

# 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 Matthew Thomas,  
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.

## SUNDAY 20 July 2008: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

### THIS WEEK Sixteenth Sunday Year A

First Reading Wis 12:13.16-19

Psalms Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

**Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

Second Reading Rom 8:26-27

Gospel Mt 13:24-43 or Mt 13:24-30



### NEXT WEEK Seventeenth Sunday Year A

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

Psalms Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

**Lord, I love your commands.**

Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

Gospel Mt 13:44-52 or Mt 13:44-46

**Recent Deaths:** Rosalind Devassy Parakkal (India),  
Kathleen Window-Delaney (Fr Tom's sister), &  
Joseph Sestak.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Anniversaries:** Frs. Peter Elder & Donal Hurley, Joan  
Delaney, Peter Bolte & Tom McCarthy.

**Sat 6pm.** Joseph Warchow (10 yr).

**Sun 10.00a.m.** Ottavio Rizzuto (3yr), Maria & Giuseppe  
Pardo.

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> 6pm:** Pasquali Vartuli.

### 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: 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 12<sup>th</sup> St -10.30a.m.

Devotional Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3.00 p.m.

### Weekday Mass Times -

Tues: 7.00p.m.

Wed: 9.10a.m.

Thur: Note Change 9.15a.m.

*Sacred Heart Primary School Grand Parents Day*

Fri: 5.40p.m.

Sat: 10.00 a.m.

### We pray for the sick

Mary Lazarus (Sunshine), Roslyn Mandiameli (Swan Hill), Peter Jones (Melb), Bob Pemberton (Adelaide), Daniel Roden, Joy Englefield, Maureen Quaine, & Fr Brendan Smith & Glen Levey.

### BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome into God's

family: **Adriana Piscioneri &**

**Sebastiano Antonie** into our Parish Community who will be baptised after Sunday 5.00pm. Mass.



### PILGRIMS

We are indeed most fortunate to be on the main highway for people traversing Australia.

This has led to our congregations being enriched by the presence of people from all over Australia and indeed the world. Such has been the case with the World Youth Day pilgrims as they head to Sydney from all parts west. A few weeks ago we had **Canadian** cyclists, and then various expected and unexpected visitors to our church and parish. Last Tuesday evening some eighty young **Spaniards from Madrid** together with four priests turned up in the church wanting to celebrate the Eucharist.

*(See the accompanying reflection by Barbara Bunting).*

We were thrilled they were spending Wednesday in our community and with the help of Parishioners we were able to offer hospitality, friendship and an opportunity to share and celebrate their faith. Thanks to Rebecca & Samantha Hogan, Margaret McDonald, Gladys Abriani and Brian Taggart, St. Vincent de Paul, Saint Joseph's College and others who went out of their way to feed them, make them welcome and so enjoy their short time with us. They certainly enriched us with their presence.

On Monday evening we are playing host to some sixty **Sudanese pilgrims** from Perth as they wend their way back from Sydney. Saint Joseph's College are very kindly offering them accommodation at SJC stadium. The local Sudanese families are catering for their evening meal after Mass has been celebrated by their chaplain. To assist with catering expenses the loose change from the second collection at Masses this weekend will be donated to that cause. If you would like to offer food you may leave it at the SJC stadium. We expect them to arrive between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. Parishioners are invited to welcome them to Mildura and join them for Mass.

The mass will be celebrated in the SJC stadium.



We offer our condolences to Fr Tom on the death of his sister Kathleen.

Our prayers are with him and his family.

## **FIRST EUCHARIST 2008**

This week many of our children and their families have commenced preparing for our Parish's First Eucharist celebrations. Parent Information Nights have been held and Registration Forms completed. During Masses this weekend, those who wish to be formally enrolled as Candidates for the Sacrament of the Eucharist will be asked to present their combined Photo & Commitment forms to our priests. Then they, their parents, and ourselves as members of their parish faith community will be asked to promise our commitment to supporting each other throughout this important time of preparation.

### **COMMITMENT CEREMONY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST**

*The celebrant invites the children and their parents to come forward.*

Celebrant: Dear Parents, Jesus Christ asks us to be people who love one another as he has loved us. Are you, who are parents of these children preparing for the Sacrament of Eucharist, and prime educators in the ways of faith, prepared to continue to live by the promises you made at their Baptism; to instruct your children in the understanding and practice of their faith, and bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour?

Parents: We are and we ask God to bless us.

