

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 12



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*

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed under Parish Heading

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY		9:30AM	
TUESDAY	6:00PM	5:30PM	
WEDNESDAY	9:15AM	9:30AM	
THURSDAY	9:15AM	9:30AM	IS ADVISED
FRIDAY	5:40PM	9:30AM	
SATURDAY	9:30AM	9:30AM	

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6:00PM		
SUNDAY	7:30AM	9:00AM	10:00AM	10:30AM
		5:00PM		
WERRIMULL	11:00AM (LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)			

MILDURA

Recent Deaths: Sr Grace Rogers, Brian Weightman

Anniversaries:

Domenico Ficarra, Leo Timpano, Natale Mamnone, Carmelo Scopelliti (30 day), Larry Cavallo

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Eileen McDonald

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: March 27th Carlo Longeri; 28th Terry Rowe.

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

4th Sunday of Lent / Year A 21st & 22nd March 2020

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

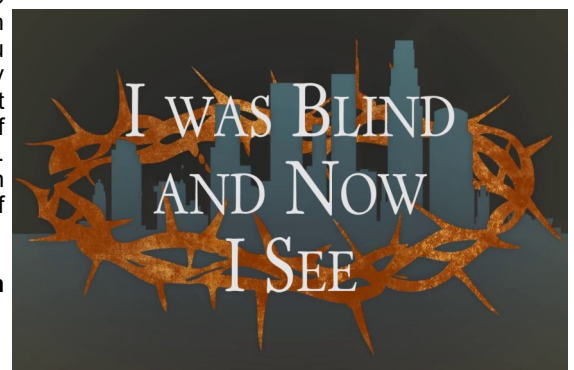
In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins".

This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present political climate in my country, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength.

In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. There is a little bit of each character in every one of us.

Sr Veronica Lawson
rsm



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

Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Sacramental Life & Liturgy

BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Emery Koodaly** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.



WEDDINGS

We congratulate **Michael Tam & Rebecca Paget** who were married this weekend.

RCIA

Prayer
Thursday 26th March 7pm, Hillman Room.



**1st RECONCILIATION 2020
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

BAPTISMS

Until further notice no further Baptisms will be booked until the month of July.

EASTER ROSTERS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

In light of our suspended Masses and in hope that we may be able to celebrate our Easter Masses please fill in the rosters at the back of the church if you are able to help out in any of our Masses for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

Community Life & Outreach

BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENING

Wednesday 25th March, 7.30pm Monaghan Centre.

STEWARDSHIP CORE TEAM MEETING

Wednesday 25th March, 7.30pm, Hillman Room

SACRED HEART FAMILY GROUP

Will be lunching at the Merbein Club on Sunday 29th March at noon. Please let Denise or Gerry know your intentions on 50211918. All welcome to join us.

ST ANTHONY COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th April 7.30pm in the KSC Clubrooms. All welcome.

FR ELIO CAPRA SDB

Thank you to all who attended Fr Elio's Sacramental Talk on Forgiveness and Reconciliation last Monday. It was most informative and entertaining. He provided many examples of Forgiveness in the family setting.



Weekly Prayer Opportunities Mildura

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri. 8:40am
Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6:30pm
Devotions and Exposition: Friday 3:00pm
Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am—10:30am
Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Prayer Room has been cancelled until further notice.

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: Geoffrey Minter, Janelle Carney, Bill Antonie, Vincenzo Pileggi, Brian Weightman, 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

PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
22nd March 2020



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



MAKING THE MOST OF LENT

Praying—Pray for yourself, your needs and those who are in desperate need.

Fasting—to give up something you love for 40 days.

Alms Giving -Project Compassion—envelope packs at church entrances.

SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION

Yar Zar Giri is a male refugee from Burma seeking accommodation in the Mildura area.

If you can help out please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 asap.

WERRIMULL MASS BUS TRIP CANCELLED

In light of our suspended Masses our first Werrimull Bus trip for 2020, has now been cancelled.



WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES CAN STILL BE DELIVERED TO THE SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE TUESDAY—FRIDAY 9AM—4PM.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS: Did you know? Each week in Australia we recycle 17.5 million steel cans. This is equivalent to the amount of steel needed to build 900 family cars. Please remember to recycle all your cans correctly.

