

# SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

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Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9.00am to 5.00pm  
**St Francis Xavier Church**, Elms Street, Irymple

## PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:

Fr Tom Brophy, Fr John Monaghan,  
Gladys Abriani, Jen Ditchfield, Rebecca Hogan  
Fr. Frank Monaghan P.E.



**Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 5.00 pm and Irymple 8.30 am**

**Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 11.00 am or by appointment.**

## 24th February 2008 Third Sunday of Lent - Year A

**THIS WEEK: Third Sunday of Lent 24<sup>th</sup> Feb**

First Reading **Ex 17:3-7**

Psalm **Ps 94:1-2, 6-9, R. v.8**

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Second Reading **Rom 5:1-2, 5-8**

Gospel **Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42**



**NEXT WEEK: Forth Sunday of Lent 2<sup>nd</sup> March. First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**

Psalm **Ps 22 R. v.1**

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Second Reading **Eph 5:8-14**

Gospel **Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38**

**Recent Deaths:** Richard Fawcett, Ted Connors (Melb), Stephen Geraghty (Maffra), Fr. Jack Carroll (Melb).

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Sat 6p.m.** Friscio & Matulin deceased family members & Des Burns.

**Sun 5.00p.m.** Elena Callipari, Tito, Delmer Paulino & Graciano Pancho, Teodora Cabug, Val Perfecto Chu, Rosario, Mariano, Candelaria, Carnuto & Benita Beniga.

**Tues 7.00p.m.** Cosimo Pileggi (30 day Mass)

**Thurs 9.30a.m.** Josip Grivec.

**Fri 5.40p.m.** Leanne & Stephen Francic.

**Anniversaries:** Rod Lacey, Peter Vanek, Steve McCarthy, Lee Morello, Mons. Tom O'Brien, Mons. Jim Brophy.

### Note to Families requesting special Masses:

Please let celebrant know you are present before Mass.

## Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Monday Prayer Group: 2-4 p.m.

Rosary and Stations of the Cross: Monday 6.00 p.m.

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Fri. 8.40 a.m.

Meditation: Thursday 7 a.m. Church prayer room

Charismatic Prayer Group: Tues. 7.30 p.m.

Scripture Readings: Thurs 2/177 12st -10.30a.m.

Devotional Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3.00 p.m.

## Weekday Mass Times

*If there is a Funeral Mass the advertised Mass will be cancelled*

Tues 7.00 p.m.

Wed: 9.10 a.m.

Thur: 9.30 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m.

Sat: 10.00 a.m.

### Third Sunday of Lent, February 24

Caritas Australia, through

Project Compassion, works with communities in ways that respect, enhance and build their dignity. This week's story takes us to West Java, Indonesia and gives us an insight into the struggles, hardships and commitment of Masna and her family. With the support of Caritas they now have clean water and basic toilet facilities, enabling them to look forward to the future with improved health.



We welcome **Madison Francis & Jack McNair** into our Parish Community to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

### Our Parish Blessing

**May the Lord, Mighty God,  
Bless and keep you forever.**

**Grant you peace, perfect peace,  
Courage in every endeavour.**

**Lift up your eyes and see God's face  
And God's grace forever.**

**May the Lord, Mighty God,  
Bless and keep you forever.**



### REFLECTION

**Third Sunday of Lent Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42**

Psalm 94 invites us to listen to God's voice with open and trusting hearts. Images of God as rock, saviour, creator and shepherd emerge from the Psalmist relationship with God. This God is a God who leads us by the hand! These images of power and beauty are reflected in the person of Jesus who, as the Son of God, offers us the gift of himself as 'the living water'.

Our story today takes us to West Java, Indonesia. This story gives us insight into the struggles, hardships and commitment of Masna and her family who live in Pandeglang. Their journey from poverty and poor health services to educational opportunities and improved hygiene is the result of the Hope for the Poor project (HARFA). Caritas Australia is committed to supporting this project which enhances basic human rights for the poor and marginalized in society.

Today's scripture message calls us to be instruments of 'living water' to our brothers and sisters in need. Your generous donation to Project Compassion will help to change the lives of the socially disadvantaged in our world. Chair of the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry Bishop Michael Malone said we are reminded the "season of Lent encourages everyone to confront areas of injustice in themselves and their communities".

