



## SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

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 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 Matthew Thomas,  
 Gladys Abriani, Rebecca Hogan, Lys Crowe,  
 Fr. Frank Monaghan P.E.

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.00 am, 5.00 pm and Irymple 8.30 am  
 Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 11.00 am or by appointment.

## SUNDAY 1st March 2009: First Sunday of Lent Year B

<p><b>THIS WEEK:</b> First Sunday of Lent-          First Reading <b>Gn 9:8-15</b>          Psalm <b>Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10</b>          Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.          Second Reading <b>1 Pt 3:18-22</b>          Gospel <b>Mk 1:12-15</b></p>		<p><b>NEXT WEEK:</b>          First Reading <b>Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18</b>          Psalm <b>Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9</b>          I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.          Second Reading <b>Rom 8:31-34</b>          Gospel <b>Mk 9:2-10</b></p>
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### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Recent Deaths:** Tess Coram (Glenhuntley), Bob Kerr (Tullamarine) inlaws of Tess Kerr.  
**Anniversaries:** Julia Gregory, Una Khan, Mary Altmann, Mons. Jim McInerney, Mons. Tom O'Brien & John Magee.  
**Sun 5.00 p.m.** Mario & Antonia Modica  
**Thurs 9.30 a.m.** Helen Grivec, Una Khan, Elvie McGlynn.

### 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.  
**Stations of the Cross & 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 -20 Beasy Cr- 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*

<b>Tues:</b>	<b>7.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wed:</b>	<b>9.10 a.m.</b>
<b>Thurs:</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>
<b>Fri:</b>	<b>5.40 p.m.</b>
<b>Sat:</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>

### We pray for the sick

Peter Adair, June Harper, Phil Smith, Susan Gaylard (Melb, sister of Pam), Joshua Herrick & Brooklyn Thornton (child). & Marco Retamoza (Irymple).

This weekend we present our candidates Althea Mitting & Julie Burns to the Parish during the 9.00 a.m. Mass. As we enrol their names in our Parish Register of the Elect and our Book of Baptised Candidates we congratulate them their sponsors and all those who are walking with them at this time. Please continue to remember them in your prayers as they continue their journey into full communion into the Catholic Church.

## The Spirit of Lent

Nothing offers better guidance on our Lenten journey than the words Jesus spoke to his disciples, "Give alms...Pray to your Father...Fast without a gloomy face..." (*Matthew 6: 1-18*)

[Give... pray... fast.](#)

As we begin this season of Lent, we know that we need to make changes in our lives in order to be the best persons we can be. We often let our families, our friends, and ourselves down by the choices we make.

And so we ask God to be present with us as we make a sincere effort to change our hearts. Forgiving God, you know only too well how often we have failed first choice to live up to our call to be followers of Jesus, your Son.

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into 'the wilderness' and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter when we renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

**Fasting** "When you fast do not look gloomy," Jesus says. Today's consumer society looks on fasting itself as gloomy. Urging everyone to eat, drink, and buy more and more, our world today has made fasting unfashionable.

Yet the gospel message says more and more can ruin human life. An acquisitive spirit is a selfish spirit. And as the alarming numbers of people addicted to drugs and alcohol today prove, the taste for too much can destroy. Food, drink, clothes and amusements (that favourite website eg: Face Book) — the good things of life — can turn into your captors, Jesus teaches. In our acquisitive, pleasure-oriented society, fasting is a way of keeping ourselves free. "Initiative shows there are ways we can make a difference that might seem like a sacrifice to begin with but can easily become part of everyday life and help tackle dangerous climate change," The carbon sin is you'll miss most is driving short distances around

town. Install a solar hot water system at home and pledge to ensure that computers, telephones and televisions are turned off, and not left on standby every night.

This Lent, recognizing the hold things have on us, let us try, with God's help, to keep them in their right place.

Indeed today we have new compelling reasons for taking fasting seriously. As the resources of our planet are increasingly threatened, it becomes clear that the human family, especially those living in affluent nations, can no longer be unlimited consumers. We must develop a leaner, less wasteful way of life, if our planet is to survive.

Can the Christian teaching on fasting lead us to a gentler style of living on planet earth? By Victor Hoagland, C.P.

### **WELCOME**

We welcome to our Parish this weekend Fr. Elio Capra who has come to work with Sunraysia Parishioners. His main work will assist in our appreciating the role of Parish Pastoral Council, RCIA, and Baptisms. We thank him for making himself available for these purposes.

### **Bishops Visit.**

We also welcome to our Parish this Monday Bishop Connors who will Commission Mr Darren Atkinson as Principal of St Joseph's College during Mass on Tuesday at St Joseph's stadium.

