

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
Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 16



Fr. Michael McKinnon PP Fr. James Kerr 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—Christine Slattery, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

MILDURA

Recent Deaths: Vincenzo Iorlano, Michael Bowden (Darwin), Robert Beakovic

Anniversaries: Joyce Ribarits, Don Vallelonga (1st year anniversary), Giuseppe Roccisano (Nichols Point)

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries:

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: 19th April: Katerina Stefan, Saverio Primarina; 20th John Dineen; 21st Francesco Deano; 23rd Michele Callipari, Vincenza Palamara; 25th Vittorio Cirillo, Ken McCleary, Robert Dodds.

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

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, Vincenzo Pileggi, 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: Frank Chandler, 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

2nd Sunday of Easter / Year A 18th & 19th April 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common. The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. (R.)

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)



**Bulletins are available outside
Churches.**

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

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

We are well aware of the financial strain placed upon some people at this time, especially those who are not able to work and whose incomes have been effected as a consequence. We are therefore extremely grateful to parishioners who are able to continue to support the Parish at this time through Planned Giving.

PARISH SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen is not operating during this present crisis. However if people are aware of families who are genuinely struggling to provide meals for their children, they can be directed to the Presbytery between 11:00am to 12:00pm Friday to Sunday.

I found \$20 in a parking lot and thought to myself, What Would Jesus Do?

So, I turned it into wine.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Parish Secretary is available each Tuesday to Friday morning to accept financial contributions towards the running of the Parish for those not contributing via direct debit.

Second Collection (Planned Giving)

A huge thankyou to those able to continue contributing - your support is greatly appreciated.

First Collection

This collection, which goes toward parish house expenses and the priest stipend, relies solely on the generosity of those who gather to celebrate at weekend masses. With no public masses being celebrated around the Diocese, this source of income has diminished significantly. That having been stated, Fr Mick and Fr James wish to assure you that they are not starving to death, and that they are extremely grateful to Parishioners for their continued support and kindness.

STREAMING from 5:30pm Saturdays continues

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

Or go to the Parish Website: Sacred Heart Parish Mildura
Please pass on this

information to family and friends.

We continue to make available via streaming our Masses to those who are able access them via internet. We are very grateful to Rob Klarich for this initiative. **For those without internet or Foxtel**, there is a **Mass telecast each Sunday morning on channel 10 at 6:00am**, although it is not necessarily the Mass of the particular Sunday that it's telecast.



GOSPEL REFLECTION—Sr. Veronica Lawson rsm

Not so long ago we used to speak of the Sundays “after” Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays “of” Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith. Today’s gospel tells of fear and joy and blessing. We bring our present experience of pandemic into dialogue with all of this.

The first scene in today’s gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors “for fear” of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. As supporters of someone executed on a political charge, they had reason to be fearful. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his “Father”. They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to be open to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in the pursuit of justice and peace.

The second and third scenes in today’s gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear in the first place are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears. Even those who do believe and trust often need time to take the gospel message on board.

All three readings this Sunday affirm those who believe without “seeing”. In the reading from Acts, many who had not seen the risen Jesus are drawn to the community of faith-filled believers. The community addressed in 1 Peter have “never seen him [the Christ]” and yet they love him and are filled with inexpressible joy. In the gospel, we too are declared blessed: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”,

As we continue to celebrate Easter, we join with the global community in celebrating the 50th annual Earth Day on Wednesday of this week. The theme for 2020 is climate action. We have dispelled our fears, listened to the science on Coronavirus and taken courageous action. We might pray for the same courageous action to save our planetary home.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET BELIEVE.
JOHN 20:29

MASKING ANXIETY, SHOWING CARE

Who knew that the greatest moral debate of our time would be whether or not to wear a mask? Having sewed my first mask many weeks ago, I've been following the millions of words written and spoken on the efficacy of masks, whether to wear them, who should wear them, how to use them, and how to make them. In a genre that is already bending my brain, there is a special sub-category of mask-shaming.

The polarised global debate manages to shame both mask wearers/promoters (especially where that involves medical masks for the public), and those who do not wear masks. The science, apparently, is 'in'. On both sides.

I'm not here to mask shame. I'm not here to evaluate the science of masks in a specifically COVID-19 pandemic. (Mask efficacy for the general public is patho-



gen specific, I understand.) And I'm not here to promote masks or otherwise.

