



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 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 8th March 2009: Second Sunday of Lent Year B

THIS WEEK:

First Reading Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

Psalm Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

I will walk before the Lord in the land
 of the living.

Second Reading Rom 8:31-34

Gospel Mk 9:2-10

NEXT WEEK:

First Reading [Ex 20:1-17](#) or [Ex 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17](#)

Psalm [Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68](#)

[Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.](#)

Second Reading [1 Cor 1:22-25](#)

Gospel [Jn 2:13-25](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recent Deaths: Sr. M. Claudine O'Shea rsm
 (Geelong/Colac)

Anniversaries: Agnes Fleming, Nance O'Connor, Mona
 Nhill.

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 - Ring Isabel - 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.

Thurs: 9.30 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m.

Sat: (Hillman Room) 10.00 a.m.

We pray for the sick

Peter Adair, June Harper, Phil Smith, Joshua Herrick &
 Brooklyn Thornton (child). & Marco Retamoza (Irymple).

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome the following into God's
 family, and into our Parish Family

Christian Dobricic 6.00 pm

Joseph Krake 8.30 am

Ava Dinero, Holly & Chase Davey 9.00 am.

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY

Congratulations Martina Brown as she celebrates her
 80th birthday this weekend. We wish her many more.

THANK YOU

To those who were able to hear Fr. Elio Capra SDB share
 his faith journey as he explained the Season of Lent and
 how to live it, as he shared the Lenten steps in the RCIA
 programme and as he celebrated Mass last Saturday
 night our gratitude is extended to Rebecca Hogan of the
 Parish Team for organising and hosting such a wonderful
 experience. We were certainly blessed to have Fr. Elio
 with us and trust and pray his work will bring bear fruit in
 the time ahead.

We also thank Lys Crowe of the Parish Team for leading
 the ladies of the district in a day of reflection last
 Wednesday. This day too was co-ordinated by Rebecca
 and we thank her also.

Another lot of thanks must also be extended to Kath
 Girke and her team of ladies for all they did to host the
 ecumenical Day of Prayer in Sacred Heart Church last
 Friday. To have people like these ladies ensures the day
 will be a success. May the Lord reward you all for your
 generosity and presence at these gatherings.

CONGRATULATIONS

We once again congratulate Mr. Darren Atkinson as
 Principal of Saint Joseph's College and wish him
 well in his new position. It was a great celebration
 on Tuesday when he was commissioned during a
 Mass concelebrated by Bishop Peter Connors,
 priests of the area and in the presence of Sr. Kath
 Tierney rsm, the Congregational leader & an Old
 Collegian, members of his family and the College
 community.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

We acknowledge this day on the international calendar and trust that it will continue to raise awareness of the dignity, equality and justice for all.

Since 1911 International Women's Day has been celebrated as the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. This day is an opportunity to reflect on the dignity and role of all women; in the family, society and the Church.

The Letter of Pope John Paul II to Women reminds us that Jesus Christ provided a wonderful example of treating women:

When it comes to setting women free from every kind of exploitation and domination, the Gospel contains an ever relevant message which goes back to the attitude of Jesus Christ himself. Transcending the established norms of his own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness. In this way he honoured the dignity which women have always possessed according to God's plan and in his love. (n.3)

We pray that we, the Church, ensure that women are encouraged to flourish within the Catholic Church in Australia and that all women are appreciated for the contribution they make to the fullness of the Church.

Today's Lenten readings refer to suffering – the suffering of Abraham and Sarah and the suffering of Jesus, who, although transfigured in a kind of glorious theophany, is depicted as the suffering servant heading towards Jerusalem and death.

The readings are also about putting our trust in God and acknowledging that God's power is greater than any tragedy that may befall us.

When Cardinal Edward Clancy launched the Bishops' Research Project on the participation of Women in the Catholic Church in Australia (21st August, 1996), he acknowledged that women's participation "has often been characterised by mistaken attitudes and actions." He added that it was time to repent of those mistakes and to remedy them.

Similarly, in his 'Letter to Women', Pope John Paul II said that we must examine the past with courage so that the contributions made by women can be acknowledged, and injustice, exploitation and domination can be removed from gender relations within the Church wherever they exist.