### **CATECHISTS WANTED**

We have a team of catechists at Sacred Heart Parish who provide Religious Education to Catholic children in a number of Ministry Schools in and around Mildura.

The team urgently need new members to assist with current classes at Mildura South Primary School, in order to continue the Parish's great work.

If you are able to help please contact:

Rebecca Hogan at the Parish Office on 5021 2872. The time commitment is minimal (1/2hr lesson per week). The work is both rewarding and very much appreciated.

### **Prayer**

"Pray to your Father."

The Lenten season calls us to pray. But prayer, Jesus teaches, is much more than saying words. "Go into your room, and close the door, and pray to your Father in secret."

Before you pray, enter the inner room of your heart. Shut the door to the noise, the trivialities, the countless cares grabbing for attention. Put them aside. In the quiet place of your heart, with faith as your guide, speak to your God. A gracious Father listens, and he knows what you need.

God helps us pray in this season. For those who have stopped praying, or pray with little fervor, God gives graces for praying again. Usually the graces come as we turn to prayers and practices already there: reflective reading of the Bible or other spiritual books, the Eucharist and the other sacraments, simple grace-filled prayers, like the [Our Father](#) or the psalms.

"What a Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion," Pope St. Leo told Christians of the 6th century beginning their Lenten observance. What can we do this season to pray with greater care and devotion? Participate in some church services? Read

the bible or a spiritual book some minutes each day? Put aside some time for quiet daily prayer?

## **WHATS COMING UP**

- **Tues March 3<sup>rd</sup> Baptism Team Meeting** –7.30pm in the Hillman Rm.
- **Wed March 4<sup>th</sup> A Reflection Day for Women**  
**You are God's Great Work of Art-**  
Facilitated by *Lys Crowe*. 9.45 am – 3pm.All Welcome.
- **Wed March 4<sup>th</sup> Social Justice Meeting** – 6.30pm Fleming Rm.
- **Wed March 4<sup>th</sup> RCIA** – Meeting at 7.00pm Hillman Rm.
- **Fri March 6<sup>th</sup> - Four Funerals In One Day:**  
A Comedy Play is being presented by **Sunraysia Community Health Services Community Palliative Care Program** – on Frid 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Mildura Arts Centre.  
Tickets available from the Arts Centre Ph: 50188330.

- **Fri March 6<sup>th</sup> -WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
Will be held on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> from 10.00 am- 12 noon in the Church.  
Guest speaker will be Luke Guthrie speaking about Marian's & his experiences in Lima Peru. *Morning tea will be served after the morning service in the Church.*

**Fri March 6<sup>th</sup> - Adoration**  
**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
The next adoration will be Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March- 12 noon-5pm. and shall be a time of quiet prayer.

- **Sat March 7<sup>th</sup>-CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**  
A Christian Meditation group plan to commence meditation each Saturday 11.30 am commencing 7<sup>th</sup> March in the Fleming Centre (Sacred Heart Church car park). For more information see flyers at Church doors or contact Patricia 5021 5486, [pfitz@mercy.org.au](mailto:pfitz@mercy.org.au) or Helen 5021 2433.
- **Sun March 15<sup>th</sup>- THE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP**  
Will be having a supper at Jean Rocca's home -3 Regal Court, Mildura on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. Please bring a plate to share.

### **NEW ROSTERS.**

New rosters cannot be made up until everyone who was on the 8.30am and 10.00am list has contacted the office regarding their new preference of Mass time.

Could everyone inform the Office ASAP please.

## **THE KNIGHTS OF SOUTHERN CROSS –**

### **WANT NEW MEMBERS:**

New members are currently needed to join the Knights of the Southern Cross. If you feel you would like to assist them in their fund raising efforts please contact: Joe De Jong Ph: 50237802.

## **ST VINCENT De PAUL –Family Store**

Are looking for volunteers to perform the following duties:

- i. Sorting
- ii. Pricing
- iii. Cleaning

If you could volunteer some of your spare time to assist then please contact Libby on 50235750.

## **NOTES FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP**

Continuing our series highlighting points from Catholic Social Teaching, we focus this week on:

### **SUBSIDIARITY**

The principle of subsidiarity protects people from abuses by higher-level social authority and calls on these same authorities to help individuals and intermediate groups to fulfil their duties.

This principle is imperative because every person, family and intermediate group has something original to offer to the Community.

