

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
257 Eleventh Street Mildura
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502
Presbytery Mildura: 5022 9959
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 35

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Retired Priest 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*

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A 30th August 2020

MILDURA

Anniversaries: Marietta Demaria (1 year anniversary), Joseph Grivec, Joe & Tony Habjan, Frank Puleio, Patricia Farmer

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Josephine Podbury

Anniversaries: Giuseppe & Domenico Mammone

MERBEIN

Anniversaries:

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

Sunday Mass now live streamed from 5pm each Saturday via Youtube.

Bulletins are available for collection outside all main Church doors.

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: 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, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Maurice O'Connor

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

Message from our Parish Priest

Hi Everyone,

I hope that you are all well, and keeping active during this Covid restriction time. It has been nice to see people are able to watch the weekend mass which is being streamed at 5pm on Saturday night.

Lots of little maintenance things are being completed in all the churches such as:

DeFib machines and Hand sanitizer machines installed, carpet cleaning and replacing, new ceiling works about to being at Red Cliffs.

Looking forward to being able to welcome you all back at church soon,

Fr Matthew

NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Mildura, Red Cliffs & Merbein parishioners your new envelopes are now available for you to pick up from the Parish Office which will be opened for one week only from Tuesday—Friday 9am 4pm. Please note that the statements are from 1/9/2019 to 26/8/2020. If there are any concerns with your statements or if you have changed any of your details: telephone, mobile, email, residential or postal address please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

Office is closed due to Stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions. You can contact the Parish Office by phone 5021 2872 or email mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au. **No mask NO ENTRY.**

Preferably NO CASH payments as the safety of staff, is our utmost concern.

Carmel is happy to help with over the phone payments via EFT and now with the new CDFpay online portals for all Parishes: Mildura, Merbein & Red Cliffs or you can follow the links below:

Mildura: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMildura>

Merbein: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMerbein>

Red Cliffs: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayRedCliffs>

Please note: All links have the option to select **Priest Support Presbytery (1st Collection)**

LOCAL NEWS

Michael Bowden's legacy

(A message from son Kane)

Some of you may be aware that since Michael's passing, his mates from St Kevin's and a few others have been working with Rhett at O'Loughlin and the rest of the family to get some fundraising happening to renovate the O'Loughlin oval - which has also been approved to be renamed the **Michael Bowden Oval**. See attached prospectus.

I have been a member of the committee headed by his former classmate Brian McGuinness who has been tireless in making this happen. I reckon Brian has done a magnificent job in driving this and the launch at O'Loughlin on Monday was a great success, such that we have already picked up over \$13K in funds raised.

I grabbed all of memails off the last email Dad sent out to you all, and thought perhaps by sharing the prospectus around, we can get the fundraising to more people who knew and loved Dad. I hope you don't mind.

While I have you - keep an eye on the Front Bar for a plug by Dad's old mate Kevin Sheedy. I was talking with Sheeds this morning about the fact he had the locker next to Dad, and that Dad was always entreating him to leave the fisticuffs out! The affection and respect for Dad in Sheeds' tone was another reminder of Dad's unique ability to traverse the social spectrum.

Thanks for your support and I hope you are all staying well in these challenging times.

Kane Bowden

If you would like to donate towards this fundraiser please follow the link: <https://asf.org.au/projects/oloughlin-catholic-college/>

NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

All requests for notices on the weekend bulletin to the Sacred Heart Parish Office by 4pm each Thursday. Email: mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

To go to a good home

A cream lounge suite - 1 x 3 seater with recliners & 2 x single seaters also recliners. The frame is in excellent condition though the leather is starting to wear. \$150 or make an offer.
Contact Paul McErvale 0429 327 751 or Cathy 0407 236 229.

DIOCESAN NEWS

National Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. For more information about the appeal, and to make a donation go to: www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or ph: **1800 101 201**.

Virtual Gathering for Prayer

Victorian Council of Churches and Christian leaders have felt a need to stand together to uphold our State, government, frontline health workers, communities and one another as we work our way through this time of restrictions and uncertainty. Stand Together in a virtual gathering at 2pm on Sunday 30th August. Screened at facebook.com/viccouncilchurches

Child Protection Sunday – 13th September 2020

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. Due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to **Sunday September 13th** to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross**. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13th and please also keep them in your prayers.

You can pay using CDFpay Online or leave donations at the Parish Office.





THE BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT
2020-21

TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

Celebrate Social Justice Sunday – 30 August 2020

To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. In fact, most of us will experience a mental health problem at some point over the course of our lives. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. Our parishes, organisations and communities can be places of acceptance care and healing, not places of rejection, judgment or stigma.

In the Social Justice Statement *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, the Bishops welcome the deinstitutionalisation of mental health care in Australia. However, without adequately funded community mental health services, there is a gap in the system through which people continue to fall. Social determinants including poverty, living conditions, and personal security are significant contributors to mental ill-health. The Statement highlights the experience of First Nations people and communities, asylum seekers and refugees, people who are homeless and those who are in prison.

The Bishops observe that “our society tends to draw away from, or to push away, those who confront us with our frailties and limitations” which is “completely at odds with the story of Jesus” who “takes on the frailty of the human condition” and “draws near to those who are sick or who have disabilities, those who are marginalized or despised”. People living with mental ill-health are part of the Body of Christ – ‘us’ and not ‘them’ – and share equally in Jesus’ promise of the fullness of life (Jn 10:10).

The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community.



Prayer—To Live Life to the Full

Jesus, you invite us all into the fullness of life.

May we support one another to
Flourish in body, mind and spirit.

Strengthen our commitment to ensure that
nobody falls through gaps in our systems of care.

People called you mad.

Help us to recognise you in those
who suffer mental ill-health today.

Show us how to eliminate stigmatisation
of mental ill-health
from our parishes, schools, communities
and organisations.

You drew near to those who were suffering
in body or mind.

May we too feel your nearness when we struggle
with mental health challenges.

May we be one as members of Your Body.

You invite us to share in your ministry
of love and true compassion.

May we be empowered by your Spirit to reach out to
all people in need.

May we build communities of welcome and inclusion.

Amen

To Download the Statement follow the link at http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020.



If assistance needed please call
Centacare (Mildura Office) —5051 0000
Life Line—131114
Beyond Blue—1300224636

First Reading

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.



You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,

I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.



Gospel Acclamation

See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

'Get behind me, Satan'

We have to get one terrible thought out of our heads, i.e. that the Heavenly Father of Jesus *wanted* him to suffer a tortured, agonising death. Yet we do say: 'It was necessary that Jesus suffer and die.' What can this mean? I believe this refers to the necessity of divine mission and the necessity of divine love.

First, it was the Father's will that Jesus remain true to the mission to preach and embody the gospel of mercy and forgiveness. It was inevitable that powerful elites would find this intolerable and have Jesus eliminated. Secondly, God so loved the world where death ravages human beings, that God determined to absorb the suffering and pangs of death.

The temptation to avoid that dread-ful necessity lead Jesus to rebuke Peter: 'Get *behind* me, Satan', a terrible variation of the initial call: 'Come, *follow* me.'

We could pause for a moment to very consciously make the sign of the Cross, the consequence of Jesus' mission and love for us.

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