

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

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Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 40

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*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A 3rd & 4th October 2020

MILDURA

Recent Death: Mario Sapuppo,
Anniversaries: Antonio Callipari

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Barbara Forsyth

MERBEIN

Anniversaries:

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

Message from our Parish Priest

As we are at the end of the school holidays we wish all of our students and staff every blessing for term 4.

For the rest of us it is COVID as normal. I have noticed that seeing people at restaurants and cafes has started to give us new life with family and friends and hopefully soon the churches will also be open and we welcome you back at Mass and liturgies.

Let us continue to pray for each other and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Fr Matthew

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: Helen ter Bogt, 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

COVID-19 Step 3—Easing of Restrictions

What this means for churches and religious ceremonies?

Private Prayer/Church Visit—As from Monday 21st September the churches will be opened (9am-6pm) for private prayer and devotion please note people cannot be in larger groups.

You must sit in your family group or with a person in your social bubble and only one family group or social bubble group to be in the church at any time.

Masses—The current provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate mass.

Funerals—will be able to have up to 20 people gathered plus those required to conduct the funeral (the celebrant and funeral directors)

Baptisms—At this stage we are unable to celebrate baptisms.

Weddings—will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (this is to include the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant.

You will need to sign in and out of the church as per COVID regulations.

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

LOCAL NEWS

'Equality for Victoria's People of Faith'

As a follow up to AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA, which can be viewed on the Ballarat Diocesan website, and with Bishop Paul Bird's blessing, you may be interested in the online petition; 'Equality for Victoria's People of Faith'.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/faith-equality>

In many ways it takes up the arguments from the Bishops' letter, asking simply that we may be treated fairly as faith communities under the Roadmap restrictions, that such fair treatment should see us allowed to gather with the same restrictions as the hospitality industry and that we are confident that we can do so safely.

If you see it appropriate, perhaps you could even share it among your parishioners? As much as anything, at least promoting it could be another means of communicating to our faithful that we are hurting as much as they are under these restrictions.

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

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 do not use the Presbytery option when using the links above).

The preferred & dedicated link for Presbytery (1st Collection) is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpaySunraysia>

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.

FEAST DAYS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday 7th October:
Our Lady of the Rosary



NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

All requests for notices for 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.

RED CLIFFS CEILING

Ceiling works are well under way. Photo below shows insulation being installed and if all going to plan the new ceiling will be installed from this weekend. 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 could 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.

Bulletins available by the front door of Fr Pats unit.



It's St Mary MacKillop's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>



DIOCESAN NEWS



**catholic
mission**

Mission Sunday Appeal
**The joy of the Lord is our
Strength!**

Reach out. Give life.

Nehemiah 8:10

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 18 - a special day, called by Pope Francis, when we are called to pray and offer material support to the work of mission around the world. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability and giving them hope and practical support to live a fulfilling life. You can support by placing your donation in the Appeal Envelopes; Online at www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia or by Texting GIVE to 0488 854 436. Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity.

Chen was just 16 years old when he lost both his legs in a landmine accident. Knowing that his life would never be the same, he felt hopeless, until he and his family were approached by the Arrupe Centre. Led by Bishop Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, the Arrupe Centre provides children like Chen with support and opportunities they may not access otherwise. You are warmly invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia through this year's Church Appeal.



Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. When: Sunday, October 4 2.00pm – 3.00pm. More information and registration at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

St Vincent de Paul Society, “Assist a Student” Program for Victoria

The program assists very poor students in countries to our north to attend school who may otherwise, without this assistance, not be able to afford to attend. It is aimed at breaking the poverty cycle the student finds themselves in and it encapsulates the Vincentian message of “a hand up, not a hand out”. A \$100 donation provides access to education. Any administrative costs are met by the Australian St Vincent de Paul Society. For more information go to: https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/International_Impact/Assist_a_student_today/

Season of Creation 2020

Season of Creation 2020 continues with prayer resources, liturgical resources, Global Catholic Climate Movement reflection videos, resources to host online prayers, outdoor services and retreat. An App can be downloaded for Ignatian meditations, prayers and resources to reduce your eco-footprint. While October 4th, St Francis of Assisi Feast day heralds the end of the Season of Creation season, the Laudato Si Anniversary year continues with ongoing activities to celebrate the Jubilee for the Earth. Resources are available at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/catholic/>

Free Public Lecture hosted by ACU Centre for Liturgy: “Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics”

On Monday, October 12 the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host Sr Prof Julia Upton rsm, a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, who will give an online public lecture entitled “Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics”. Applying her expertise in liturgy and her education and interest in public health, Dr Upton’s lecture will be of great interest to all those involved in pastoral care in this time of global pandemic. The Lecture will run from 10.00am – 11.30am AEDT via Zoom. Registration by October 7 is essential <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training>. The Zoom link will be sent on October 9 to the email address you provide.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Good Wine requires Hard Work

In the Hebrew scripture, Israel is spoken of as the Vineyard of God. We can say that now the Church is the vineyard of God. God is the Landlord, we are the tenants. It is our job to faithfully tend it and make sure it bears good fruit. If we are unfaithful, then God *will* find other people to carry on his plan, other tenants to tend his vineyard.

Certainly, we see that within the Universal Church. With the decline of the Eurocentric church, who has God turned to as new tenants for his vineyard? Look at the surging numbers of Catholics in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea. The persecuted Church in Vietnam and China is surviving and growing despite the severity of oppression.

I think we may agree that the vineyard of the Church in Australia is not as fruitful as it could be. This is a challenge for us. It is wonderful to see the energetic work of the new immigrants and refugees in our parishes (including the Bishop of Parramatta!).

We could pause for a moment to commit to taking up the privilege and duty to work in the vineyard of the Church.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

First Reading

Is 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)
2. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
4. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)



Second Reading

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

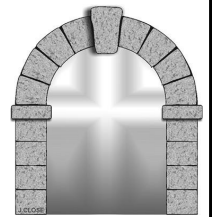
There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!



Gospel

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'