

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872
Parish Mobile : 0417 862 082
257 Eleventh Street Mildura
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 30

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo
Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

**Sacred Heart
Mildura**

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull**

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein**

**St. Francis Xavier
Irymple**

**St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs**

*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*

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year B 24th & 25th July 2021

RECENT DEATHS

Giuseppe (Joe) Lia

ANNIVERSARIES

Mildura

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm:

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries:

Merbein

Anniversaries:

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

If you have received a Stewardship Family Pack please return to the Sacred Heart Presbytery or Parish Office (when open) as soon as possible.

Please note that if you have booked a memorial mass you are reminded to speak to the priest prior to the mass to let him know you are there.

Update on COVID Restrictions

- All churches closed until Tuesday midnight.
- Funerals - no more than 10 people plus those necessary to conduct the funeral
- Weddings not permitted.
- Hopefully a more positive update will be available for next weekend's bulletin.
- Schools go to online learning

Message from our Parish Priest

Well we are still in the midst of the COVID lockdown but hopefully this will lift later in the week. We pray for all those people and families in our community who are being impacted by the virus and the lockdown.

At this stage if restrictions are lifted then masses will recommence on Friday evening at 6pm with restricted numbers. I imagine that we would have limited numbers for the next few weeks as things slowly open up. If this is the case then the office will reopen Friday.

During this week let us stop and spend sometime in prayer, with the prayer focus being on those in our community who need a prayer, this does not have to be for someone specifically but just in general.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce the appointment of Mrs Naomi Kennedy as Principal of St Joseph's Primary Red Cliffs, commencing January 2022. Naomi has done an amazing job this year as the Acting Principal. We wish her and the school community every blessing on this new appointment.

God bless all

Fr Matthew Thomas

JESUS

Provides for All Our Needs

— JOHN 6:1-15 —

**Next Weekends Readings: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
31st July & 1st August 2021**

1st Reading: Book of Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

Responsorial: Ps 77:3-4, 23-25, 54

Response: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Gospel: John 6:24-35

First Reading

2 Kgs 4:42-44

A reading from the second book of the Kings

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Eph 4:1-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesian

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 6:1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The disciples fell into the verbal trap which Jesus set. They believed that market forces should dictate how the hunger of the crowd could be satisfied. It was a young lad who put the disciples to shame, simply handing over five barley loaves and two fish to Jesus. It was because of his generosity that Divine generosity was able to feed the crowd.

Divine desire to satisfy the hungers of humanity for the various necessities of life (food, shelter, companionship, education, medicines) require human generosity. Otherwise, Divine Compassion cannot be effective in the world.

Voluntary renunciation of property and sharing of wealth still occurs in the little oases of monasteries and convents, echoes of the radical redistribution of wealth recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4:32-35). St Luke makes it clear that this was essentially linked to the Apostles' testifying to the Resurrection 'with great power'.

Francis of Assisi and now Francis of Buenos Aires remind us that the Church itself needs to engage in the redistribution of its wealth to enable the hungers of humanity to be satisfied. This will give authenticity to its preaching of the Gospel, and enable its evangelising to be undertaken 'with great power'.

We could take a moment to pray that we become more like the little boy in the Gospel, more like Francis of Assisi, more like Francis of Buenos Aires, voluntarily sharing our wealth to satisfy the hungers of humanity.