

# Monsignor John Day's name may be removed

SUNDAY DAILY 17.8.02

MILDURA'S Sacred Heart Catholic Parish is considering removing the name of Monsignor John Day from the church foundation stone.

Co-pastors Father Pat Mugavin and Father John McKinnon have been approached with the proposal.

The late Monsignor Day is known to have been a perpetrator of sexual abuse and as the Victims and Families of Sexual Abuse by Priests struggle to come to terms with the past, many have requested the action as a symbolic acknowledgment of their pain and hurt.

The Bishop of Ballarat,

Reverend Peter Connors, has supported any action that may contribute to the healing of victims.

Victims and their families have been invited to a meeting this Wednesday at 8pm to discuss the proposal, however individuals can contact Father Pat or Father John privately with confidentiality assured.

While the meeting is restricted to victims and their families, other parishioners are able welcome to make their views known to any member of the parish team.

The meeting on Wednesday will be held in the Hillman Room - the meeting room in the Presbytery.

## Meeting on proposal

Steps are underway to remove the name of Monsignor John Day from the foundation stone at the entrance to Mildura's Sacred Heart Church.

The Sacred Heart Parish has taken steps to invite victims and families of Sexual Abuse by Priests, particularly in the Parish at Mildura, to discuss the proposal to have the late Monsignor Day's name removed from the Stone.

It is also the most public admission from the church that Monsignor Day had practised acts of sexual abuse, mainly with young boys, but also with the daughters of local Parishioners.

In a statement issued on Friday the Sacred Heart Parish said that many of his victims had requested this action as a symbolic acknowledgement of their pain and hurt.

The statement also said that the Bishop for the Diocese supports any such action that might contribute to the healing of victims.

The meeting - restricted to victims and their families, will be held on Wednesday August 21 at 8pm at the Catholic presbytery.

The statement said that individuals may prefer to contact Father Pat Mugavin or Father John McKinnon privately and that confidentiality would be assured.

Parishioners other than victims and their families are

welcome to make their views known to the Parish team.

Monsignor Day, who hid out with a Mildura businessman for a short time before leaving the district and later being given a small church position at Timboon in the Western District, was featured in a number of articles in the Sunday Star several years ago.

Additional to claims that he had sexually abused children associated with the local church, Monsignor Day was associated with a web of intrigue involving court officials, deserted wives, Mildura's most senior detective of the time and book-makers.

His involvement was identified following the discovery by a tow truck operator of a satchel in the back seat of a car at an accident at Trentham Cliffs where the driver was killed in the late 1960's.

The satchel contained a list of the Mildura ASIO informers, including Father Day.

Most of the ASIO informers on the list are now dead.

They were recruited "to report" on the activities of the ethnic community at the time.

*Pl  
these press  
clippings  
may interest you.  
Regards  
Laddy M.  
18.8.02.*

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