## LENTEN BANNERS

The theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> panel is "Living Water" and is based on the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. The story tells how Jesus stopped at the well where a Samaritan woman was *drawing water and asked her for a drink. In return for her gesture, he offers her 'living water' or 'the water of life' that he brings.* In the middle of the design is this **stream of living water** that he promised. The top and bottom colours represent the **landscape** in the story.



## Coming Events

- ❖ **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
- 12.30pm. Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- ❖ **St Joseph's School Year Opening Mass**  
-Held at St Joseph's Stadium 9.00 am. **Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.**
- ❖ **Baptism Preparation Meeting**  
-Hillman Room **7.30pm. Wed Feb 27<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ **RCIA Meeting 7.00pm. Thurs Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Hillman Room.**
- ❖ **WYD Meeting - Thurs 7.30pm. Fleming Room.**
- ❖ The **PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP** are having a planning supper at the home of Gerry & Denise Lavery, 6 Wanera Way, Mildura. 7.30pm **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February.** Old & new members welcome.
- ❖ **Friday 7 March**  
**International Women's Day**  
People around Australia come together to celebrate and declare their solidarity with women around the world.
- ❖ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**  
**"God's Wisdom provides New Understanding"**  
Program prepared by Christian Women of Guyanna.  
10.00 am. - St Andrews Uniting Church.  
Speaker Rev. Beth Hancock.
- ❖ **BALLARAT DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL**  
Invites you to a Retreat Weekend Led by Father Brendan Smith at Norval Conference Centre, Halls Gap -8 p.m. Frid 29<sup>th</sup> Feb to 2 p.m. Sun, 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
Enquiries: Mary Rita Thomas 53581533  
Registrations: Joan De Voy 5570 0558
- ❖ **WOMEN'S RETREAT - Tue, 18th March,**  
**"Walking with Jesus"** led by Sr Veronica Quinn  
9.30am – 3.00pm in the Hillman Room.

## St Paul's Meet & Greet

Do you know of a young family who are looking to develop a greater bond with the Parish and School Communities?

St Paul's Primary School is running a Meet and Greet morning at the school Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, and will run each fortnight throughout the term. The program is open to any parents or carers with babies, toddlers and preschoolers, providing the children with stimulating age appropriate play group activities and music. Parents without toddlers are also encouraged to attend and enjoy a cuppa and a chat. At each session the parents will be given a short talk on Education, Parenting or Faith issues such as Lent, literacy development, numeracy, VELs, The Sacraments, speech development etc.

Meet and Greet will be held in Room 9 at the school from 9.30am. and is free of charge. For information contact:

Naomi Kennedy Hm: 50212877 or St Paul's 50234567.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY- July 2008 Sydney.

### Only 142 Days Until WYD08

Now is the time to register to be part of the Ballarat Diocese Group.

Registrations close on **March 31.**

More information can be found at [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org)  
*Don't miss out on the biggest celebration of our faith in our own backyard.*

### Peoples house welcomes WYD Cross and Icon

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon of our Lady paid an historic visit to the Parliament of Australia.

The Cross and Icon were presented to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal George Pell, World Youth Day Coordinator Bishop Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn Mark Coleridge, and Senator Ursula Stephens.

"The WYD Cross & Icon has visited parliaments around the world, and their visit here is a reason to reflect," Cardinal Pell said.

"It is a moment to pray for justice, peace and equality in our country. It is also a moment to acknowledge prayerfully those times in our history when the Cross has not been faithfully borne by those who profess Christ," he said.

For the first time, an indigenous Message Stick has joined the journey in Australia. This is an invitation to indigenous youth to attend WYD08 from the indigenous people of Sydney, the Eora Gadigal people.

The Cross and Icon's historic visit also coincided with the 20 year anniversary of Parliament House.

The Mildura branch of the **Knights of the Southern Cross (KSC)**, invite intending WYD attendees to apply for consideration regarding a possible subsidy, to assist in funding costs.

