



SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

259-263 Eleventh St, Mildura P.O. Box 10037, Mildura 3502
 Ph: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
 parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au www.milduracatholicchurch.org.au

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

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:
 Fr Tom Brophy, Fr Matt 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 SEPTEMBER 14th 2008: THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

THIS WEEK: Sunday 14th September

First Reading Nm 21:4-9

Psalm Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

Remember the words of the Lord.

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

Gospel Jn 3:13-17

NEXT WEEK: Twenty-fifth Sunday

First Reading Is 55:6-9

Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

The Lord is near to all who call on him.

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27

Gospel Mt 20:1-16

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recent Deaths: Lyn Noonan, Tom Brennan (Bendigo/Donald), Alphonse Johnston, Tom Fitzgerald (Koroit, father of Fr. John – Warrnambool), Bernadette Moloney (Terang), Anne Wright (Panmure).

Anniversaries: John Hrascenec, Annie Schramm, Kevin Altman, Ella Franklin, Fr. Con O’Sullivan.

Sat 6.00p.m: Nick & Gino Squillace.

Sun 8.30a.m: Souls in Purgatory.

Sun 10.00a.m: Francesca Zappia.

Tues 7.00p.m: Tom Marciano, Luigi Resta, Luigi De Angelis, Stefano Batistta, Teresa Scopacasa.

Prayers:

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 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: 9.30a.m. & 7.00p.m.

Wed: 9.10a.m.

Thurs: 9.30 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m.

Sat: 10.00 a.m.

We pray for the sick

Peter Jones (Melb), Daniel Roden, Joy Englefield, Fr Brendan, Smith, Glen Levey, Michael Joslyn, Peter Adair & Sr. Noella Farrell rsm. (former Principal of St. Paul’s), Dan O’Brien (USA).

BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome into God’s family, and into our Parish Community Sebastian Lia, Ruby Tiller & Rhiana Willett who will be baptised at the 8.30 am Mass at Irymple..

WEDDING

This weekend we congratulate Joanne Varacalli & Paul Giofrelle on their marriage Saturday 13th September.

WELCOME

We welcome Fr. Kevin Murphy to our parish for the next two weekends as he supplies for Fr. Matt who is on annual leave.

We trust and pray Fr. Matt has a well-earned break.

FAREWELL AND THANKS

The senior member of the Mildura Convent of Mercy ---Sr. Hannah Dwyer --- is to leave Mildura and take up residence in Bendigo. We would like to express the gratitude of the Parish to her for all she has been and done whilst stationed here. Her presence, talents, generosity and faith have enabled many parishioners to appreciate the presence of God especially through the weekly Scripture sessions she conducted so faithfully over many years. We shall miss her presence and involvement at weekday Masses and other parish activities. May the good Lord reward her for her kindness and may Catherine McAuley’s spirit of service continue to inspire her in the future.

On Tuesday next Mass will be offered for her at 9.30 a.m. and a morning tea will follow in the Hillman Room. All parishioners are invited to attend. Ladies a plate please.

A VOCATION VIEW:

The Triumph of the Holy Cross

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness and selflessness!

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.

**BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND
Collection for Retired and Sick Priests**

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

Last year our parish contributed \$5,301.30 to this collection, which raised nearly \$90,000 throughout the Diocese. The collection in our parish this year has raised \$2364.20 to date. The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund".

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY.

The priests of the Diocese appreciate very much your ongoing support.

Finance- Last Week's Collections

Priests Support –	\$ 1,410.00
Envelopes	\$ 2,628.80
Loose Plate (toward Clergy Fund)	\$ 1,031.70

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

At all Masses next weekend we shall commission our new Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and recommission present Ministers. We thank you for your service and care of parishioners and ask God's blessing up on you and your ministry.

Thankyou and congratulations to our new members joining our existing Eucharist Ministers.

MEETING DATES

• **Finance Committee Meeting** –Tues 16th 12 noon.

• **MASS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE MILDURA NURSING CENTRE (Ontario Avenue)**

Next Tuesday September 16th at 2.00 p.m. Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated in one of the gathering areas at 2.00 p.m. This Mass will be attended by Mrs. Nesta Pardo, who has been taking the Eucharist on a weekly basis to the residents for many years. We wish to recognise her fidelity to and care of residents. Besides residents being invited, their relatives, friends and parishioners are also urged to attend and say thanks to Nesta.