Like Abraham and Jesus, women, too, have suffered and do suffer in the Church. Their place in the Church has not yet been sufficiently recognised, so a deep injustice is still being perpetrated against them.

Placing our trust in God in the face of that injustice is one thing, but acknowledging our role in contributing to that injustice is even more important.

International Women's Day allows us to reflect honestly on how women are treated in both society and the Church.
BY BISHOP MICHAEL MALONE

Inspired by Project Compassion to seek justice?

Hundreds of communities are seeking volunteers to share their skills in education, health, administration, technology, trades and other professions.

Contact **Palms Australia** to find out how [you can volunteer overseas or in Australia](#) to reduce poverty. Ph: (02) 9518 9551

Reflection

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams.

Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience.

Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection?

Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means. by Dianne Bergant CSA

WHAT'S COMING UP

• **Mon 9th** - The monthly meeting of the Knights of the Southern Cross will be held at 7.30pm in the Fleming Room.

• **Tues 10th**- Catholic Womens Social Group meeting will take place at 2.00pm in the Hillman Rm.

Thurs 12th-RCIA will meet at 7.00pm in the Fleming Rm. Topic: Scrutinies & Easter ceremony & Sacraments- Fr Matt.

• **Each Sat –CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**

A Christian Meditation group meets each Saturday 11.30 am in the Fleming Centre (Sacred Heart Church car park).

All welcome. For more information see flyers at Church doors or contact:

Patricia 5021 5486, pfitz@mercy.org.au or Helen 5021 2433.

• **Sun March 15th- THE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP**

Will be having a supper at Jean Rocca's home -3 Regal Court, Mildura on Sunday 15th March at 7.00pm.

Please bring a plate to share.

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

Thanks to the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) we are able to offer parishioners a Retreat in Daily Life. This form of retreat is for anyone who desires to deepen their awareness of God at work in their lives, and who can set aside up to an hour each day for prayer and reflection. It is a brief version of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. The retreat will be directed by Fr. David McCallum SJ (a Jesuit Tertian) and Sr. Jennifer Collins IBVM (Loreto Sisters) and will commence on Sunday May 4th and conclude on Saturday May 23rd. It is a great opportunity to have someone walk with you as you seek to become more aware of God's presence in your life. The director meets with each retreatant twice a week to listen to their prayer experiences and suggest methods of prayer, often using Scripture. The cost per retreatant is \$65, or whatever a person can afford. Over the past fourteen years, both retreatants and the visiting Tertians have found these retreats rewarding. You may remember Fr Markus Anima S.J. from Austria and Sr. Patsy Bourke rsm who led the last Retreat back in 2002. For further details please contact the Co-ordinator Ms Lys Crowe or Fr. Tom. As the number of places is limited please make your bookings early.

MINISTRIES NEW ROSTER.

Thankyou to those who have contacted us regarding changed mass times for the new rosters, However there are still a few from whom we haven't heard. You will find a list in the main entrance foyer, if you could write in your new preferred Mass time against your name please so we can print out new rosters it would be appreciated.

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.

Last Week's Collections

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Priest's Support – (1 st Collection) | \$ 1,056.00 |
| Envelopes (2 nd Collection) | \$ 2,584.85 |
| Loose Plate | \$ 328.20 |
| Project Compassion week 1- | \$ 1,216.40 |

NOTES FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

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

SOLIDARITY

Solidarity highlights in a particular way the intrinsic social nature of the human person, the equality of all in dignity and rights and the common path of individuals and peoples towards an ever more committed unity.

Solidarity acknowledges that our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, cultural, economic and ideological differences.

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Linking Past to Future project.

Sacred Heart Primary School is having an "engraved paver" drive to coincide with the next stage of their building program. If you have been part of the School community at any time, we invite you to purchase a personalised paver so that you and your family can have your name as part of a permanent reminder of your association with the School. Order forms are available in the Church foyers, the School or by contacting Allie Collyer on 50215909 (after Hours). Offer closes 23rd March.

