

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
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Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 41

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Retired Priest Fr. Pat Flanagan

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*

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A 10th & 11th October 2020

MILDURA

Recent Death: Efren de Leon
Anniversaries: Peter Manno, Carmela & Vincenzo Manno,
Carmela & Vincenzo Cirillo, Zenaida Batula (1st Anniversary),
Bruno Timpano & Domenica Ficarra.

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:

MERBEIN

Anniversaries:

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

Message from our Parish Priest

This week I had the pleasure of showing our newly appointed Assistant Priest Fr Shaiju Mathew around Mildura and surrounding areas.

Fr Shaiju appointment will commence the weekend 27th & 28th November which will be the beginning of Advent and hopefully well into the easing of COVID restrictions.

Fr Matthew

Sunday Mass now live streamed from 5.30pm each Saturday via Youtube.

Bulletins are available for collection outside all main Church doors.

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: Helen ter Bogt

Merbein:

Red Cliffs:

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

Message from our new assistant priest Fr Shaiju Mathew MST (Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle)

I, Fr Shaiju Mathew MST (Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle), hailing from India, arrived in Australia on 18th March 2020. After reaching Australia directly from India I was in quarantine for 14 days with Bishop Paul in Ballarat. I was appointed assistant priest in St Patrick Cathedral Church at Ballarat and now I am appointed assistant priest of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Mildura effective 28th November 2020.

I was ordained on 3rd of April 2002, and after my Priestly Ordination most of the time I worked as a Missionary priest in Maharashtra, one of the States in India.

Now I am looking forward to working with you all in Mildura, after easing of restrictions with renewed spirit in the new Liturgical Year. I request your valuable prayers and support and hope to see you all soon face to face. Take care and be safe.

With regards

Fr Shaiju Mathew



LOCAL NEWS

COVID-19 Step 3—Easing of Restrictions

What this means for churches and religious ceremonies?

Private Prayer/Church Visit—From Monday 21st September the churches will be opened (9am-6pm) for private prayer and devotion please note people cannot be in larger groups.

You must sit in your family group or with a person in your social bubble and only one family group or social bubble group to be in the church at any time.

Masses—The current provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate mass.

Funerals—will be able to have up to 20 people gathered plus those required to conduct the funeral (the celebrant and funeral directors)

Baptisms—At this stage we are unable to celebrate baptisms.

Weddings—will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (this is to include the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant.)

You will need to sign in and out of the church as per COVID regulations.

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

New CDFpay online payment portals are now available for Mildura, Merbein & Red Cliffs. Please follow the links below:

Mildura: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMildura>)

Merbein: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMerbein>)

Red Cliffs: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayRedCliffs>)

(Please do not use the Presbytery option when using the links above).

The preferred & dedicated link for Presbytery (1st Collection) is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpaySunraysia>

If you are contributing to the 2nd Collection please include your Planned Giving number in the comments section. Carmel will gladly help with any enquiries.

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Fr Michael has been in Mildura the last couple of days and says hello to you all. He is hopeful that once COVID restrictions are eased he will return to Mildura (he is aiming for towards the end of the year) where we can properly farewell him before he travels on to Peru.



COPIES OF 'OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY' AUGUST 2020 IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE OR WHERE YOU PICK UP THE BULLETIN

RED CLIFFS CEILING

Ceiling works are well under way. Photo below shows new plaster being installed in a few bays of the ceiling. We are hopeful to have the church reopened and ready to use for the Feast of Christ the King (November 22nd).

To make this worksite safe could all parishioners refrain from entering the church or being on church grounds during the refurbishment.

Once COVID restrictions are adjusted Masses will be in a different location keeping in mind we are unable to use the school due to the COVID Restrictions for Education. Further information in coming weeks.

Bulletins available by the front door of Fr Pats unit.



NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

All requests for notices for the weekend bulletin need to be in by 12noon each Thursday. You can either email: mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Mission Sunday Appeal - The joy of the Lord is our Strength! Nehemiah 8:10

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 18 - a special day, called by Pope Francis, when we are called to pray and offer material support to the work of mission around the world. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability and giving them hope and practical support to live a fulfilling life. You can support by placing your donation in the Appeal Envelopes; Online at www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia or by Texting GIVE to 0488 854 436.

Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity

e-News

The Diocesan e-News is the online newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It is supported by the print publication "Our Diocesan Community" and the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The Diocesan e-News is published every two weeks and distributed via email. It is available to all members and those associated with the Diocese and to those with an interest in the life of the Diocese. We encourage you to subscribe to the e-News so you can receive updates and information about the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese. To subscribe please go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au, click News & Events in the menu at the top, then e-News and register for the Diocesan e-News by the subscribe box.

St Mary MacKillop's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>



'Equality for Victoria's People of Faith'

As a follow up to AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA, which can be viewed on the Ballarat Diocesan website, and with Bishop Paul Bird's blessing, you may be interested in the online petition; 'Equality for Victoria's People of Faith'.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/faith-equality>

In many ways it takes up the arguments from the Bishops' letter, asking simply that we may be treated fairly as faith communities under the Roadmap restrictions, that such fair treatment should see us allowed to gather with the same restrictions as the hospitality industry and that we are confident that we can do so safely.

If you see it appropriate, perhaps you could even share it among your parishioners? As much as anything, at least promoting it could be another means of communicating to our faithful that we are hurting as much as they are under these restrictions.

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it is in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. Read the discernment paper <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-3.pdf>. Visit the Prayerful & Eucharistic page <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/prayerful/>.

Plenary Council Discernment papers now available in audio format: The Diocese of Bathurst has taken the discernment papers to another format, recording audio versions to help with the reception of the documents. All six discernment papers have now been recorded and can be accessed on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Next step on Plenary Council journey: As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the *instrumentum laboris*, or working document, for the Council. Fr Kevin Lenehan is part of the *instrumentum laboris* writing team <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/next-step-on-plenary-council-journey/>

First Reading

Is 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R. v.6

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Phil 4:12-14. 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The servants of the king went out and gathered in 'all whom they found, good and evil alike'. They respond, drawn by the attractive prospect of sharing in the life of the Lord of the Feast, and they are welcomed, whether good or evil.

What about the king's (God's) question to the wedding guest? 'My friend, how come you are here without a wedding garment?' The guest might have replied: 'Because of dire poverty', or 'Lack of time', but the story goes on, 'But the guest was silent'. The guest was tongue-tied because he was caught out having decided not to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

That is why, at every baptism, we look for a signal of commitment to respond to the spirit of the occasion, by the wearing of a white garment. This anticipates the later receiving of Holy Communion which is a foretaste of the Feast of Heaven.

We could pause for a moment at this Mass to enter into the Spirit of the occasion wearing the garment of our baptismal commitment.

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