

# 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  
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716  
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 43

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*

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A  
24th & 25th October 2020**

## **MILDURA**

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Vincenzo Pileggi (6 month anniversary), Joseph & Anna Andrasek, Mario Sapuppo (30 day anniversary), Doss Quinlan, Peppina Timpano & Leo Monteleone

## **RED CLIFFS**

Recent Death: Joyce Meehan and Sr Caroline Deutscher IBVM

Anniversaries: Domenico & Joe Mammane

## **MERBEIN**

Anniversaries: Julian McGowan (30 year anniversary)

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

**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 Parish Priest*

*There is change on the horizon for all of us living here in Victoria, what that means I do not know!!!*

*Everyday seems to bring new announcements and challenges with a little glimmer of hope, that the State Government might consider Places of Worship (Churches) as being ready for opening to allow people to gather safely indoors not just outdoors.*

*I am looking at all different ways, that might be possible for us to gather and celebrate our faith in a safe COVID way.*

*This weekend the psalm response is 'I love you, Lord, my strength' I think it is fitting as we all need God's strength that we can be a physical strength for each other by the way we live our lives and how we respond to each other. Some of us are struggling and need help spiritually and physically, so lets remember all parishioners in our prayers.*

*Fr Matthew*



# LOCAL NEWS

## PARISH SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen is reopening as from Monday 26th October for takeaway only. There will be COVID Restrictions in place.

However if people are aware of families who are genuinely struggling to provide meals for their themselves or their children, please direct them to the Presbytery.



### COVID Restrictions as of 22nd October 2020

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

**Funerals**—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**—up to 10 people gathered (this includes the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant.)

## 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.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM—UPDATE

Mildura

we are now proposing that the weekend of the 6th, 7th and 8th November will be celebrating the sacrament of First Eucharist. Confirmation will be in 2021.

Red Cliffs

we are hoping for the weekend of the 22nd of November.

Merbein we are waiting until 2021.



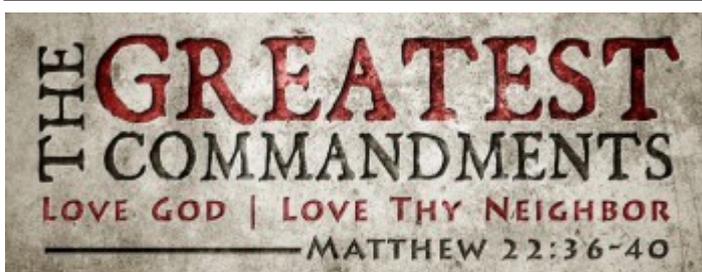
## RED CLIFFS CEILING

Ceiling works are well under way. Photos below show new plaster being installed above the altar with new down lights and more bays of the ceiling being worked on. We are still 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](mailto:mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### *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:**

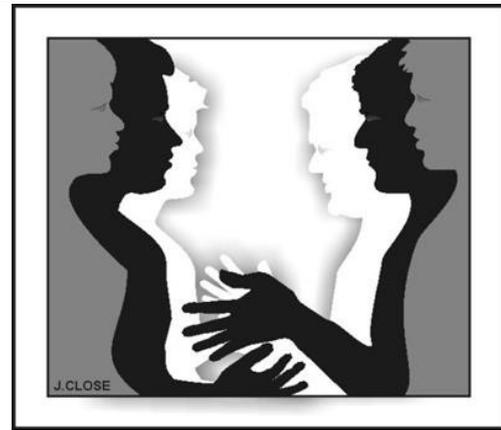
Read the discernment paper: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-4.pdf>

**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/>

### *Young women encouraged to apply for Leadership Program*

Leadership for Mission is a joint initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops' National Centre for Evangelisation and Australian Catholic University. It is designed by and for women who are inspired by the Gospel vision of justice, freedom and the dignity of the human person. The program offers both academic and formative opportunities for young Catholic women aspiring to be leaders in their chosen fields of endeavour. The program is open to women aged 25-35 with diverse personal and professional experiences from across Australia. As this is a graduate program, applicants must have already successfully completed an undergraduate degree. For more information go to <https://nce.catholic.org.au/events/leadership-for-mission>



### *A New Audio Prayer Resource for Children and Families*

A new audio resource called 'Time With Jesus' (TWJ) is a collection of short five minute meditations that take children (and adults) on an adventure through 13 popular New Testament bible stories to meet Jesus and speak with Him. For a free sample meditation, tips on how to use the TWJ resource in families and children's ministries and to make a purchase visit [www.beheldmedia.com](http://www.beheldmedia.com), [www.parousiamedia.com](http://www.parousiamedia.com). TWJ is available on CD or mp3 format and is a joint production of Beheld Media and Parousia.

### *Diocesan 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au). 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 e-News so you can receive updates and information about the life and activity of the parishes, schools and agencies of the diocese. To subscribe please go to [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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.

### *Annual Knox Public Lecture*

Catholic Theological College invites you to participate in the annual Knox Public Lecture on "Safe Church: Commitment, awareness & action for cultural change" to be presented by Sheree Limbrick, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Professional Standards. The lecture will be held online on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7.00pm. For more information and bookings go to <https://ctc.edu.au/catholic-theological-college/news-and-events/knox-public-lecture/>



## First Reading

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

## Second Reading

1 Thes 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thesalonians

*You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

## Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

## REFLECTION—Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

Until fairly recently, the Jewishness of Jesus was often downplayed, even ignored. Today's gospel passage has Jesus affirming the most central of Jewish traditions, namely the command of Deuteronomy 6 known as the *Shema* (so called from the first word in the statement meaning "hear"). The words of the *Shema* are recited repeatedly every day by every faithful Jew. Although not a prayer in itself, the *Shema* is an integral part of Jewish liturgy and prayer. It is a creedal statement that continues to function like an overture to Jewish life and practice. The doorpost at the entrance to a Jewish home generally features a tiny rectangular box known as a *mezuzah*. It contains a scroll bearing the text of the *Shema*. Those who enter touch the *mezuzah* with the greatest reverence. When I first encountered this practice, I was deeply affected by the power of the symbol to link one with the deep story of a people, in this case with that of the Jewish people.

In Matthew's story, Jesus the Jew provides an honest response to the less than honest questioning of an expert in Jewish law. He overlooks the hostility of the lawyer and the Sadducees with whom the lawyer has aligned himself. He evokes the text of the *Shema*. Jesus thus invites the lawyer to return to the heart of their shared tradition. He links the teaching of the *Shema* on wholehearted love of God with a second commandment taken from Leviticus 19: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself". The lawyer's unfair "testing" of Jesus is evidence that this is precisely what he fails to do: he addresses Jesus as teacher, a term of respect, and yet fails to show him the respect due to him as neighbour.

For Jesus, the whole of the Torah and the teaching of the prophets can be summed up in the commandments to love God with all of one's being—heart, soul and mind, and to love one's neighbour as oneself. Not just love, but *intensity of love* is the issue here. One is to love with the whole of one's being. One is to care for others as one cares for oneself. We see such intensity of love in those who are giving their lives to save those infected with Covid-19. Front-line health workers are three times more likely to contract the infection than others and yet few hesitate to turn up day after day to be there for their patients. Amnesty International estimates that some seven thousand health professionals have already lost their lives to the virus. The witness of their commitment functions like the *mezuzah* in our lives: it draws us back into the heart of the gospel tradition and calls us to a deeper, more intense love. It also helps us to deal with the insincerity of those who seek to score points and undermine the dignity of others.