

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



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Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966

Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716

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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newssheet: Week 22

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: Phillip Morris, Alan Chalkley,

Katrina Kish (Canberra)

Anniversaries: Gumerhinda Odal

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Carmel Markham, Giuseppina Condo (Melbourne)

Anniversaries: Anna Maria & Dominic Mammone, Joe & Domenico Mammone

MERBEIN

Recent Death: Angelo Grande

Anniversaries: June 1st Mary Klarić, Maureen Maynard; 3rd Suzanne Fordham; Nora Duncan

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

**Pentecost / Year A
30th & 31st May 2020**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely’ they said ‘all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

Responsorial Psalm— Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O
Lord! The earth is full of
your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they
die, returning to the dust
from which they came.
You send forth your spirit,
they are created;
and you renew the face of the
earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord
last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his
works!
May my thoughts be pleas-
ing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.
(R.)

**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



Sacred Heart Mildura

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.



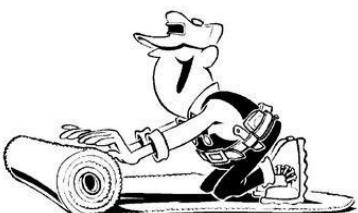
CONGRATULATIONS
To our five RCIA Candidates and one RCIY candidate initiated into our community this Sunday. We pray for Marcus, Brooke, Simon, Manu, Leigh and Semisi and may God's special blessing upon them.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

RECARPETING OF THE CHURCH

The carpeting has been completed this weekend. Pews will be industrially cleaned by Monday. The Monaghan Centre carpet will also be steamed cleaned. The church will be opened for private devotion from Tuesday onwards.



STREAMING from 5:30pm Saturdays continues
<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

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God's Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we have been in the practice of offering each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration-until Covid-19 challenged us to find other ways of communicating the peace of Christ. Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain". To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem.

Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit in a time of pandemic, we might consider engaging in a "values inventory" by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.





(Jean Restout 1732)

Message from Fr Michael

This is the longest I have been in a Parish , and the longest I've stayed in any one place since I left home in 1975. So the memories of Sunraysia and the Northern Mallee will be a part of me for the rest of my life I'm sure.

I have lived with a number of other priests here as well, more than I've lived with in any other Parish. I am grateful to them, especially Fr James who has shared ministry with me for the past three and a half years. His companionship and his parish contribution are greatly appreciated. I will always be most grateful to Fr Pat Flanagan who is outlasting all of us. Pat has been supportive as well as inspirational – his dedicated service to parishioners has been so valuable over my time here. I thank the Sisters of Mercy and Denise Cusack for their wonderful example of selfless commitment and their support. We are indeed fortunate to have them with us. The Sisters of Charity, although technically a part of the Parish across the border, have also been a valuable presence for us.

The schools and their staff have been a special part of my life here as well and have made my experience as Parish Priest so rich. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to be a part of the formation of children and young people. Carmel Russo, Margaret McDonald and Gwen Hill have each played special roles for us as priests – each in their own way have been of invaluable assistance to us.

There have been so many great people involved in parish groups and committees. Each of you has managed to make life not only purposeful, but so enjoyable as well. I have loved celebrating liturgies throughout Sunraysia and the Northern Mallee. It takes a lot of people to enable those gatherings to be life-filled and prayerful, and it is all done so well in this part of the world.

Thank you all most especially for your kindness. I will remember my time here as one of sunshine and laughter, even though I have shared some very sad times with families as well. May God continue to bless you all, and I pray that Fr Matthew's ministry among you will be blessed and fruitful.

Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death and into birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

Malcolm Guite

Goodbye from Fr James

I am very thankful for the time I have had here in Sunraysia. The weather is definitely warm and the welcome has matched it.

