

# 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

mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 26

Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

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—Peter Issanchon, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

## MILDURA

Recent Death: Fr Paul Jackson SJ (India),  
Anniversaries: Bruno Pelle, Elisabetta Garreffa  
Tuesday 6pm: Ron Campbell  
Wednesday 9.30am: Bruin Michele Callipari, Rosalind Devassy  
Friday 6pm: Rosario Casale (30 day Mass)

## RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Brian Maher and Brian Unthank  
Anniversaries: Cecelia & Domenico D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone,  
Francesco & Maria-Antonia Tassone, Adrianna Tassone

## MERBEIN

Recent Death:  
Anniversaries: Joseph Klarich, Immacolata Dichiera, Joan  
Parker, John Olden, Kathleen McAllester, Tom McCarthy

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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A  
12th July 2020

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?

Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.

### 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, 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:** 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 are available outside all  
main Church doors.**

### Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204

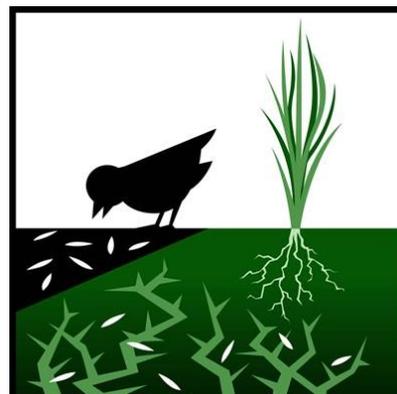
St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

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

## MASS UPDATE July/August

Sacred Heart Church will commence **Masses from Tuesday 14th July**, Please note that current regulations permit only 20 people to attend each Mass.



You must register at the Sacred Heart Parish Office to attend for only one Mass each week. If there are already 20 people registered you will be offered another Mass day. The close off time will be 4pm Friday for each of the weekend Masses. Sacred Heart Church continues to be opened for personal prayer, funerals and baptisms. Strict guidelines are still in force. Please use the hand sanitiser provided and adhere to the social distancing rules.

### Weekday Mass Times: (Subject to change)

Tuesday & Friday—6pm Mildura

Wednesday—9.30am Mildura

Thursday—9.15am Merbein (commencing 23 July)

Saturday morning—9.30am Mildura

### Weekend Mass Times: (Subject to Change)

Commencing weekend 18th & 19th July

Saturday—6pm Mildura

Sunday—8am Irymple

Sunday—9am & 5pm Mildura

Sunday—10am Red Cliffs

Sunday—10.30am Merbein



## BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Maya Groves** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

## PLEASE NOTE

Sacred Heart Church, Mildura, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Merbein, St Joseph's Church, Red Cliffs, St Francis Xavier Church, Irymple and Our Lady of Lourdes, Werrimull are now a Smoke Free Zone, please, **NO SMOKING on Church grounds.**



All Churches will be fitted with automatic dispensers in the coming weeks for hand sanitiser, please find where they are located and use as per COVID-19 health code.

# St. Joseph's Red Cliffs

**WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES with restrictions**  
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9.30 am; Tue, Thu: 5.30 pm  
**SUNDAY 10AM**—as invited by Fr Pat Flanagan

## ROSTER FOR SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

**Money Counters:** P Hunt & B Pitt

**Church Cleaning:** C Cavallaro, R Chase, D Eagle, C Jamieson, B Pitt

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Sea Sunday Appeal – July 12

Sunday, July 12, 2020 is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for those who live and work at sea. There will be a national Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Donations will provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers in these challenging times of COVID-19. Please give generously. Go to [bit.ly/seasundayaustralia](http://bit.ly/seasundayaustralia)

## Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants on Saturday, July 31. The aim of the program is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world. This modified program will be delivered in four pre-recorded sessions of approximately 1 hour in length. Each session will offer input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The program offers flexibility so that you may participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group. This is a free event. For the event program and registration information go to [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au).



## SACRED HEART PARISH MILDURA

### Updated First Eucharist Program 2020

The updated plans for First Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday 29th July at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church. You have already completed the preparation time over four weeks during First Term

Preparation for First Eucharist will commence on Tuesday 21st July at 7pm in the Sacred Heart Church with a parent meeting. Dates for First Eucharist 28th, 29th & 30th August.

**Please note: due to current COVID restrictions times of the ceremonies may change.**

## PLANNED GIVING

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

An online thanksgiving portal known as CDFpay is now available for Sacred Heart Parish.



