

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
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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 37

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

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein

St. Francis Xavier
Irymple

St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs

*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*

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A
13th September 2020**

MILDURA

Recent Death: Eileen Wright, Rosa Dichiera, Herbert Hassall
Anniversaries:

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: John Flanagan, Fr Charlie Cerini, Cecilia & Domenico D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone, Francesco & Maria-Antonia Tassone, Adrianna Tassone

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Maureen Aston

(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

This weekend is Child Protection Sunday. This allows all of us to review our practises and to learn from the past and make changes for the future. We have an obligation to all our parishioners and visitors to be safe while not only in the church but within the greater community.

During the week I notified the Sacred Heart Primary School Community that Des Lowry is finishing at the end of the school year as Principal. The process for appointing a new principal has now begun and I hope to announce who the new principal will be later in November.

Catholic Education around the diocese are celebrating Catholic Education Week, which is a great way to promote, acknowledge and support all that happens in our school communities. Enrolments are now open in all our schools so if you have a child in kinder and have not yet enrolled your child please contact one of the primary schools for an enrolment pack, if your child is in grade 6 and have not yet enrolled contact St Joseph's College.

I hope that this week we are able to continue to look after ourselves and those around us. Say a prayer or two for those in need and of course for ourselves, that during this time of challenge we can find peace in our lives and our hearts and be able to truly experience God's presence.

God bless you all

Fr Matthew

NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

All requests for notices on the weekend bulletin need to be in by 12noon each Thursday. You can either email: mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

LOCAL NEWS

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS Adore Daily Reflections 2020

Advent and Christmas reflection preparation is going to look a little different this year and we would like to put forward a suggestion that we have 6—8 online groups from around the Parishes of Mildura, Merbein, Ouyen, Red Cliffs and Robinvale as well as face to face if allowed.

These online groups will be at different times through

the week which will allow us to join together with others from around the region to prepare for the birth of Christ.

The first week of Advent commences on the 29th November and in preparation for this we would like people to contact the office if they would like to Participate. Cost for the booklet will be \$4.00



NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

We still have quite a number of envelopes for Planned Giving which need to be collected.

The Parish Office will therefore remain opened for one day only on Tuesday 15th September. Envelopes & statements which have not been collected by then will be either hand delivered or posted.

New Diocesan Website

The Ballarat Diocese has launched a new diocesan webpage. This website is now live at:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes/Mildura/
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes/Merbein/
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes/red-cliffs/

Please note some information might be incorrect at this time however we are currently in the process of updating all content attached to each webpage.

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will close to the public from Wednesday 16th September. We continue to be available via email or phone. Appointments can be made, however, **No mask NO ENTRY.**

New CDFpay online payment portals are now available for Mildura, Merbein & Red Cliffs. Please 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).**

If you are contributing to the 2nd Collection please include your Planned Giving number in the comments section. Carmel will gladly help with any enquiries.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Child Protection Sunday – September 13, 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 and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support

survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Find out more at www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday and www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding



Annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection

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 this weekend (September 13) 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, parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres. This year, they are facing great challenges due to COVID-19. If you are able, your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. The Holy Land Collection option has been added to your parish CDF Pay portal which can be found on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/stewardship/catholic-development-fund-cdf/cdf-pay/>. Or donations can be left at the Parish Office.

St Vincent de Paul Drought Community Support Initiative

St Vincent de Paul are available to assist those who are eligible for round 2 of the Drought Community Support Initiative funding. Funding of \$3,000 per application is available for farming households who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- over 18 years of age;
- live/work in an eligible drought declared LGA: Benalla, Buloke, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Shepparton, Latrobe, Mildura, Moira, Pyrenees, Strathbogies, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Wellington, Yarriambiack;
- be permanent residents/citizen of Australia;
- be primarily employed in farming related activity, ie: farmer, farm worker, farm supplier/contractor.

COVID-19 has impacted the Society's ability to move around local communities and so they are reaching out to networks to assist in promoting this funding. Staff in the National Office are available to assist applicants who need help completing the questions for eligibility or who may not have internet connection or experience navigating online. There are many families that have not yet been reached. For more information call the Drought Team 1300 846 643 or go to www.vinnies.org.au/drougthelp.

RED CLIFFS CEILING

After many years the St Joseph's Church in Red Cliffs will be getting a new ceiling. Works have already commenced and we are expecting the project to be completed in approximately eight to ten weeks, which means we are hopeful to have the church reopened and ready to use for the Feast of Christ the King (November 22nd). To make this worksite safe we request all parishioners refrain from entering the church or being on church grounds during the refurbishment. Once COVID restrictions are adjusted Masses will be in a different location keeping in mind we are unable to use the school due to the COVID Restrictions for Education. Further information in coming weeks.



*The Lord is kind
and merciful;
slow to anger
and rich
in compassion.*

Diocesan e-News Upgrade

Due to the upgrade of the diocesan website, diocesan e-News has also been updated. If you did not receive e-News in your inbox this week, please re-subscribe at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study

Low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study cycles include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Registrations open now until October 12 for the next cycle which begins October 18. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Engaging Your Catholic Faith

Engaging Your Catholic Faith is a series of short sessions offered online by Catholic Theological College lecturers on a range of topics including theology, scripture, pastoral studies and spirituality. Sessions will be held from September 14 - October 31 and will cost \$20 per session. The sessions will be held via Zoom and will run for approximately 90 minutes. More information and enrolment details are available from www.ctc.edu.au.



SEASON OF CREATION 2020 Prayer

Creator of Life,

At your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life.

The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has Sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have give; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production.

But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be Renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been give.

Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who come to proclaim good news
To all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen



SEASON OF CREATION 1 SEPTEMBER—4 OCTOBER

Season of Creation and Ecological Justice

This year's theme is "Jubilee for the Earth" and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another.

You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation'. This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, 16th September at 7.30pm.

Developed by St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen is a simple technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day which will help you to listen to the inner movements of your heart. This Ecological Examen asks you to reflect with gratitude on your personal relationship with God in creation, to notice where you can do more to protect creation and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. **Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to the 16th Sept.** catholicearth-care@ballarat.catholic.org.au

A Christian Life Community and Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese in collaboration.

This notice can be found on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/a-season-of-creation/>

First Reading

Sir 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!



Gospel

Mt 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!