

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

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

Newsheet: Week 15



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

Anniversaries: Larry Manno (one year anniversary), Ilario Dichiera (30 day anniversary), Frank Virgona
Birthday Remembrance: Des Drewry

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna, Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: 12th April Kevin Forbes; 16th Kathleen Briggs, Henry McMillan.

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

Easter Sunday / Year A 11th & 12th April 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (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. (R.)

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

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 Chumg, 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

Bulletins will be available outside Churches.

Our Parish Schools

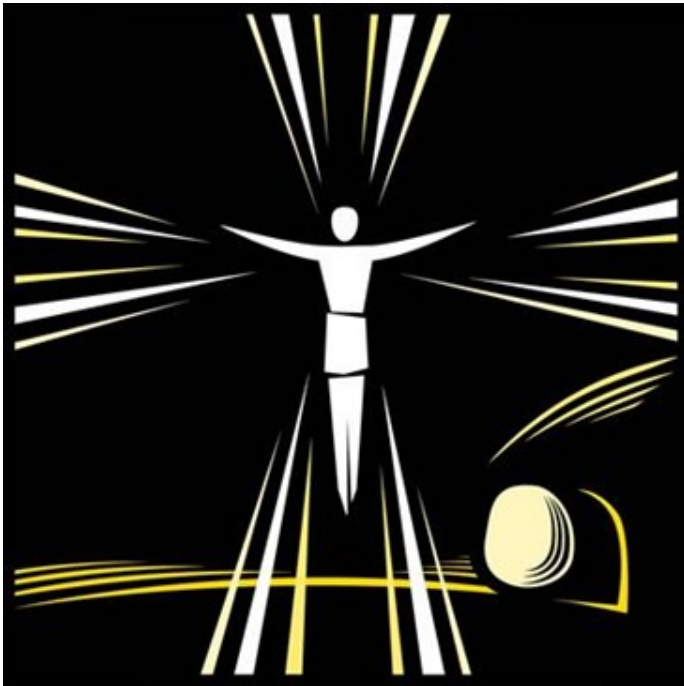
Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204
St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567
OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258
St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Mark Gibson 5024 1654
St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura
Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

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.



STREAMING from 5:30pm this Saturday:

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.

CHANNEL 7 LIVE BROADCAST

Watch Easter services live on national television from St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

The Lord's Passion at 3pm on Good Friday

Easter Sunday Mass 10.30am.

Both liturgies will be broadcast commercial free and in their entirety.

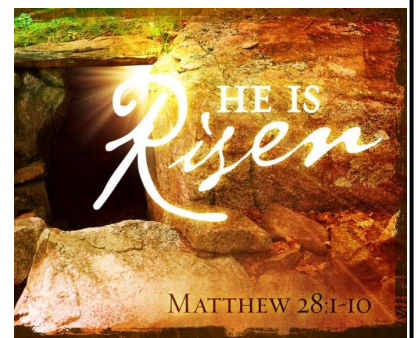
GOSPEL REFLECTION—Sr. Veronica Lawson rsm

Easter invites us to celebrate life in its fullest sense. It is anything but easy to celebrate life, however, when tens of thousands in the Earth community are facing death, when hundreds of thousands are ill and countless others are struggling to put food on their tables. Resurrection faith calls us to be fearless in our support of those most deeply affected.

A faith-filled man and two faith-filled women prepare Jesus for burial. These three people are fearless in the face of possible reprisals for their support of a "political criminal". Joseph of Arimathea cares for Jesus out of his personal wealth, providing a clean linen cloth and his own newly rock-carved tomb. With his own hands, he performs the burial ritual, lays Jesus' body in the tomb, and rolls the stone into place. The women disciples who witness the closing of the tomb are both named Mary. One is from Magdala, centre of a fish-salting industry in Galilee and the other is the mother of two male disciples. These women have contributed their goods and services to Jesus on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

The women set out at dawn "to see the tomb" This seems strange until we realise that they are functioning as witnesses, this time to the dramatic opening of the tomb and the appearance of God's interpretive messenger. "Seeing" is a metaphor for insight. In the earthquake phenomenon and the allusion to lightning, there are echoes of other great moments of God's appearing to Israel, such as the encounter with Moses and the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai.

The two Marys are the first to learn the news of Jesus' resurrection and the first commissioned to proclaim it. The women "see" the place where he was laid. They obey the angel's command not to be afraid but to go quickly to inform the scattered disciples that the resurrected Jesus has gone before them to Galilee, the place of mission, where they too will "see" him. Resurrection life energises these faith-filled women disciples/apostles and negates the death-dealing power of the Roman Empire. Ironically, the Roman tomb guards become "as though dead". As the women hurry away from the tomb, Jesus comes to meet them on the path or the road. He addresses them with a familiar greeting of joy, *Chairete*. This is the first appearance of the resurrected One and it draws from the women a profoundly reverential response: taking hold of him, they fall down in worship. Jesus reiterates the commission already delivered by the angel: not to be afraid and to let the men know what has happened. The male disciples will later be commissioned on the mountain top (Matthew 28:16-20). All are commissioned, first the women, then the men. Those "on the mountain top" must not succumb to the temptation of remaining there. They must join those on the road or the path in fearlessly bringing life to Earth's afflicted.