Celebrant: My dear children, you have been reborn in Baptism and are children of God. In Holy Communion you will become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church, calling God your Father. I ask you now:

Do you wish to receive Jesus in Holy Communion and be nourished with the Bread of Life?

Candidates: I do and I ask for God's blessing.

Celebrant: Members of Sacred Heart Parish community will you support these children and their families during this time of preparation for their First Eucharist?

All: We will and may God's blessing be with us.

Celebrant: Children, may you, with the help of your parents, our Parish community and your teachers, continue to grow in faith and in the knowledge and love of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We now accept you as candidates for the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and after careful preparation we look forward to you joining us at the Table of the Lord.

All: Amen.

#### ***Parish Pastoral Council Members:***

Fr. Tom Brophy 50212872, Terry Murphy 50233056, Mary Gobbo 50234621, Marita Jensen 50237208, Fr. Matt Thomas 50212872, Jean Rocca 50237561, Brian Grogan 50212099, Chris Slattery 5022 0565, Sr. Rosemary Graham 50231841, Veronica Chong 5023 1362, Cornelia Conway-Weel 50234567, Peter O'Donnell 0429104225

## Parish Activities for the Week

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Baptism Preparation – 7.30p.m.

Hillman Room

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>** Passionist Family Group are having a dinner at the Coomealla Club commencing at 5.30pm.

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### **Reflection - The Pilgrims July 2008**

A moment in time.....and I am in the right place. So unexpected, so joyous and I have been blessed. A winter's evening, the stillness of the Church beckons, and suddenly I am enveloped in the Mass of the Pilgrims.

From sunny Spain they had travelled, on their way to the Harbour City to celebrate the fellowship of youth, God's love and the visit of Pope Benedict. Four white robed priests, one hundred pilgrims, and I am transported to another country, another culture and yet we are so united.

I speak no words of Spanish and yet our Mass truly is Universal.

The beautiful singing voice of the main Celebrant, the prayerfulness, the glorious strains of the Spanish guitars, the voices raised, as if a trained choir, the rhythmic clapping, the flute, the tamborines, all praising God in one exultant cry. The outstretched arms, the joining of hands around the altar – we are indeed the 'body of Christ'.

I watch in wonder at these mostly young travellers and I pray that God will bless their Journey, that He will nurture their joy and the hope they carry so proudly in their hearts.

When safely home they will remember Mildura and we who were privileged to be there will never forget. – *Barbara Bunting.*



### **World Youth Day**

Some years ago a priest made the observation that the Catholic Church tended to operate "from behind closed doors". This is not the case with World Youth Day!

There the family that is the Church is 'on show'! Our prayer is that just as Jesus joined the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, so his continuing presence will bless the myriad of encounters that will be part of WYD and that his transforming grace will flow out to all.

### **Welcome to the family**

"Pope Benedict says that to really understand the Catholic faith one has to be immersed in a community where it is lived. We just fall in love with it because we are loved by people who are in love with it and through them we get to see it in operation." Comment by Australian Tracey Rowland, author of "Ratzinger's Faith: The Theology of Pope Benedict XVI".

The Daily Telegraph carries the story of a journalist out for a run at 6am and passing two pilgrims lightly dressed for the cold wind. As she ran by them, the first young woman wished her a cheery "Good morning" in a thick European accent. The second said, "Peace to you." The journalist wrote: "That was the first time I noticed the unprovoked,

unrehearsed and utterly infectious happiness that the pilgrims have brought to Sydney."

As Bishop Fisher put it: "We have been invaded by joy!" While older heads may have planned the logistics, it is the young who have communicated the joy, the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Against the splendour background of Sydney it is intriguing that, when young people talk of World Youth Day, they will commonly say that they went to see Pope Benedict. –

Fr Andrew Hamilton, *Eureka Street*

### **Parish Pastoral Council:**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. **PAVING AND SEATING** – Until a permanent seat can be erected in the car park, one of the garden seats will be placed by the car park fence for use of the elderly waiting for taxis.
2. **SMART WATER** – We will apply for the State Government grant.
3. **PARISH BROCHURE** – Ready for distribution.
4. **PROPOSED GATHERING SPACE** – Front foyer – Consultation with an architect is planned to obtain suggestions for developing an appropriate area.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Fr Tom received a letter re a petition against the bill currently before parliament, softening the law on abortion and euthanasia. As the petition is being organised by KSC, Father will hand it over to the local KSC secretary.
6. **RECONNECT** – Discussion on the Council of Bishops' program RECONNECT – inviting non practising Catholics to return to Church.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. **ELECTION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS** – All offices will be declared vacant for elections at next month's meeting when Vin Dillon will be our guest.
2. **INDIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS** – Fr Tom will liaise with the Indian parishioners re celebrations usually held mid August around the time of the feast of the Assumption.
3. **FOREIGN PRIESTS FOR DIOCESE** – Father Tom gave an update to Brian's question re status of the proposed program of bringing foreign priests to the diocese on temporary secondment. Brian will draft a letter of concern re shortage of priests to the Bishop for the next meeting.

