

# 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  
parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 21



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

## MILDURA

Recent Death: Carmela Borg  
Anniversaries: James Hugh Bowring, Giuseppe Beniamino Cirillo (5 year anniversary), Joseph Cheriyan, Noemi Manogura, Vince Pileggi (30 day anniversary)

## RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Morag Harrison  
Anniversaries:

## MERBEIN

Recent Death: Robert Braidie  
Anniversaries: May 24<sup>th</sup> Warwick Cook, Gert Farrell; 26<sup>th</sup> Alma Hamence, Frank Matotek; 29<sup>th</sup> Mathew Gadzinski, Maureen Divola; 30<sup>th</sup> Giuseppe Chiera

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

## The Ascension of the Lord / Year A 24th & 25th May 2020

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### First Reading - Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'



### 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:** Fr Paul Jackson SJ (India), Janelle Carney, Bill Antonie, Vincenzo Pileggi, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuoniso, Lily Chumg, Lorna Kearney, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy

**Merbein:** Mary Avery, John Dorman

**Red Cliffs:** Carmel Markham, 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 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

### ACCESS TO THE CHURCH FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

Sacred Heart Church will normally be open each day for personal prayer. Please use the hand sanitizer provided upon entering, and make sure you register your name and contact number as well.

These are directives we are compelled to follow if we open the Church to the public.

### RECARPETING OF SACRED HEART CHURCH

Over the past couple of years we have been budgeting for the replacement of the carpet in Sacred Heart Church. This was planned to be done before Easter, however time caught up with us. Considering the fact that the Church isn't in use during these times though, it is an opportune time to get the job done. **The Church will be closed throughout the coming week** therefore whilst we attend to this task.



Sadly we were not able to celebrate the initiation of our five RCIA Candidates at the Easter Vigil this year. However, we will be celebrating their initiation during a Mass on the morning of Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of May, Pentecost Sunday. The numbers of the gathering are capped, but you are invited to be especially mindful of Marcus, Brooke, Simon, Manu and Leigh over these next couple of weeks as we pray God's special blessing upon them.

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

A huge thank you to those able to continue contributing - to our 1st & 2nd Collection, your support is greatly appreciated.

The Sacred Heart Parish would like to thank the Filipino Community for their generous donation of \$1050.00 which will go towards the Monaghan Centre.

### PRAYER FOR THE PANDEMIC

Fr John Comiskey SSC

Lord,  
Jesus brought healing during his ministry on earth.  
Now we need his healing more than ever.  
We need not only the healing from physical illness brought on by the Coronavirus, but healing for human hearts.  
Inspire us to serve the poor and abandoned.  
*"This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples: if you love one another."*  
(John 13:35).  
Amen

**STREAMING** from 5:30pm Saturdays continues  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpujOBWu7YYU-LzjhmqE\\_VQ](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 its telecast.

### GOSPEL REFLECTION—Sr. Veronica Lawson rsm

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the death toll from Covid-19 approaches 300,000, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and of ecosystems, exacerbated in our part of the planet by the recent bushfires. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. As we come towards the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence.

While today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles. The story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world.

The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need and that we need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the risen Christ is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* shows us the way in the face of planetary distress.



## The importance of connections

There has been much recent concern that many people will suicide as the devastation wrought by COVID plays out. Accordingly, the government has pledged \$48,000,000 to mental health programs. The commitment, though small relative to the need, is to be welcomed. It also raises wider questions about the recovery from the crisis and the role of government in it.



After the Pol Pot era it was commonly said that about a third of the people who were traumatized benefited from therapy, a third came through the experience without intervention, and another third remained traumatized. After similar barbarism in the Balkans, local shoe-string projects proved particularly helpful, including enabling women to come together in church choirs. Culturally women were restricted in leaving their homes, Church activities were acceptable. The coming together and all the social activities that went with the singing had an extraordinary effect.

This story suggests that in recovering from catastrophic events we need to look beyond the simple defining of problems, finding solutions that match them and naming agencies responsible to fix them. We need to be curious about the persons involved, their interlocking relationships which have contributed to the trauma and the possibilities for healing within those relationships. This may prove to be more effective and even less economically costly.

Although this is common sense, it is not readily received in a culture with a digitalized understanding of people in society, which sees human beings as irreducible individuals, like single pieces of information. In such a view the most important human relationships are economic. The focus of government must be to foster them.

How thin this view is was shown in the response to COVID-19, when governments rightly accepted their responsibility to protect people's lives, including supporting their relationships to shelter, family, income and food. They took control of economic relationships in order to preserve lives and prevent illness, taking on debt to keep people alive and businesses to survive. Governance, human well-being and personal initiative for a while seemed connected to a goal larger than the unfettered freedom of individuals or enterprises.