COVID-19 DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE, NOR SHOULD WE

I don't like sci-fi movies and even if I did, it would have been hard to come up with a plot remotely similar to what we are seeing now with the COVID-19 pandemic and the way it is affecting our lives and our world. Walking on the street far away from others. No touching, no sharing, no befriending, all so against human nature and certainly for a good reason.

Quarantine, self-isolation, social distancing have become the words of the moment. Some are rightly trying to see the positives in this challenge. They are finding opportunities to spend more time with the family

and work from home. That is, of course, if they actually have a home; if they are not relying on others for food or if



they are not survivors of domestic violence.

The ability to work from home or social distance is a class issue. How do you work from home when you are a migrant worker in India relying on a daily wage in the informal economy and now forced to walk miles to get to your village or town in a country in complete lockdown? How do you practice social distancing in the slums of Lagos, the favelas of Rio or the shanty towns of Bogota, the city where I was born?

Here in Australia, it's not much different for refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants in vulnerable situations. So many Australians are currently being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in one way or another. Many Australians or their loved ones have been affected by the virus, have underlying health conditions, are elderly or have lost their jobs or have been forced to close their businesses.

What we see at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia's Arrupe Place in Western Sydney from people seeking asylum and migrants in vulnerable situations is a story of exclusion exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

During the last few days, things have moved so rapidly. We have been adjusting our delivery models by the day to adapt to people's needs in the COVID-19 era. So many of the people we serve are contacting us in desperate situations: loss of jobs, no income, threats from landlords, lack of money to buy basic medicine, domestic violence, lack of access to healthcare and hunger. We have seen entire families who were relying on a sole breadwinner working in casual jobs now completely dependent on charity to fulfil their basic

needs. We have listened to people begging us not to close the centre and asking us to continue providing basic food to eat and other essentials. JRS' caseworkers tell stories of people that they supported years ago to get jobs and achieve independence who have come back to square one and are unable to meet basic needs. They tell stories of increased anxiety and a surge in suicide ideation.

Demand for our emergency relief services has increased twofold in just two weeks and we are struggling to respond. JRS Australia's foodbank cannot keep up with the need and we are now desperately marshalling volunteers, vehicles, and money to put in place a home-delivery system.

Centrelink is not an option. The rescue packages and the coronavirus supplement do not extend to people seeking asylum and migrants in vulnerable situations. This is clearly short sighted. Effectively dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic requires a coordinated approach based on public health needs and not on migration status. It is certainly very challenging for people to self-isolate when they have lost their homes, or when they are in immigration detention. It may be too much to ask women to self-isolate with DV perpetrators who may kill them anyway. It is also challenging to practice social distancing when people are living in overcrowded accommodation with no access to Medicare.

The COVID 19 doesn't discriminate. It affects different people regardless of their status. An effective COVID 19 response should not discriminate on the basis of immigration status.

As an essential service JRS Australia has not closed our doors. Our services have adapted and we continue supporting people in need, with food, emergency relief, casework and other services. We are also advocating for access to a safety net for all people affected in Australia, regardless of their immigration status, for access to health services to asylum seekers and migrants in vulnerable situations, for migrant and refugee women to be able to be safe at home and for the release of people from immigration detention.

For Australia's response to be effective, it needs to be solely based on public health considerations, and not on who might be considered as deserving or undeserving.

Carolina Gottardo is Director of Jesuit Refugee Service Australia and co-convenor of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw



the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

EASTER INTERCESSIONS

Christ is risen!

**ALL CATHOLIC CHURCHES
REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

**Please note: all Parish meetings
for Mildura, Red Cliffs, Merbein,
Robinvale & Ouyen are cancelled
until further notice.**



**EASTER
SUNDAY
12TH APRIL
2020**



Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You will be helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

When we **Go Further Together** in love and compassion, the whole world thrives.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2020 Lenten appeal.

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



Let us pray for those who do not share our Easter joy:

*We pray for those
who live in the shadow of
darkness and despair;
for those who live with the
hopelessness
of shattered dreams
trust betrayed
opportunities
lost love denied;
for those who live
without faith or hope or
love;
who see no resurrection,
no hope of new beginnings
for themselves or for the
world.*



*If Christ be truly risen,
let us show forth his
resurrection
so that all who
meet us shall know
that he is risen indeed!*