

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

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 257 Eleventh Street Mildura
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 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 19



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: Rebecca Valenzuela (Philippines)
 Anniversaries: Bonifacio & Cerila Valenzuela, Ma Francesca Zappia, Vincencio Fotia, Mai Giuseppa Zappina, Giuseppe Zappia, Alicia Novak, John & Richard McPhail, Rosario Green, Perla Romanillos, Moises Medura, Eustaquia Medura, Cyril Green, all other souls, Sebastiano Zema, Rosa Modica, Magdaletha John, Emil Kondratow

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Irene Donne
 Anniversaries: Beryl Flanagan, Cecilia & Domenico D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone, Francesco & Maria-Antonia Tassone, Adrianna Tassone

MERBEIN

Recent Death: Frank Chandler
 Anniversaries: May 10th Ramon Deed; 11th John Lang; 12th Colleen Hill, Constance Croft, June Jewell; May 14th Marjorie Onslow; 15th Barbara Matotek; 16th Fern Mercer

5th Sunday of Easter / Year A 9th & 10th May 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

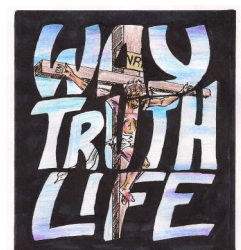
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles—Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute singing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)



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: Fr Paul Jackson SJ (India), Janelle Carney, Bill Antonie, Vincenzo Pileggi, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuoniso, Lily Chumg, Lorna Kearney, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy

Merbein: Mary Avery, John Dorman

Red Cliffs: Carmel Markham, 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

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

If you still have your Project Compassion box or envelopes at home, please bring them to the Sacred Heart Parish Office as soon as possible.

Suggested Reading

ALL THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS



Finding Truth, Beauty and Goodness in a Fractured Church—**BETH DOHERTY**

Can be ordered through Garratt Publishing

Or Contact the Parish Office to order

BOM \$19.95 Sophia \$17.47—RRP \$24.95



Congratulations to Helen & Bill Love who will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 14th May and were married in 1960 at Sacred Heart Church Kew.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – now open for new participants

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries - employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au phone: 0407 523 424.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

A huge thank you to those able to continue contributing - to our 1st & 2nd Collection, your support is greatly appreciated.

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 its telecast.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION—Sr. Veronica Lawson rsm

“Take from my heart all painful anxiety” is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is an ever present possibility. When we don’t have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time in most of our lives when there are real concerns and potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with the global Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on so many aspects of life.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” is Jesus’ word to his friends in John’s gospel. The verb, here in passive mood (“be troubled”), is used of Jesus’ spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart: “Believe in God, believe also in me.” The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: “I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself”. In this context, Jesus makes three claims: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the glorified Jesus as “full of grace and truth” and the bringer of “grace and truth”(1:14, 17). He is the *life* that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of *life*, even the resurrection and the *life*. His claim to be “the way” was foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: “I am the gate for the sheep.”

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as “Father”. If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the “works” of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress. Praying for those who put their lives at risk to protect others is a powerful means of dealing with troubled hearts.



A NEW KIND OF LEADERSHIP

Author Madeleine Chapman may be wondering ‘what if?’. What if she could still be adding chapters to her biography *Jacinda Ardern: A new kind of leader* until the aftermath of Ardern’s tackling COVID-19 in New Zealand?



Chances are it would have given an additional example of the kind of empathetic, courageous leadership with Ardern has become synonymous with across the world. As it is, this Ardern biography is crisp and sharp, explaining the optimism that launched a millennial (and only the second world leader to ever give birth in office) into the highest public office of her land.

‘If it is possible to begin building your social conscience when you are a small child,’ Chapman quotes Ardern, ‘then that is what happened to me.’ As a five-year-old, the author relates, the police officer’s kid and future queen of hearts saw injustice and deep poverty in Murupara and Morrinsville, where she grew up. Kids without shoes, people in sickness without healthcare, people dying from suicide.

Ardern has since taken on social justice issues on global stages. In particular, for Australians who hate their various governments’ deplorable stances on asylum seekers and refugees, Ardern’s assertions of human rights and repeated offers to assist them have not fallen on unreceptive ears.

Back to Ardern’s childhood which, Chapman writes, governs the PM today: ‘I never viewed the world through the lens of politics then,’ Arden says, ‘and in many ways [I] still don’t... I try to view it through the lens of children, people, and the most basic concepts of fairness.’

Life lessons were learnt, skills in negotiation and diplomacy were forged, and schoolyard advocate, studious nerd and council president Jacinda Ardern emerged from her childhood ready to take on the world. After a stint working in a fish and chip parlour, ‘the Golden Kiwi’ (I kid you not), Ardern undertook a Bachelor of Communications at the University of Waikato before working her way up through the ranks of Labour. A painful break with the religion of her family and youth, the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) over the issue of homophobia preceded overseas travel and networking, and Ardern’s tilts at pre-selection and elections.