CATHOLIC MASSES SUSPENDED

Please be advised that public Catholic Masses in Churches throughout Sunraysia and the Northern Mallee are to be suspended until further notice.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals will still be conducted according to the accepted norms presently in place.

Priests are still available for home visits to the sick and needy according to individual requirements.

Churches will remain open for personal devotions and prayer.

Information: 50 212872

Tuesday – Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Fr Michael McKinnon

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES CANCELLED UNLESS FURTHER ADVISED



**SPECIAL PARISH FEAST DURING THE
MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY AND JUNE
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

THE FOLLOWING LINKS ARE FROM THE VICTORIAN BISHOPS' LETTER TO US ALL . . .

While public celebrations of the Eucharist are suspended, perhaps you might find some strength in viewing the Mass online. Here are three of the many options available

1. From St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay, viewed anytime on youtube: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>
2. From St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, livestream of 1pm Mass: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
3. From Los Angeles, Daily Mass with Bishop Robert Barron www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1275.60	\$131.05	\$268.05
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$2369.00	\$146.00	\$298.60
Loose Plate	\$ 400.20	\$ 45.80	\$ 76.00
The Shared Table	\$ 169.00		
Project Compassion	\$ 330.00	\$ 75.00	\$130.00

COMMEMORATING THE BOMBING OF TOKYO

Among images of the horrors of war the nuclear bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima are gold standard. Each of these bombs caused many tens of thousands of casualties. Beside their destructive power the horror of other weapons seems to fall into insignificance.

In March, however, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Tokyo in which over 300 planes stacked with incendiary weapons followed each other at regular intervals for three hours and killed an estimated 100,000 people — as many as those killed by either of the nuclear weapons in Japan.

Crew members on the later bombers wore facemasks to deal with the smoke from burning flesh. So large a number of people died because the bombing targeted a very highly populated mainly residential section of Tokyo in which low income workers and their families lived in flimsy and flammable houses highly vulnerable to firestorms. It was technically a very successful operation, causing many deaths, many casualties and massive homelessness, with the loss of only a few planes.



As we reflect on the bombing today it is hard not to be overwhelmed by sadness at the wound to our common humanity laid bare by the bombing. That so much human planning, such ingeniousness in the making and deploying of weapons, such careful calculation of the effect of napalm and phosphorous on wood, paper and human flesh, and such relentlessness in the starting, feeding and renewing of fires, should be expended in the destruction of people as a demonstration of the power to kill, and so to inspire the enemy to surrender, might make us ask what kind of human beings could devise such things.

In contrast to the muted criticism later of the use of the nuclear bombs, there was little critical response at the time of the Tokyo bombing. That silence invites reflection because those who justified the bombing appealed in such crude terms to the end that justifies the means. The claim could not have survived any full description of the means used in the bombing. The real principle at work was that in war anything is justifiable, or perhaps more precisely that anything done by our side is morally acceptable. So many of the population and of those responsible for prosecuting the war implicitly accepted this principle that potential critics either questioned their own misgivings or thought it more prudent not to voice them. Public acceptance made it more difficult to contemplate the horror of war embodied in the death of so many people in fire, and the pain and grief of those who survived. Moral questioning soon withdrew into more comfortable abstraction and into forgetfulness.

Forgetting, however, has its costs. To accept that the bombing of Tokyo was morally legitimate endorsed the belief that all human challenges can be resolved by overwhelming power supported by high technology. That may be true of war in the limited sense that stronger forces armed with more powerful weapons can destroy opposing armies. But the human challenge is never simply to win the war. It is to build a better and more peaceful society. Good societies are built on a respect for each human being that forbids reducing their life and death to means to an end outside them. To forget the horror of the bombing of Tokyo risks undermining respect and enshrining the principle that the solution to all human problems lies in power and technology. Certainly the conviction that airpower and bombs would make a better world persisted in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, surviving each new proof of its folly.

In Australia ideas that have rusted with use elsewhere often seem bright and shiny. The appeal to power supported by the latest technology is evident in Australian immigration and penal policy. The costs to society of the disrespect for persons built into these policies is also evident.