• **Youth Mass Meeting-** Tues 16th Hillman Room 6.30pm. All those interested in helping organize the next Youth Mass please attend.

• **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting-**Tues 16th 7.30pm.-Hillman Room.

• **Bereavement Committee Meeting-**Thurs 18th 3.00 p.m. the Hillman Room.

MARK IN YOUR DIARIES.

Central Walnuts BBC

BBC members, family & friends are invited to get together at the home of Alan Chalkley 233 Walnut Ave on Sunday 20th 12.30pm. BYO finger food & drink.

Baptism Preparation Evening: Wed 24th at 7.30pm. Please note that the last two preparation evenings for baptism for 2008 will be Nov Dec 10th.

The Passionist Family Group will be holding a games night at the Vines Retirement Village on Sunday Sept 28th at 7.00 pm, Please bring a plate of supper to share.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS FOR PARISHIONERS OF THE SUB-CONTINENT (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh)

On Sunday October 12th we will celebrate Mass to honour Mary. Parishioners from the Sub-Continent will be responsible for the celebrations as they will share with us some of their traditions and customs.

CENTENARY BOOKS/ DVD-CDs still available.

We still have some Mildura Catholic Centenary books DVD & CDs are available from the Parish Office if anyone would like a copy.

Social Justice Sunday – 28th September.

Bishop Peter Connors will launch the Australian Bishops Statement on Social Justice – **A Rich Young Nation: The Challenge of Affluence and Poverty in Australia** Friday 19th Sept.

Safety For Children In Our Families.

This Sunday marks the commencement of Child Protection Week. Communities are asked to be respectful, vigilant, trust instinct not gossip and be open and aware. Parents must listen carefully to their children, and be aware what's happening in your Childs life.

TV GUIDE.....WORTH WATCHING

Compass: A Christian Education ABC1, 10.10pm Sun 14th Sept.

Amid all the recent noise about religious schools; their teaching, funding and impact on our social fabric, have we really listened to those who offer a Christian education? In Australia today over a million children attend Christian schools. Many are in the Catholic system, but there are also independent Christian schools. What makes them Christian, and are they all the same? How do Catholic and other Christian schools teach values and religion? How do Christian values inform teaching across the curricula? To find out, Compass visits four independent schools across three states.

Australian Story –ABC1 8pm. Mon 15th.

The Girl Least Likely

Hannah Modra was beautiful, clever and popular. She came from a close-knit Melbourne family and was a committed Christian and suffered with depression.

But within the pages of her diary, she kept a secret that ultimately took her life.

REMEMBER THE GOLD COIN COLLECTION?

AN UPDATE FROM WADEYE...

In the early hours of the morning on Monday 14th July, 60 excited pilgrims from Wadeye and Nganmariyanga joined with 126 other NT pilgrims to fly to Sydney for World Youth Day. It had been a emotional few weeks prior in Wadeye with many significant deaths in the community. One of the funerals was held only in the week prior to heading to Sydney. This had made the decision to leave family to go to World Youth Day even more significant in the lives of these young people. They showed much courage and commitment to their faith and their Pope in leaving their families at this time.

The week in Sydney provided many 'firsts' in the lives of the pilgrims. The first time in Sydney, the first time out of the Northern Territory, the first trip on a train, the first experience of a 'crowd', the first time in the bitter cold, the first time to wear thermals. It was a huge week. The most exciting 'first' of all of course was the first time that they could see 'their Pope'. Aloysius Lantjin (26) refers to the Pope as 'my Pope'. "I didn't know if I should get on that plane. Such a long way from my family. But I came to see my Pope. I came to lead these young boys. To receive the Pope's blessing."

Aloysius and the other young boys from Wadeye really stuck together in their time in Sydney. As the week unfolded they were moved to write a song about their experience. They wrote it in their language 'Murrinh-Patha'. It is about their journey from Wadeye to Sydney to see their Pope. On returning to their community, they have shared this song and their story.

They were invited, much to their delight, to dance at the Mass at the Sydney Entertainment Centre with over 6,000 pilgrims in the crowd. They all got up very early to get painted up and practice before the pilgrims arrived. At that Mass, Bishop Eugene Hurley and Bishop Ted Collins, as well as Deacon Boniface Perdjert (the first Aboriginal Deacon in Australia who is from Wadeye) were also painted for the mass.