All Requests are to be mailed to:-

KSC  
P.O. Box 2236  
Mildura 3502

Applications close March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Further Enquires: Gary Huxtable 50235035

Gary Huxtable 50235035 Sam Iamarino 50221181



## Notice Board

### BAPTISMAL TEAM SPONSORS

We need more people to join our Baptismal Team. The team assists with baptisms in two ways. Firstly we help parents prepare for their child's baptism and this involves a monthly meeting at the presbytery. Secondly, we introduce the child, their parents and sponsors to the congregation during Mass and then support the priest at the baptisms after Mass. We are looking for people to help on both these teams. These are both Roster based. Please contact Rebecca Hogan at the Parish Office if you can help us.

## Volunteers Required

St Vincent de Paul shop are urgently seeking people willing to help with

- Rag cutting Sorting and Pricing
- Truck Driving – a truck licence is **not** required.

Please contact Libby on 50235750 or at shop 79 Lime Ave.



## ALTAR SERVERS

**ALTAR SERVING TRAINING will commence shortly, for any child who has had their Confirmation and First Eucharist. Please fill out an Application form available in Foyer & leave at Office. For more info please ring Margaret McDonald 50221531.**

## *REFLECTION*

### **Prayer for the Journey of Healing**

Almighty and loving God, you who created ALL people in your image, Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past. You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.

We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced.

We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families.

We are sorry and ask Your forgiveness.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and afflicted and heal their spirits.

In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable. Lord, you are our hope. Amen.

## **- Inside**

The truth is the removal of Aboriginal children and the breaking up of Aboriginal families is a history of complexity and great variety. People were stolen, people were rescued; people were brought in chains, people were brought by their parents; mixed-blood children were in danger from their tribal stepfathers, while others were loved and treated as their whites. The motivations and actions of those whites involved in this history- governments and missions- ranged from cruel to caring, malign to loving, well- intentioned to evil. Noel Pearson. *The Australian*.

## **Notes from the SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP**

We could say that in wealth is found the idol in which one sacrifices everything to reach personal success. Therefore, a fundamental decision is necessary- the choice between the logic of profit as the ultimate criteria of our action and the logic of sharing and solidarity. The logic of profit, if it prevails, increases not the only the disproportion between poor and rich, but also the devastating exploitation of the planet. Benedict XV1.

## **Old age a gifted time**

Fr Gorman tells us how old age is a special gifted time from God.

When I was co-ordinator of our Columban committee on ageing, we conducted a questionnaire. I echo the sentiments of the respondent who wrote, "Old age is a special gifted time from God."

I thank God for old age. I feel blessed in my old age, more blessed than in other stages of my life. In some ways I am more peaceful; I have always worried. Now I am not asked to do so many things, I haven't much cause to worry. Thanks to medical attention I am free from pain and I can eat, drink, sleep and walk.

My Columban Society takes care of my needs. I am at least as busy as I have ever been but there is no pressure, no deadlines. I love reflecting on ageing and I have plenty of time for this; I have a computer to help me. I pray more than before.

"There are Columbans who for reasons of age or illness are no longer as active as previously... As missionaries active in the field, we tend to put the weight of our identity on the active side of the scale. A more gospel-inspired vision would tell us that being missionary hinges more on who one is than on what one does..."

This document gives an example, "Late in the journey a missionary who has witnessed to the life-affirming values of Jesus' life, also witnesses to the life-redeeming value of 'self-emptying, suffering and death.' Inevitably a certain grief accompanies the lessening of vitality, but for those who 'work through' the grief, a freedom to respond to God's further invitation will emerge."

I am grateful to God. Many passages in the Bible help me express my thanks and praise. St Paul thanks God for the zeal of the Philippians, "I thank my God every time I think of you; whenever I pray for you all, my prayers are always joyful because of the part you have taken in the work of the Gospel from the first day until now" (Phil 1:3-5).

During his public life Jesus gave thanks to his Father, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and wise and revealing them to the simple" (Matt 11:25). He expected gratitude from others. He was disappointed when He cured 10 lepers and only one returned to thank Him. I'm sure I've often disappointed Jesus but I am glad that as I grow older I am becoming a little more thankful.