Even more striking, however, has been the response to the bushfires and to the effects of climate change. The growing evidence gathered by scientists shows that this threat to our future has arisen out of human disrespect for the complex relationships that compose the natural and human world, and the consequent employment of new and more powerful technologies to exploit natural resources.

The dominant response, however, is to strengthen the powers of government and its agencies and to rely on more advanced technologies to deal with fires. The disrespect for the world and for human beings on which this response rests will certainly undermine its effectiveness. The unrelenting flight of bombers bringing death and devastation to Tokyo remind us of the destructive force of a marriage between power and technology that is not blessed by wisdom. *Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*

Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart Merbein St. Joseph's Red Cliffs

PARISH NEWS

Lenten Program: The Lenten program will continue on Monday 23rd March (tomorrow) at 7.30pm at the Parish House. We will also discuss as to whether we continue to meet in the light of the present health restrictions.

Easter Raffle Books are available at the back of the church. Please support our school in this important fundraiser.

Anzac Day: A message from Cheryl Storer from Merbein RSL to make sure you know that the Merbein's Anzac ceremony is cancelled because of the COVID-19 issue.

SCHOOL NEWS

The main conversation on everyone's lips at the moment is the coronavirus and we are constantly being updated by the Health Department and CECV (Catholic Education Commission of Victoria) as to what the latest advice is for schools. At this point in time, the advice from the Chief Health Officer of Victoria is that schools remain open unless there is a case of direct contact or where a staff member or student has contracted the virus. Thankfully this is not the case for us at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, so we will remain open for business as usual until advised otherwise.

Our Easter Liturgy is on next Friday, 27th of March, at 12noon at the school. Please come along, if you are able, to celebrate this special time in the Christian calendar. We will be finishing school at the earlier time of 2.30pm on this day, with the Easter Raffle beginning at 1.45pm. We hope to see you there!

**WEEKDAY MASSES
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

CALENDAR

Friday April 17th: St Joseph's Primary School Official opening of the refurbished learning space and new administration building at 11.45am. All welcome.

Our advertised Youth Mass and Parish BBQ has been cancelled

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED

ROSTERS FOR HOLY WEEK

In light of our suspended Masses and we can only hope and pray that we may be able to celebrate our Easter Masses please fill in the rosters at the back of the church if you are able to help out in any of our Masses for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Thank you, in anticipation.



NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS / 5th Sunday of Lent 28th & 29th March 2020

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial: Ps 129

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

**ALL MASSES
SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**



Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 11am	Sacred Heart Saturday 6pm	Sacred Heart Sunday 9am	Sacred Heart Sunday 5pm	Irymple Sunday 8:30am	Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am	Merbein Sunday 10:30am
Leader / Reader	Katy Quinlan	Soane Fatai	Jancy Thomas	G Schmidt	T Lewis D Eagle / T Gardiner	Sr Carmel Setford
Music	M Guthrie All welcome	Italian Choir M Sullivan	Youth Group		Guitar	
Offertory		Louise Belej			M Suppa	
Children's Liturgy		School Holidays				
Altar Servers	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please		GROUP 3 E Briggs	Volunteer Please
Eucharist Ministers	Maria Cirillo	Greg Johnston	Wendy Finn	P Riordan	M Matotek	M Farnsworth
	Christine Carmichael	Gina Raiti	Tony Finn		N Morello	
	Jacinda Deacon	Anna Vartuli	Bill Dolence	OASIS AGED CARE	M Monteleone	CHAFFEY AGED CARE
	Katy Quinlan	Sara Visona	Jacqui Willis	Suspended	CUPPA'S	Suspended
	Vince Pileggi	Juliet Cresp	Barbara Bunting		March 29th D Eagle	
	Volunteer please	Louise Belej	Volunteer please	LAY LEADERS	M Matotek	LAY LEADERS 29th March Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
	Nancy Leonardis			FLOWERS Volunteer		
Counting Team	TEAM 1	GERRY LAVERY		5021 1918	M Adams / L Mayes	As per arrangement
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteer	As per arrangement