## **LECTIO DIVINA**

Copies of this booklet are available at the entrances to the Church. This booklet has been provided by the Australian Catholic Bishops 'Conference at enable Parishioners to appreciate Lent and the readings for each Sunday and Holy week. Parishioners are urged to take a copy and use this booklet to appreciate the season of Lent, to read the scripture passages as an individual or as a family and so deepen our prayer in our relation to God.

## **ROSTERS THIS WEEKEND**

### **READERS**

6.00 pm C Ellis  
9.00 am  
5.00 pm L O'Connor.

### **SPECIAL MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

<u>6.00 pm</u>	<u>9.00 am</u>	<u>5.00 pm</u>
M Roper		R Antony
S Tisler		M Zema
K Girke		J Zema
S Girke		S Walker
J De Jong		J Ribarits
H De Jong		

## **COUNTING TEAM**

Team 10 Brian Grogan 50221099

## **NEXT WEEKEND**

### **MUSIC**

6.00 pm M. Hammond, L Crouch, M Schmidt.  
9.00 am G & F Lane  
5.00 am M Sullivan, K Loison, J Ljubic.

## **Last Week's Collections**

Priests Support – (1<sup>st</sup> Collection) \$ 1,345.00  
Envelopes (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection) \$ 2,622.75  
Bush Fire Appeal (Loose Plate) \$ 1,506.75

We thank Parishioners for their generous contribution to the bushfire appeal last weekend anybody requiring receipts for the donation for Taxation purposes please contact the Parish Office.

Thanks to the Parishioners who attended all or part of the Novena for those affected by the Bushfires.

## **SCRIPTURE NOTE –**

The First Reading introduces the theme of covenant. In it we are told of the first in a series of patriarchal covenants which serve as a preparation for the covenant at Sinai. That in turn prepared the way for the new covenant God formed with humanity in Christ.

In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' victorious struggle against evil. Mark makes no reference to the fast of Jesus. In this first struggle Jesus is not God-forsaken as he will be at his last (15:34).

Like Noah, the Christian is saved by passage through the waters of baptism – (Second Reading). It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us. - *Flora McCarthy SDB.*

## **Project Compassion**

"Project Compassion comes amidst the tragedy of the Victorian bushfires. Australians have been moved by this level of tragedy amongst our own and have given generously. The opportunity for us in this Project Compassion is to make the link between the compassion of the last two weeks and the needs of the suffering and those living in poverty throughout the world.

Money raised will support Caritas Australia's work with local partners, who are improving their own lives by addressing issues such as health, education, gender equality, water and sustainable agriculture, priorities which are set out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

"We are most truly Australian, most truly Christian, and most truly Catholic when we reach out across borders of nation states and churches, giving of

ourselves," Jesuit Fr Frank Brennan told the 2009 Project Compassion appeal launch.

As the world suffers a major food crisis, it is the poor who feel the impacts of the rising price of food and oil most severely, Caritas says. The affects of climate change, conflict, unfair trading and the degradation of land through unsustainable agricultural practices have undermined peoples' ability to have access to enough food to meet their daily needs.

The theme for Project Compassion 2009 "An Environment to Grow In" is a timely reminder of the challenges facing Australia as it battles catastrophic bushfires, floods and drought, the Caritas statement says.

"It is also a timely reminder of those nations facing comparable hardship and hurt born out of other causes such as extreme poverty and injustice.

"Whilst in Australia we grieve our lost family members and friends and attempt to piece together so many fractured lives, we get an understanding of the personal impacts that the statistics of these overseas disasters, can never convey.

"In the early months of last year, we heard of the impact of the global food crisis that resulted in another 115 million people being reduced to hunger and poverty. This situation has only become more dire for those living in hunger since that other "GFC" - the global financial crisis began to have its impact," Mr de Groot said.

#### **First Sunday Lent (1 March)**

Celebrating God's covenant with all the earth, our common home.

*The family needs a home ... For the human family, this home is the earth, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit with creativity and responsibility ... humanity today is rightly concerned about the ecological balance of tomorrow.*  
Pope Benedict XVI *World Day of Peace Message 2008* no 8-9.

#### **Week 1 – First Sunday in Lent**

The good news of the Gospel challenges us to change ourselves and our world for the better.

This week's story takes us to rural Uganda where Teopista lives with her family. Life here is often a daily struggle. Caritas Australia is supporting 900 subsistence farming families, including Teopista's, with practical training in sustainable agriculture to improve their livelihoods. Your generous donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion allow subsistence farmer

families to gain skills to increase their household food security and offers hope for a healthier future.

Please take home a **Project Compassion box** and/or a set of envelopes and give generously this Lent. Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with communities to reduce poverty and hunger around the world.

#### **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.