Numerous psalms help me give thanks and praise to God. One of my favourite psalms is Psalm 107. I had read this psalm many times but it did not mean much to me until I read it one day when I was on a retreat. Then I noticed it spoke of God rescuing people from their predicament, "Some lost their way in desert wastelands; they found no path to a city to live in... (Ps 107:4). In each case..." they cried to the lord in their trouble and He brought them out of their distress (Ps 107: 28). I have not experienced these trials but I have experienced others that distressed me. As I become older I thank God for my family, my Catholic faith, that I am a member of St Columbans Mission Society, for my health, my community and my friends. I am grateful that I have time to reflect on ageing, to spend time on my computer and work in my garden.

### Finance- Last Week's Collections

Priests Support –	\$ 1304.00
Direct Debit and Credit Cards:	\$ 577.53
Envelopes	\$ 1587.05
Loose Plate	\$ 314.05
<b>Total Parish Support:</b>	<b>\$ 2478.63</b>

### Petition to the Australian Bishops

A letter was tabled at Tuesday evening's Parish Council meeting from the organizers of the petition to the Australian Bishops Conference November

2007 meeting requesting our Bishops take steps to provide more priests for our parishes and better Ministry opportunities for women. 300+ people signed this in our Parish in October 2007 and 16,700 Australia-wide. The Bishops discussed this at length and Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, responded with a letter advising: "We intend to pursue discussions at future Plenary Meetings of those aspects of Church life which are within our competency as a Conference of Bishops in the Universal Church." More information about this is on the Catholics For Ministry website [www.catholicsforministry.com.au](http://www.catholicsforministry.com.au)

### Gospel Reflection- 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A (John 4:5-42)

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing the candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963 Vatican II's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy.

Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group, a Samaritan. She moves from bewilderment and misunderstanding to faith in Jesus and engagement in mission. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for a whole education in faith. A woman of Sychar in Samaria comes

to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. Jesus asks for a drink and draws a bewildered response from the woman. Jews do not associate with Samaritans, the narrator explains.

The woman's response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange with her. She proves herself quite a knowledgeable theologian and worthy dialogue partner.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she has had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner although there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The 'husbands' may symbolise the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who contravenes custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She risks sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and his further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Please pray for those preparing to be baptised &/or received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Each Sunday, after the Homily, they are sent forth to further reflect on the Word of God. Today and the next two Sundays they will take part in the following Rituals, connected to the Gospels of these Sundays, to further prepare them for Easter in conjunction with the inner conversion journey they are currently travelling

**Third Sunday of Lent** 24<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm Mass  
John 4:5-42

Story of the woman at the well – Jesus offer us water but unlike the water Moses provided, this water is eternal life.

- First Scrutiny and Presentation of the Creed (Profession of Faith). The celebrant places his hands on Talia, David, Lisa and Natalie's heads and prays: "We open our hearts in faith, confess our faults and lay bare our hidden wounds. Free us from our infirmities, heal our sicknesses, quench our thirst and give us peace." A copy of the Creed is then presented to them and recited by everyone.

### WANTED

1 more CATECHIST – for SMPS Grade 6  
Thursdays at 2 pm. for ½ an hour.

For more Info please phone Parish Office: 50212872.

<b>This weekend</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>8.00 a.m.</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>	<b>5.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Readers</b>	T Swincer	K Schultz	P/E Opie	A Englefield
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	M. Joseph P. Kelleher M. McDonald J. McDonald M.Roper S.Tisler K. Girke	T. Panuccio D. Brown P O'Donnell F. Carbone B. Weightman	F. Caldarelli C. Carmichael R. Op't Hoog R. Op't Hoog E. Mazza G. Raiti F. Chiavone	T. Finn P. Cox M. Ransome F. Virgona R. Antony
<b>NEXT WEEK: Music</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	N. Armsden L. Crouch M. Schmidt		Italian Choir	M. Hammond J. Ljubic Karen Loison All welcome
<b>Counting Team</b> <b>Next Week</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb Team <b>10</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> March Team 1	Brian Grogan Gerry Lavery	50 212099 50 211918	