

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

Newssheet: Week 36

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

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*

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A
 6th September 2020**

MILDURA

Anniversaries: John Curran, John & Helen Hrascenec,
 Vince Tripodi

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:
 Anniversaries:

MERBEIN

Anniversaries:

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

Message from our Parish Priest

This weekend we celebrate Fathers Day, where we celebrate and give thanks for our fathers and those special men in our lives who provide for us in a fatherly way. Similar to mothers day we are having to celebrate a little different these could be contacting them via a phone call, zoom call or what ever new way we contact people.

Let us pray from those who have died and no longer with us and for those who are in our lives at the moment that they be blessed by God through their vocation.

Fr Matthew

Sunday Mass now live streamed from 5pm 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: Janelle Carney, Bill Antonie, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuionisio, Lily Chung, Lorna Kearney, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy

Merbein: Mary Avery, John Dorman

Red Cliffs: Bill Antonie, Martin Cameron, Maureen Lee, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Reynaldo Chan, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Maurice O'Connor



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



LOCAL NEWS

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Adore Daily Reflections 2020

Advent and Christmas reflection preparation is going to look a little different this year and we would like to put forward a suggestion that we have 6—8 online groups from around the Parishes of Mildura, Merbein, Ouyen, Red Cliffs and Robinvale as well as face to face if allowed.

These online groups will be at different times through

the week which will allow us to join together with others from around the region to prepare for the birth of Christ.

The first week of Advent commences on the 29th November and in preparation for this we would like people to contact the office if they would like to Participate. Cost for the booklet will be \$4.00



NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Mildura & Red Cliffs parishioners your new envelopes are now available for you to pick up from the Parish Office which will be opened from Tuesday—Friday 9am—4pm for this week only. Please note the statements are from 1/9/2019 - 26/8/2020. If there are any discrepancies with your statements or if you have changed telephone, mobile, email, residential or postal address recently please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

All requests for notices on the weekend bulletin to the Sacred Heart Parish Office by 4pm each Thursday. Email: mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will remain open for one more week from Tuesday for the pick up of new Planned Giving envelopes.

No mask NO ENTRY.

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 note: All links have the option to select **Priest Support Presbytery (1st Collection)**.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

National Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

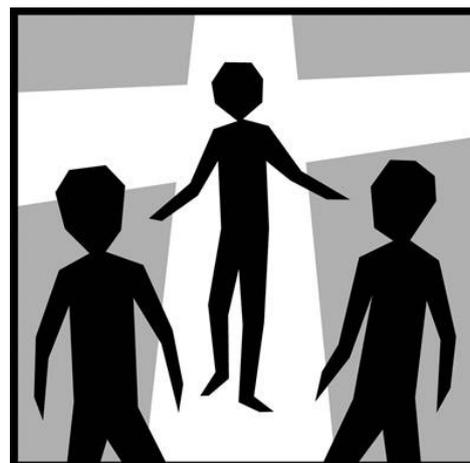
In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. For more information about the appeal, and to make a donation go to: www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or ph: **1800 101 201**.

Child Protection Sunday – 13th September 2020

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. Due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to **Sunday September 13th** to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross**. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13th and please also keep them in your prayers. *You can pay using CDFpay Online or leave donations at the Parish Office.*



SEASON OF CREATION 1 SEPTEMBER—4 OCTOBER

Season of Creation and Ecological Justice

This year's theme is "Jubilee for the Earth" and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another.

You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation'. This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, 16th September at 7.30pm.

Developed by St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen is a simple technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day which will help you to listen to the inner movements of your heart.

This Ecological Examen asks you to reflect with gratitude on your personal relationship with God in creation, to notice where you can do more to protect creation and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. **Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to the 16th Sept. catholicearth-care@ballarat.catholic.org.au**

A Christian Life Community and Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese in collaboration.

This notice can be found on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/a-season-of-creation/>

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: RESPECT FOR THE PLANET'S RESOURCES

Pope Francis releases a video message accompanying his prayer intention for September, which this month is for respect for the planet's resources: that we "take care of Creation responsibly".

By Vatican News

In his prayer intention for September 2020, Pope Francis asks everyone to pray that we learn to respect the planet's resources

It has become the custom of Pope Francis to release a video message detailing his prayer intention for each month.

The full text of the prayer intention is below:

We are squeezing out the planet's goods. Squeezing them out, as if the earth were an orange.

Countries and businesses from the global north have enriched themselves by exploiting the natural resources of the south, creating an "ecological debt." Who is going to pay this debt?