REFLECT AND PRAY

Gospel Reflection on John 3: 13-17

Today's feast of the Triumph or Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates the tradition around Empress Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, discovering the remains of the true Cross in Jerusalem in the 4th century CE. This 'discovery' has captured the imagination of Christians through the ages. From earliest times, the Cross has been a sign of contradiction. It was initially a cause of embarrassment and shame, a reminder that the Romans executed Jesus as a

common criminal. For John, it is a sign of the God's great love for the world, evoking both the death of Jesus and his exultation in glory. It was to become the most distinctive of all Christian symbols.

The reference to the cross in the reading from John is implied rather than explicit. Jesus must be 'lifted up' -both on the cross and in his return to God. Jesus is presented in the opening verse as the pre-existent one, as the one who comes from God and has already ascended to God. John then evokes the ancient Israelite story of the bronze serpent that was lifted up by Moses. According to the story in Numbers (21:5-9), the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack of it and blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed no small number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God on their behalf. God then instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole. Anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who 'see' or 'look upon it' find life. That's the story from Israel's ancient folklore. Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy and providence are at the heart of this story.

The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community. Just as the serpent is lifted up and the people find life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who 'see' and believe in him will have unending life. This is possible because of God's unbounded love for the world. Many of us wear a cross, generally a decorative cross. The walls of our institutions feature the cross. The cross we wear or hang on our walls remains a sign of God's love and of our solidarity in faith with millions of believers across the ages who have sought the healing power of the God of love. -Veronica Lawson RSM

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Our Diocesan Community September issue is available this weekend from all the foyers. There are some very interesting articles and pictures on WYD, the opening of St Vinnie's Budget Grocery store and Marion & Luke Guthrie.

Haircut Humour

An Australian Bishop got a good laugh when he recently told this story:

"There was a priest who gave very long sermons. One Sunday a man got up and left during the sermon. He was away for quite a while – but came back before the priest had finished. After Mass the priest asked the man why he had left the church.

Parishioner: "Oh, I went to get a haircut."

Priest: "You should have had a haircut before you came to church."

Parishioner: "I didn't need one then."

A REFLECTION

Earlier this month our parish rejoiced with some of our younger parishioners as they completed their preparation for, and received, their First Eucharist. It was a grace-filled time for us all. We once again congratulate all involved and are most grateful for their efforts to share their faith with the youngsters. To see the joy on the faces of the children as they received the Eucharist gave the priests and the Extraordinary Ministers of Communion a deeper appreciation of the gift God has given us in this sacrament. What saddens Fr. Matt and I is that since then only a handful of the children involved have returned to receive the Eucharist with the community on a Sunday. It makes us wonder what our priorities are, what message we are giving to our children and whether our adult involvement and sacramental programmes are adequate. Christ is the Living Bread come down from Heaven so the apostle John tells us in his Gospel (6:51). The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught us very clearly in words of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy that, "*The Eucharist is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fountain from which all her power flows.*" (CSL 10) In other words we cannot do without the Eucharist if we are to be truly Christian. Let us be more conscious of the gift of our faith and of our responsibilities to our children so they can come closer to Christ by receiving the Eucharist on a regular basis. Please remember that all we priests can do is to build on what is happening at home. May God continue to bless the efforts of all of us to live out our faith.

Tom Doyle

Thoughts 'It is easy to think that being a Catholic means being concerned with the relationship between God and me, that my duty is to "save my soul". But, in fact, the only way to "save my soul" is by becoming a truly loving and caring person as part of a loving and caring community of people united in Christ. And sometimes that caring may involve bringing the brother/sister face to face with the loving demands of the Gospel. We do not help each other by turning a blind eye to behaviour which is clearly unchristian.

'As a community we have a responsibility for each other's wellbeing. We do not further the witness of a loving community when we, in false "charity", ignore social problems such as drug-taking, alcoholism, compulsive gambling, violence in the home, discrimination against the physically and mentally handicapped, racial exploitation and the like taking place in our parish community. It is not enough just to deal with these things in the privacy of "Confession" for, ultimately, reconciliation must be at the community level. And, as such, this is the responsibility of the community exercising its calling as the Body of Christ. *by Fr Frank Doyle SJ*

Can you help? Parish Sponsors for Baptism are required.
--

Visitations to the sick & elderly in hospital and home.
--

<i>If you feel you would be able to help please contact the Parish Office.</i>