Chapman views the political hard yards of Ardern in establishing herself while appearing to be effortless. Laughing, listening and knowing the first names of the journos at your media conference, and using them, are as much an expression of the heart as they are skill sets of electoral craft, communication, memory and recall.

Charm goes a long, long way in public life, and the author points out the obvious several times — Ardern has it in spades, laughing, talking comfortably with people from all walks of life and relating to people whatever their circumstances; as a chap whom young Jacinda was once very familiar with — St Paul — advised

his team, ‘laugh with those who laugh and mourn with those who mourn’.

Gritting her teeth and getting past the obligatory sexism (she was winner and runner-up variously of condom manufacturer Durex’s ‘hottest celebrities and politicians’ list), Ardern became a candidate for political leadership as others fell around her.

That’s not to suggest Chapman presents Ardern as a political Steven Bradbury, winning as others fell over their own skates. But ‘Jacindamania’ did not grow in a vacuum — the gaffes and miscalculations of friends and foes alike did pave the way for Ardern’s ascension.

But first and foremost, Ardern gained power, the author attests, by ‘being a mirror’ and ‘embodying empathy’ in a new, progressive model of leadership.

Without the usual voyeuristic intent, Chapman covers Ardern’s love of her partner, Kiwi TV host Clarke Gayford and the birth of their daughter, all the while negotiating the occasional political attacks from Australian politicians, the complexities of racial politics in En Zed and the rigours of sailing a coalition government.

It is in her response to the wanton murder of 41 Muslim Kiwis and the wounding of dozens of other worshippers — her comforting of survivors, the steely resolve to not give the murderer the fame he sought and the successful introduction of gun control measures — that Arden stood head and shoulders as a protector of all New Zealanders.

This is a comparatively slim volume (296 pages), stylishly, vocative and sometimes amusingly written. For some readers, if not many, Chapman’s biography of the NZ PM will raise more questions than it answers. But as a primer on a young woman who seemingly came from nowhere to give people hope, it is both informative and inspiring.

Barry Gittins is a Melbourne writer.

A Mother's Day Prayer



I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.
I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in times of laughter and of tears.
And so I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me,
and I thank the Lord for giving me
the best Mother there could be.

Happy Mother's Day!

Second Reading

1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

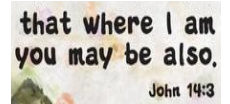
'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the
Father is in me?'

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



MAY 15: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

The coronavirus has put enormous pressures on all of us as persons, and on the groups and institutions to which we belong. It has been an affliction. The response to the measures taken to address it has been mixed. Sometimes it has been narrow and divisive, but more generally it has been extraordinarily good-willed, generous and patient. It has opened out to a far broader and balanced conversation about other areas of life that have been affected by the virus. One of these is the family. World Family Day invites us to reflect inclusively and with broad sympathy on the family.

Reflection on the family is often conducted along narrow lines in which we are tempted to focus on one set of relationships and so neglect other relationships that are equally important for healthy family life. The family, for example, may be seen as a stable relationship, recognised as a marriage by state and church, between mother and father and the children they have borne together. Many people will rightly celebrate this as the Catholic ideal of a good marriage.

Others will appeal to dysfunctional families in dismissing this as a primitive and coercive form of association that inhibits individual growth. They might emphasise the freedom of the individuals involved as central to the family. Discussions about the family will then turn to which forms of relationship justify the name of family, and which are better. These are important questions, but they are not the questions asked first by people living with the daily challenges and opportunities of family life. The consequences of coronavirus have made us attentive to the complexity and breadth of the relationships involved in families which struggle under its burdens. The economic and social changes brought by the virus have shown, for example, the consequences for the family of relationships involved in losing casual work, in working from home, in the expectation that all adult members of a family will work, in schooling, in recreation, staying in touch with extended family and friends, and educational institutions, of relationships with sport, television and social media, and in a house design that offers both common and personal space.

After coronavirus the way in which these relationships have been shaped can no longer be taken for granted. We shall have experience of the disadvantages and advantages of other shapes we may not have considered. The merits of working from home and of home schooling will be considered as real possibilities of which we have experience and not simply as abstract ideas. We shall see more clearly, too, how tightly the internal relationships within our families are connected to broader relationships with society. We shall have noticed how pressures of living together in a narrow space can be reflected in family violence and in mental illness. We shall find it difficult to reflect on the inner life of families without setting them against the social conditions in which they live. We shall know that if we wish to address antisocial behaviour we shall have to take account of the social problems that give birth to it.

World family day is a time to celebrate the generosity and goodness displayed in families, and the resilience that finds life in the most unfavourable circumstances. It is also a day to ask how as a society we can best to accompany families as they prepare children for a full and generous life.

Andrew Hamilton SJ