In addition, this "ecological debt" is increased when multinationals do abroad what they would never be allowed to do in their own countries. It's outrageous.

Today, not tomorrow; today, we have to take care of Creation responsibly.

Let us pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

No to plundering; yes to sharing.

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation is observed on September 1. The international celebration marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, which extends to 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

The Pope's [Worldwide Prayer Network of the Apostleship of Prayer](#) developed "The Pope Video" initiative to assist in the worldwide dissemination of monthly intentions of the Holy Father in relation to the challenges facing humanity.



Pray for All Fathers and Priests

God our Father,

we give you thanks and praise
for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers,
newly embracing their vocation;
may they find the courage and perseverance
to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers,
who have supported and challenged us;
may they continue to lead in strong and gentle ways.

We remember fathers around the world,
whose children are lost or suffering;
may they know that the God of compassion,
walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers
but still mentor and guide us,
with fatherly love and advice.

Most importantly, all our Priests,
our spiritual Fathers, who guide,
teach us and lead us to You
and who feed and nourish us
with Your Sacraments.

We remember fathers, grandfathers
and great-grandfathers,
who are no longer with us
but who live forever in our memory
and nurture us with their love.

Amen



Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invites you to attend a Zoom webinar

Sunday 4th October 2-3pm This conference is for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and will empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and it will also provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. Speakers

Bishop Paul Bird will introduce the 2020-2021 Bishop's Conference Social Justice Statement 'To Live Life to the Full, Mental Health in Australia Today'. The statement offers information on how we can care for our most vulnerable during this time of pandemic. It encourages faith communities, governments and each one of us, to make mental health a priority.

Graeme Davy-Watts works as a mental health manager for Centacare. He has almost twenty years of experience in various clinical roles. He holds a specialist postgraduate qualification in low intensity interventions, an honours degree in psychology and has held various leadership positions. Graeme will talk to us about the current reality of mental health in Australia today, what we have to learn from developing countries around the world and what supports are available for preventing mental ill health in Australia.

Please register by sending your name and contact email to Dr. Rachel Smith at social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

First Reading

Ez 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile
the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconcilia-
tion he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!



Gospel

Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Reflection on the Gospel—Year A - Veronica Lawson RSM

As we celebrate this first Sunday of the Season of Creation, we are conscious of the need for the human community to be reconciled with Earth and with all that inhabits our common home. The theme for the 2020 Season of Creation is "Jubilee for the Earth". The Earth needs a rest from the effects of so much industrial activity, from the proliferation of single use plastic, from reliance on fossil fuels, from mindless consumption. The planet needs a "Rest" of biblical proportions, a Jubilee. Ironically, Covid-19 has given the planet a rest in some respects.

Should those who refuse to listen to the science on the climate crisis be shamed? Should the few who flaunt the restrictions necessitated by pandemic be shamed? Should they be deterred by heavy penalties? Or should we appeal to their better selves? Most agree that, while it is imperative that bad behaviour at every level be challenged, there is little to recommend the shaming of offenders. So, what does a just society do with its persistent offenders, with those whose behaviour continually disrupts the unity of a group on the one hand and the very future of life on the other? There is no easy answer.

What does the gospel tradition say to this? Today's gospel indicates that the power to deal with transgression is firmly in the hands of the community. All care must be taken to allow offenders to recognise and acknowledge their offences without being publically shamed. If that fails, the matter is referred to a group of witnesses, in line with Israel's ancient legal practice (Deut 19:15). The next step is referral to the assembled community. Those who refuse to listen are to be treated as "Gentiles" or "tax-collectors". Some scholars suggest that the Matthean Jesus is proposing expulsion of those who refuse to listen. Others consider that he is advocating the sort of compassionate approach he has personally shown to outsiders, to those in need of conversion. Since every one of us is in need of conversion in relation to planetary health, compassionate persistence is an attractive option.

We do well to seek the wisdom of others. We have the assurance that Jesus, God-with-us, is present in the assembly. We also have the assurance that our failure to deal with transgression can leave perpetrators unreconciled and susceptible to reoffending. We need to "loose" the sins of those who acknowledge their offences. In other words, we are called to forgive them and thus set them free from the burden of their sins. While the gospel passage focusses on forgiveness, our first concern must be with those who suffer at the hands of offenders, including the Earth itself. We must "surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger" (James K. Baxter) and, at the same time, work actively to provide our planetary home and all of its inhabitants with the Jubilee it surely needs.