There are so many who deserve thanks. I will start with Fr Mick. He has been terrific to live and work with, and I have learnt a lot. I have greatly appreciated our relationship. I am also thankful for the many other relationships formed within the parish. Thanks to Margaret in the presbytery Carmel in the office for their dedication and hard work, as well as to all those who have helped Carmel from time to time. We are also lucky to have such a strong ongoing presence of Religious in our Mercy Sisters, Rosemary, Patricia, Helen and Carmel, who all still share in active and important ministries, as well as Sr Denise Cusack and the Missionaries of Charity. Thanks too to Fr Pat for his friendship. I am also thankful for all our volunteers and wider parish community for their support; for our sacristans, cleaners and gardening team, for our special Ministers of Communion and those who visit the sick and housebound, for our bereavement team, for our musicians, singers and readers, for our SVDP and KSC groups, for our RCIA and sacramental teams, for Robert and his terrific work in streaming our Masses during lock down, and of course our Parish Councils and Finance Committees. I have also greatly appreciated the welcome I have received in our schools, so many thanks to our principals and their leadership teams, as well as to all the staff and families. Finally, there are two particular features of life here in Sunraysia that have struck me. Firstly, the rich culture of Feast Days shared by the many different groups within our parish. Thankfully, I will still be able to enjoy Swan Hill's Fiesta into the future, but I will be sure to miss our many Feast days here in Sunraysia. Many thanks are due to the respective organising committees and volunteers who put in so much work each year as well as to all the different cultural groups within our region who bring such richness to our parish life. Secondly, the terrific hospitality of so many. My thanks to all those families and individuals who have welcomed Fr Mick and myself into your homes for coffee or a meal. Thanks too for all those who have dropped us off specially prepared meals and cakes, vegies (and mushrooms) and homemade salami, olives, wine, sauces and preserves. And thanks to all of you for your kindness and support, all of you contribute in your own way to making ours such welcoming Church communities. I will miss you all but thankfully I won't be too far away. I am sure to see you again into the future, and if you are ever passing through Swan Hill drop in and say g'day.

Ps- Thanks finally for all those who have reached out to us and dropped off cards and gifts over these last few days. Your generosity has really blown us away.

Second Reading - 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

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

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Gospel Acclamation—

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

Gospel - Jn 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven:
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'



be with you.
**As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you.**

John 20:21, NRSV

HOLY HOUR AT RED CLIFFS CHURCH

Today fortnight is the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. We will have a Holy Hour in St Joseph's Church from 3.00 pm until 4.00 pm.

Because only 20 parishioners apart from the officiants are able to take part, if you wish to be one of them, please ring me on 5024-1966. If I am not there to answer the phone, please leave - slowly & distinctly - your name and phone number. If there are more than twenty, I will need to phone you back to say sorry.

- Fr Pat Flanagan

World Environment Day - June 5

Some days seem just too large to think about. This year many people may find World Environment Day too big a stretch for minds still adjusting to bushfires and coronavirus and the way these things have reduced our world to our immediate street and suburb and to the next lifting of restrictions. The environment is too big to think about, and the world too difficult to imagine. Our concerns and our space are entirely local.

Despite this, however, coronavirus should draw our attention beyond our local concerns to our great environment. The trillions of diverse viruses that colonise the cells of living beings are part of our environment. Some give us grief; most are walled off from the human world. Alterations in the human environment, including the intrusion of human beings into the habitat of wild animals, allowed them to penetrate our cells with incalculable consequences. The virus itself seems to have moved from animals into human beings in places where people ate the flesh of wild animals. In the case of the virus our lack of respect for the natural environment of which we are part has devastated our built environment.

The coronavirus also focused our attention on the human environment, and on the ways in which we shape our relationships with one another and with the natural world. World Environment Day encourages us to reflect on these relationships too. In the human world greed is like a virus that affects societies and destroys our respect for the natural environment. It destroys the rich and delicate network of interlocking relationships that shape human beings into the communities in which all can prosper. It does this by taking over individuals and turning them into rogue competitors with one another. Like the coronavirus, greed is the prick that penetrates and enters the cells of the human spirit and arms it against others. It leads people to duplicate the effects of greed on their spirit in their human interactions with the world, so destroying the delicate sets of relationships that keep it in balance and support human life.

The virus of greed destroys the environment by producing gross inequality, in which some people amass enormous wealth while others live in poverty. The exploitation of the natural world causes pollution of waterways and the destruction of people's livelihood. It impoverishes people, who then further stress the environment by destroying vegetation for firewood and crowding together in crowded, unsewered housing. It creates the conditions for more severe global warming.

World Environment Day, then, is vital to keep in mind as we think of rebuilding our society. Will we build it, and eventually destroy it, by founding it on greed? Or will we build it on respect for the environment of which we all are part?

Andrew Hamilton SJ