As we enter the time of recovery, we risk returning to lazy ways of looking at human life, including the

economy. Really, apart from considering the detail of each problem, we need to consider all the relationships that shape the persons involved. Mental illness in real people is not separable from their relationships to family, to their past, to food and drink, to reputation, to work and to shelter and home. These relationships, too, are inseparable from those between businesses, government departments and media.

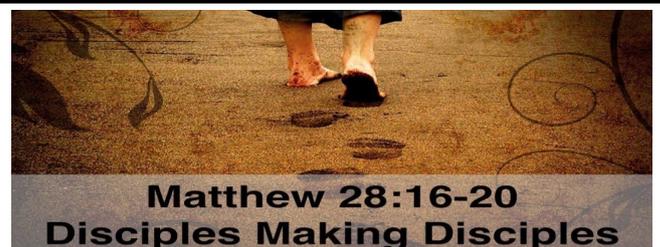
Disturbance in any of these relationships can trigger mental illness, the desire to be rid of life and despair and withdrawal from all relationships with friends. Suicide is not a phenomenon that can be treated separately from the social relationships and economic settings that contribute to it.

Similarly, when considering the recovery from isolation we must look broadly at its effect on human beings and all the relationships that shape the quality of their lives. Certainly, the economic relationships between sellers and buyers, suppliers and sellers, proprietors, owners and workers, banks and clients, the many people in the production chain and communities and local shops are certainly vital for a recovery that will benefit all people in society.

But equally important are the relationships that form communities and give people hope — the council workers on golf courses, football grounds, coaches, volunteers, the people who sing, dance and read poetry in pubs, musical groups, entertainers, managers of venues and so on. The deeper sense of belonging to a multiplicity of local communities, whether churches, choirs, sporting clubs, pubs, music societies, galleries or school committees, the richer people are and the more committed they will be to the common good. If local relationships wither, society will wither with them. This is to say nothing of relationships to the natural world on which the future of any immediate recovery will depend.

In a time of recovery these local groups and the people who animate them will be at risk. That is why the recovery cannot be business led. Businesses, small and large, will have a central part to play in creating the conditions for recovery, but initially government will have a more important role. It will be responsible for ensuring that in the recovery all can live a decent life and that the economic recovery serves all the people and is felt to do so. Part of that remit will be to enable the flourishing of small groups that help form communities. The recovery should be encouraged at the smallest level of society possible and the highest level necessary. In a connected society vulnerable people are more likely to find alternatives to taking their own lives.

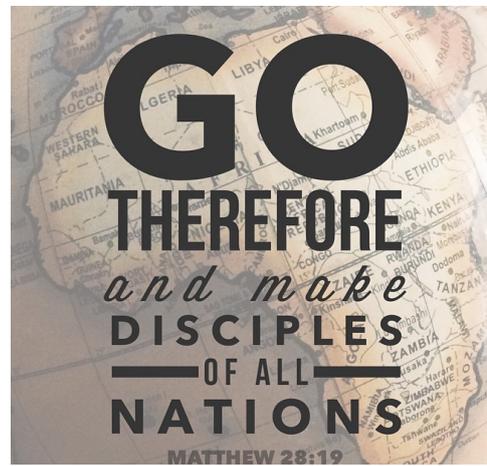
*Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*



**Matthew 28:16-20  
Disciples Making Disciples**

**Responsorial Psalm— Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6  
(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)



**Second Reading - Eph 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.



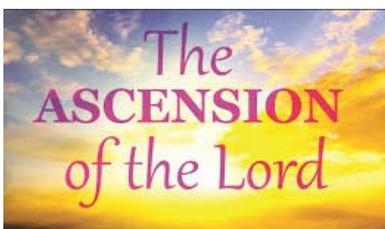
**Gospel Acclamation—Mt 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel - Mt 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all

the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



**JOKE**

**AT DONALD TRUMP'S EXPENCE**

Einstein dies and goes to heaven. At the Pearly Gates, Saint Peter tells him, "You look like Einstein, but you have NO idea what some people will do to sneak into Heaven. Can you prove who you really are?"

Einstein ponders for a few seconds and asks, "Could I have a blackboard and some chalk?"

Saint Peter snaps his fingers and a blackboard and chalk instantly appear. Einstein proceeds to describe with arcane mathematics and symbols his theory of relativity.

Saint Peter is suitably impressed. "You really ARE Einstein!" he says. "Welcome to heaven!"

The next to arrive is Picasso. Once again, Saint Peter asks for credentials.

Picasso asks, "Mind if I use that blackboard and chalk?" Saint Peter says, "Go ahead."

Picasso erases Einstein's equations and sketches a truly stunning mural with just a few strokes of chalk.

Saint Peter claps. "Surely you are the great artist you claim to be!" he says. "Come on in!"

Then Saint Peter looks up and sees Donald Trump. Saint Peter scratches his head and says, "Einstein and Picasso both managed to prove their identity. How can you prove yours?"

Donald looks bewildered and asks, "Who are Einstein and Picasso?"

Saint Peter sighs and says, "Come on in, Donald."