You can now use this portal to support our parish in both/either the first and second collections. Offerings can be made as one off payments or you can set up a regular payment. Payment link can be found by using the below link or via the diocesan webpage.

Merbein & Red Cliffs will be on board very soon. Please follow the link: <https://ballarat.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=9>

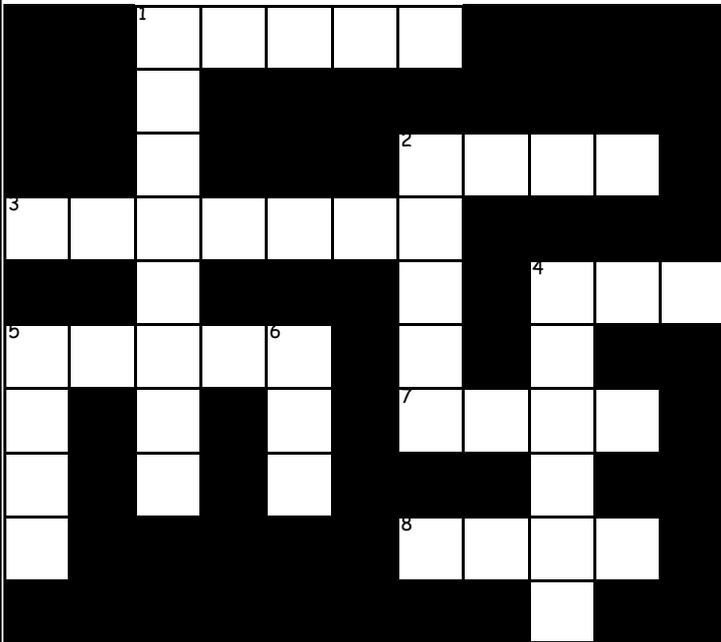
# LIVING THE GOSPEL

## Scatter that seed!

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.

## CROSSWORD

God prepares the earth for the harvest



### Across

- 1: a large group of people
- 2: this covers the ground in winter
- 3: Jesus taught at this lake
- 4: it appears in the sky and helps plants to grow
- 5: animals that fly
- 7: seeds are planted in this
- 8: water that falls from the sky

### Down

- 1: young people
- 2: plants start out as these
- 4: those led by God's \_\_\_\_\_ are his children
- 5: used for travelling on water
- 6: the sun and moon appear in the \_\_\_\_



## St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal

Because of COVID-19 at the Sunraysia Regional Assistance Centre we have had to adapt our traditional way of providing help to those who seek our assistance to meet both the Government and St Vincent de Paul directives. But thankfully we have been able to keep open.

As a result of the Coronavirus many people have found themselves in the position of having a job one day, and being unemployed the next. This will lead to an increasing number of people reaching out to us for help for the very first time. Now more than ever, the funds raised during this appeal are critical in ensuring that we can continue to be there for people when they need us most.

You can donate to our appeal via envelopes available at the Church doors. Please write your name and address on the envelope so receipts can be issued. Once completed envelopes can left at the parish office. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Many thanks from all the members of the Sacred Heart Conference, Mildura

## A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit

Replace the tension within us with a holy relaxation.  
 Replace the turbulence within us with a sacred calmness.  
 Replace the anxiety within us with a quiet confidence.  
 Replace the fear within us with a strong faith.  
 Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace.  
 Replace the darkness within us with a gentle light.  
 Replace the coldness within us with a living warmth.  
 Replace the night within us with Your light.  
 Replace the winter within us with Your spring.  
 Straighten our crookedness.  
 Fill our emptiness.  
 Dull the edge of our pride.  
 Sharpen the edge of our humility.  
 Light the fires of our love.  
 Quench the flames of our lust.  
 Let us see ourselves as You see us.  
 That we may see You as You have promised,  
 And be fortunate according to Your work.  
 Blesses are the pure in heart,  
 For they shall see God.

## JOKE

A priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St Peter was at the Pearly Gates waiting for them. 'Come with me', said St Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had anything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic sized pool. 'Wow, thank you', said the taxi driver. Next St Peter led the priest to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. 'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up', said the priest. 'Shouldn't I be the one who get the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church ever day, and preached God's word.' 'Yes, that's true but during your sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove everyone prayed.'

## First Reading

Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

## Second Reading

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.  
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'