I simply offer the observation that my own mask 'practice' is a practice of love and care that exists purely in the social and not within the realms of science.

When my children were small, some days were tough. For whatever reason, school was an emotional or psychic bridge too far. But life goes on. And so, I gave them a token of my love for them. A talisman by which to remember that this too would pass, and we would be reunited. The token was a hand-made glass bead threaded on a satin ribbon. I would tie it on their little wrists, or they could carry it in their pocket. Whenever they felt the sadness or the worry surge within them, they could hold the bead. Play with it in their fingers. And be reminded that their equilibrium would soon return.

If a member of our family is sick, we have a routine of care developed also when the children were small. It includes particular food — chicken broth, fresh juice jellies — and until the kids were too old, the special mattress pulled up by our bed. Rituals designed to soothe the heart and thereby to still a fevered mind, absent the science.

These days, I knit. Knitting is a meditative activity that resolves my own angst, whilst channelling it into creating garments that themselves signify care for others. I only make shawls, or wraps. The symbolism is clear. Even when I am far away, the wrap will enfold the wearer as a sign of love and of care.

Before the widespread political and social engagement with coronavirus in Australia, I was already looking ahead. It is a feature of the anxious that they remain hypervigilant and I am no exception. My response was to prepare my (adult) children and my partner, and my elderly relatives, for the likely advent of significant changes to our lives. Part of my preparation included investigating masks. Conscious of not wanting to draw on medical supplies, and in light of my sewing skills and abundant stocks of remnant fabric, I found out as much as I could about how to make cloth masks.

There came a point in my reading that it was clear that there was no robust scientific, peer reviewed evidence to support cloth masks as offering genuine protection for the general public against this type of pathogen. And yet, I sewed them. I gave them to my family, to friends with older relatives, and I have now given them also to community health services to distribute within the communities they serve.

I see the public health advice is that masks will take resources away from frontline health workers. Well, not these masks.

So, if the public health advice is that masks do not work, why then have I persisted in making them? For the same reason that I gave my children a glass bead, that in my family chicken broth makes you feel better, and a woollen wrap even in a Queensland summer, means that my heart enfolds you. I make them, and give them, because I care. The people I give them to wear them because they are fearful, and, for the most part, vulnerable. The masks are a means of sharing our humanity.

To be sure, those who have received masks from me acknowledge that they are not medical, that frequent hand washing is imperative, and that face touching is out. The masks can only be worn briefly, and they must be changed frequently and washed in hot water and detergent. Maintaining physical distancing is a given. But the masks give them confidence to do the things that remain permitted as a supplement to all recommended behaviours.

I've seen social media posts by some in the sewing community who cannot bear to sew masks. Too much anxiety. Too much worry about their lack of efficacy. Too much pressure. All of these views are valid responses — everyone is responding differently. For me though, sewing batches of cloth masks at a time is a tangible means of connecting with others, and a psychic salve in these disconcerting times.

Kate Galloway is a legal academic with an interest in social justice. She is presently associate professor of law at Griffith Law School.

inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:
'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days

later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

THANK YOU

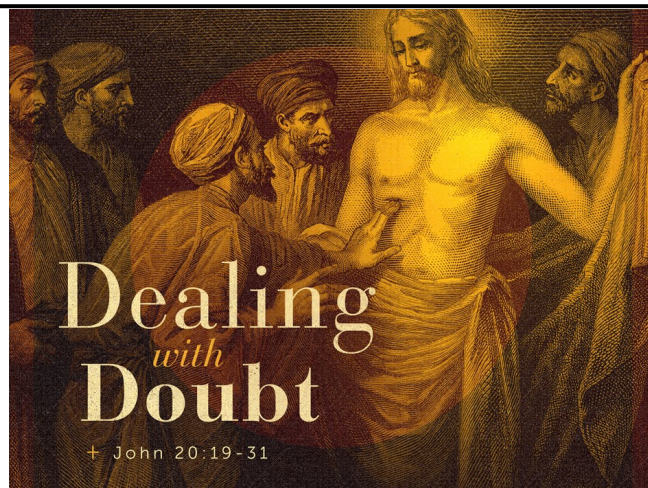


Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
#projectcompassion
1800 024 413





CONGRATULATIONS
To Chris and Irene O'Malley who are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 18th April.

