

# Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337  
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Presbytery Mildura: 5022 9959  
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716  
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 42

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*

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A  
17th & 18th October 2020**

#### MILDURA

Recent Death: Ronald Russell  
Anniversaries: Anna Maria Tripodi, Des Drewry

#### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: John Meagher & Mary Foott

#### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Leon Wagner (1st anniversary)

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

### *Message from our Parish Priest*

*Daylight savings is now with us and longer days with sunshine making us all feel happier and positive. Even though we are still unable to gather, we can still join as a faith community through the on-line masses.*

*Hopefully on Sunday we might hear some news which is positive to the regional areas and allow us once again to have masses and larger numbers able to gather in the church.*

*It has been great to see all of our students back at school and during the breaks hearing laughter and kids having fun and being with their friends.*

*On Sunday I encourage all of us to pray an Our Father and ask that the Holy Spirit sends the gift of wisdom and understanding to those people who are making decisions for the State.*

*Keep safe and see you all soon*

*Fr Matthew*

**Sunday Mass now live streamed from 5.30pm  
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

**Merbein:**

**Red Cliffs:**

### **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



Matthew 22:21

**Render to Caesar  
the things that are  
Caesar's,**

**and to God  
the things that  
are God's.**

# LOCAL NEWS

## COVID-19 Step 3—Easing of Restrictions

What this means for churches and religious ceremonies?

**Private Prayer/Church Visit**—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.**

## 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.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM—UPDATE

An update on the Sacramental Program will hopefully be available when the Premier of Victoria provides his announcement on restrictions this Sunday.

Once this information is received proposed details of changes will be forwarded to the REL's in our Catholic schools and parents from our government school children will be contacted. Please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office 5021 2872 should you require further information.



RECONCILIATION



Eucharist



Confirmation

## RED CLIFFS CEILING

Ceiling works are well under way. Photos below show new plaster being installed above the altar with new down lights and more bays of the ceiling being worked on. We are still 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.**



## 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](mailto:mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Mission Sunday Appeal - The joy of the Lord is our Strength! 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](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia) or by Texting GIVE to 0488 854 436.

Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity

### 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>

### '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.

## Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it is in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

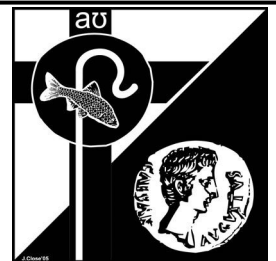
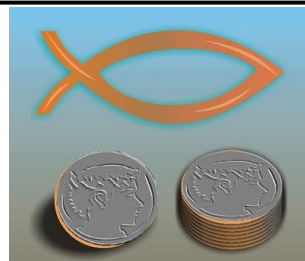
**Discernment Papers:** The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. Read the discernment paper <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-3.pdf>. Visit the Prayerful & Eucharistic page <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/prayerful/>.

**Plenary Council Discernment papers now available in audio format:** The Diocese of Bathurst has taken the discernment papers to another format, recording audio versions to help with the reception of the documents. All six discernment papers have now been recorded and can be accessed on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>.

**Next step on Plenary Council journey:** As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the *instrumentum laboris*, or working document, for the Council. Fr Kevin Lenehan is part of the *instrumentum laboris* writing team <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/next-step-on-plenary-council-journey/>.

### Young women encouraged to apply for Leadership Program

Leadership for Mission is a joint initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops' National Centre for Evangelisation and Australian Catholic University. It is designed by and for women who are inspired by the Gospel vision of justice, freedom and the dignity of the human person. The program offers both academic and formative opportunities for young Catholic women aspiring to be leaders in their chosen fields of endeavour. The program is open to women aged 25-35 with diverse personal and professional experiences from across Australia. As this is a graduate program, applicants must have already successfully completed an undergraduate degree. For more information go to <https://nce.catholic.org.au/events/leadership-for-mission>



## First Reading

Is 45:1.4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

**(R.)** Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

1 Thes 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith

in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

## Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The frequency with which we consider the question of insider-outsider is an indication of how important universalism and the breaking down of boundaries is within our religious tradition. All peoples, all lands are called on to praise God. Furthermore, God cares about and cares for all people (see Is 19:25), and God works through all people to accomplish good in the world: Gandhi, a Hindu of Indian origin; Martin Luther King, Jr, a Baptist minister; Susan B. Anthony, a suffragist; Nelson Mandela, a Black South African, etc. Human beings have always realised that, in comparison with the grandeur and expansiveness of the universe within which they live, they are weak and vulnerable creatures. This has led them to believe in and offer homage to a divine being, or beings. Praise of God has always been an expression of awe and gratitude as well as humility.

If neither gender, nor race, nor age, nor class nor culture qualifies one for being an insider, what does? Today's readings suggest that it is service of others. In breaking down the walls of prejudice, the social activists of our own age liberate not only the oppressed groups to which they belong, but also those who oppress them. The lives of these dynamic people show us that service of others draws them into our circles and encircles us in theirs. With open arms God invites all into an embrace of divine love. As God has embraced us, so we are called to embrace all others.

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