ROSTERS THIS WEEKEND

READERS

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| 6.00 pm | C Ellis |
| 9.00 am | Sr Rosemary |
| 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 Capogreco | | Mary Joseph |
| L Gooch | | M Joseph |
| A- M Greville | | J Macri |
| M Sheahan | | A-m Dimasi |
| M Meredith | | M Conte |
| J Hall | | |

NEXT WEEKEND

MUSIC

| | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 6.00 pm | N Armsden, Filipino Group. |
| 9.00 am | Pacific Islanders |
| 5.00 am | M Sullivan, J Macri. |

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.

Ashes to New Life: Lent 2009

Second Sunday of Lent,

The theme for Project Compassion 2009 is 'An Environment to Grow In'. This encompasses not only the physical conditions, but all the circumstances that surround us as we strive to live life to the full. Again this year, Project Compassion highlights six Caritas Australia projects. These stories give us the opportunity to journey with the participants and to learn what can be achieved when we gather as a Church to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need. These projects include:

- 1) Building food security and livelihoods for subsistence farmers in Uganda
- 2) Bringing Green Hope to drought prone areas in tribal India
- 3) Helping former 'street boys' to farm organically for their future in Papua New Guinea
- 4) Supporting Indigenous Indonesian communities to participate in a future of ecological justice
- 5) Developing and training local community members to run an effective youth program that benefits the whole community in Indigenous Australia
- 6) Building communities' capacity to adapt to the effects of changing weather in Bolivia

In 2008, Project Compassion raised \$9.2 million. Your generosity enables Caritas Australia to continue to support many projects, in Australia and around the world, assisting some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the world to create a safe and sustainable environment to grow in.

This Lent, may Project Compassion remind us all to be good stewards of the earth and care for our environment on which all life depends.

Bringing Green Hope to drought prone regions in tribal India

As Christians we are called to walk with those who are in need. This week's story introduces us to Prabha, Prabha lives in Silma, one of India's poorest tribal areas. She participates in a Caritas Australia-supported program run by AASHA, empowering families to increase their livelihoods and regenerate their environment.

Water shortages from drought, deforestation and poor conservation awareness have depleted the water levels, increasing the community's need to migrate from Silma each dry season. Poor health, illiteracy and trafficking have compounded their vulnerability.

The program supports participants to plan and perform environmental and social actions in 'Self Help Groups', including planting local grass and trees in barren areas, preparing compost pits, organic gardening and communal harvesting. Prabha is now learning to construct ponds and prevent soil and water erosion. She is also participating in the community's new cooperatively owned traditional seed bank which allows her to access cheap seeds and avoid money lenders who lend money at high rates.

Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion brings hope to families like Prabha's, empowering them to work together for a sustainable future.

In our reading from Genesis Abraham's faith is put to the test. Abraham puts his trust in God who showers him with blessings and the promise of descendants as many as the stars of heaven. In today's gospel, Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James and John.

Through this powerful event, the disciples capture and experience a moment of Jesus' future glory.

The experience empowers and strengthens them for their future mission.

Prabha is an inspiring and courageous woman in our story from India. She participates in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Program 'Harith Asha' (Green Hope) which is supported by Caritas Australia. The establishment of 'an environment to grow in' provides poor families with a better future through collaborative learning and sharing of resources. This program has fostered the economic and social well being of 470 marginalised families. It has enabled Prabha to overcome adversity and financial hardship in caring for her husband and children.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, we are reminded of the universal courage of women who continue to strive for the fundamental human rights of equality, justice and peace. Caritas Australia needs your generous help in supporting projects which promote equality, human dignity and harmony to disadvantaged communities.

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.

[The Transfiguration](#) offers us the promise of light and glory even as we accompany Jesus bearing our cross.

Celebrating the gift of reconciliation with the earth which we have made to suffer.

In a profound sense the earth is suffering (Hos 4:3) and the greenhouse effect has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs ... the resulting meteorological and atmospheric changes range from damage to health to the possible future submersion of low-lying lands ... no peaceful society can afford to neglect either respect for life or the fact that there is an integrity to creation.

Pope John Paul II *World Day of Peace Message 1990*

Reflections for Lent

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2, 9:10-13, 15-18;

Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10