically not unique, although the fact that it was implemented across most of the world is novel. That the response was based on modelling projections was also new. Nevertheless, the willingness to sacrifice economic and social stability for a pandemic has happened before; it was [common](#) during periods when the Bubonic Plague ravaged populations, for instance. What about the future? Futurist Phil Ruthven has concluded, after looking at 200 years of crises, including

Cont.



the World Wars, that economies typically return to how they were before. Crises can, however, accelerate trends already occurring.

Differing versions of capitalism are emerging. The contrast between America's response to the virus and the measures taken in Australia, Europe and Britain has been stark.

America gave its corporations an eye-watering \$US5-10 trillion bailout but did next to nothing for its workforce and small businesses, resulting in extraordinary unemployment and impoverishment.

Other countries, including Australia, spent heavily to protect those adversely affected, especially workers, so as to limit damage to the economic and social fabric. It is a very different conception of how capitalist societies should function, and suggests a significant divergence is occurring.

Another potential trend is a politicisation of health that could undermine basic rights and protections. Health was already out of control in a financial sense. Just the [profiteering element](#) in American health is almost the equivalent to two per cent of the global economy and those parasitic practices, fuelled by hyper greed, have spread around the world.

'It is a very different conception of how capitalist societies should function, and suggests a significant divergence is occurring.'

The danger is that the next step will be to replicate what banks have been doing for decades: turning the industry into a system of control. Just as financiers, justified by the circular arguments of neo-liberal economics, have gleefully converted citizens into little more than consumers and debtors, the COVID-19 crisis has revealed a propensity for a biosecurity governance structure that turns citizens into patients, or threats to patients. Any system that does not put the whole person at its centre will inevitably become vicious, no matter how well-meaning it appears to be.

A third likelihood is an unwinding of globalisation. It is looking increasingly likely that the world will split into two: in geo-politics, geo-economics, digital infrastructure and supply chains. America on one side and China on the other. Both countries are in deep financial trouble, although America has an escape hatch because the US dollar remains the world's reserve currency, meaning it can raise new money whenever it wants, and China has a discrete system that can be manipulated from within by the Communist Party.

Another likely development, in this era of contact tracing, is more surveillance. China has moved at lightning pace to implement its Social Credit System, a [dystopian mix](#) of artificial intelligence (AI) and mass surveillance. In Western democracies surveillance has mainly been developed and refined by tech giants such as Google and Facebook (Edward Snowden [showed](#) that the intelligence services were heavily involved). As these companies become more politicised, using [deplatforming](#) or [demonetising](#) for alleged violations of 'community standards', the separation between the state and business blurs.

Even more concerning is America's and China's race to advance their respective data collection and AI. AI and surveillance technologies are a Pandora's box. Once they exist, they almost inevitably will be used.

By David James, Image: People wearing masks (Laura Makaltses/UN)