### **EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC**

New rosters are coming out in August.

If there are any changes to your details or you prefer a different Mass time please contact the Office ASAP.

If there any parishioners who are willing to become a Eucharistic Minister or would like more information please contact the Office.

**A VOCATION VIEW:**

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A  
 There are many weeds growing with the wheat in our lives. Sometimes the weeds strangle our growth, or prevent us from hearing clearly God's voice. We need time to reflect on the garden of our life.

**REFLECT & PRAY**

The other day, my four-year old great-nephew was faced with an unwelcome refusal. His response: 'Dad, I am not impressed with what I'm hearing!' Like young Izaak, I suspect that Peter Cundell, ABC's much loved and recently farewelled gardening guru, would have something similar to say at Jesus' choice of images for the reign of God. He would be particularly unimpressed, I expect, by the gardening methods of the gardener God presented here. Leaving weeds to endanger the wheat crop is none too smart. Mustard, known for its propensity to grow wild and threaten the life of every other plant in the garden, makes for an equally strange image. God's reign as a baker woman taking yeast, a substance considered in that world as a corrupting influence, and mixing it into twenty kilos of wheat flour, stretches the imagination in other directions.

These images cut across expectations quite dramatically. What do they tell us about God's reign? In the mustard seed and the leaven parables there is a movement from small to great that communicates something about the power of God to bring abundance of life from the most insignificant beginnings. They don't seem to fit with the parable of the wheat and the weeds until we look a little more closely. The element of danger to the life of the whole is common to all three parables. Maybe the Matthean Jesus is telling us that God is a God of risk, prepared to allow the weeds and endangering herbs and other dubious substances to 'infect' God's field. Harvest-time will be time enough to divide the wheat from the weeds. In the meantime, the good seed must take hold.

In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, he may be telling his hearers that their idea of infection or danger is different from his. Maybe he is talking about inclusion: the very people that many consider 'unclean' or 'sinful' or 'demon-possessed' are not to be displaced

from God's field or God's table. On the contrary, they may be the very ones who season the life of the whole. Life is messy after all and God is in the mess. It is worth noting that the leaven offers one of the few occasions in the gospel where God is imaged as female. While we are all aware that God is neither male nor female, most of us have been conditioned to use only male images for God. The parable of the woman kneading dough validates the potential of female experience to reflect the life and activity of God in our world. -Veronica Lawson RSM

**Finance- Last Week's Collections**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 1151.00
Planned Giving	\$ 3261.10
Loose Plate –	\$ 329.05

**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.

**TREMBLING HANDS**

**Every day I need you, Lord,  
 But this day especially.  
 I need some extra strength  
 To face whatever is to be...  
 This day more than any other day  
 I need to feel you near –  
 To fortify my courage  
 And to overcome my fear.  
 By myself I cannot meet  
 The challenge of the hour.  
 There are times when we humans  
 need a higher power –  
 To help us bear what must be borne.  
 And so, dear Lord, I pray –  
 Hold on to my trembling hand  
 And be with me today.**

This weekend	6.00 p.m.	8.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	5.00 p.m.
<b>Readers</b>	V Kidd	R Collins	M Speed	M Tobin
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	S. Girke L. Roden J. DeJong H. DeJong M. Capogreco L. Gooch K. Burns	G. Scopacasa M. Scopacasa B. Dolence M. Flinn Sr.Grace Rogers	L. Rowe N. Leonardis M. Speed E. Garreffa M. Modica L. De Iesi M. Haynes	P. Cox M. Ransome F. Virgona R. Antony M. Zema J. Zema
<b><u>NEXT WEEK:</u> Music</b>	G & F Lane		M. Sullivan B. Lewis Talia Fainga' Anuka	Youth Group
<b>Next Week RCIA Dismissal Leader</b>	Maria Capogreco			
<b>Counting Team Next Week</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July Team 1: Gerry Lavery 27 <sup>th</sup> July Team 2: Joe DeJong	50211918 50237802		