

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
257 Eleventh Street Mildura
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502
Presbytery Mildura: 5022 9959
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 9

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo
Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm



Sacred Heart
Mildura

Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein

St. Francis Xavier
Irymple

St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs

*The Sunraysia Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care.
Child Safety Officers:- Mildura—Peter Issanchon, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

2nd Sunday of Lent / Year B 27th & 28th February 2021

RECENT DEATHS

Gerrd Power, Joan Beer Eugenio Timpano

ANNIVERSARIES

Mildura

Saturday 6pm: Patricia (Pat) Nolan (1yr anniversary),

Irymple 8.30am: Angela Spadaccini

Sunday 9.00am: Joseph Grivec (Birthday remembrance)

Tuesday 6pm: Larry Piscioneri (1 yr anniversary)

Friday 6pm: Giuseppe Cufari (1yr anniversary), Iario Dichiera (1yr anniversary)

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries: Caterina Brizzi (30 day Mass)

Merbein

Anniversaries: Helen McCarthy, Cos Piscioneri, John Jessup, Frank Sylvia, Cosimo Ierace

(Only immediate family members of the deceased are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)

Message from our Parish Priest



During the second week of Lent we focus on the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ where we get a glimpse of Jesus after the Resurrection.

This week's focus could be prayer and I encourage all of us to make extra time for personal prayer.

You may consider one of the following Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory Be, a decade of the Rosary or some quiet meditation time.

After the Premier's easing of restrictions announcement, it is lovely to see your faces without the mask and a reminder that while in church the COVID Staying Safe Rules still apply that is either using the QR Code or writing your contact details, using the hand sanitizer provided and keeping your distance.

God bless!
Fr Matthew Thomas

Weekly Prayer Opportunities Mildura

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6:30pm

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 4:00pm
commencing 19th February.

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am—10:30am

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am in the Church

Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Mark Gibson 5023 1204

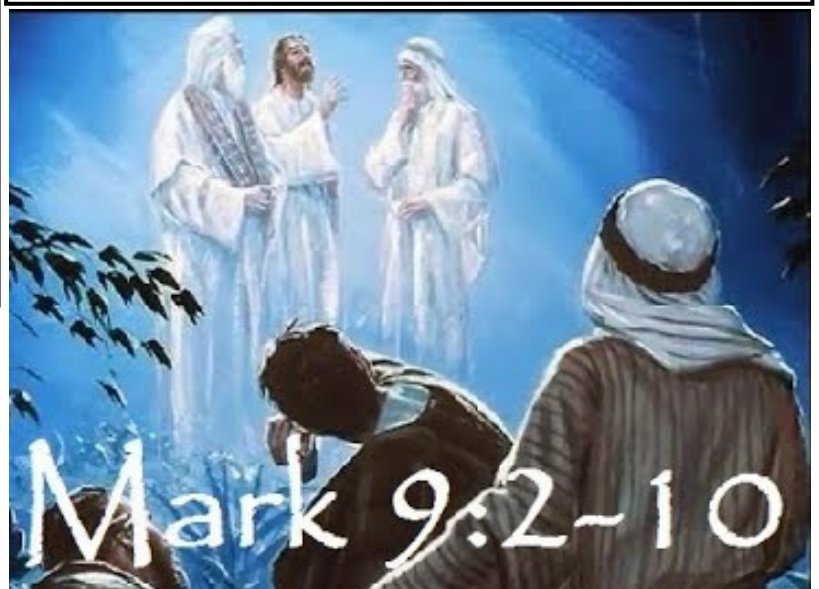
St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258

St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Naomi Kennedy 5024 1654

St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura

Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000



LOCAL NEWS

Church Carpark Passes

As you would have heard during Mass last weekend, parishioners who use the church carpark need to obtain a pass from the Parish Office.

Please note this only applies for week day use. **You do not**

need a pass for evening or weekend use.

Passes will need to be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle at all times while parked in the carpark.

This new process will take affect from Monday 15th March.

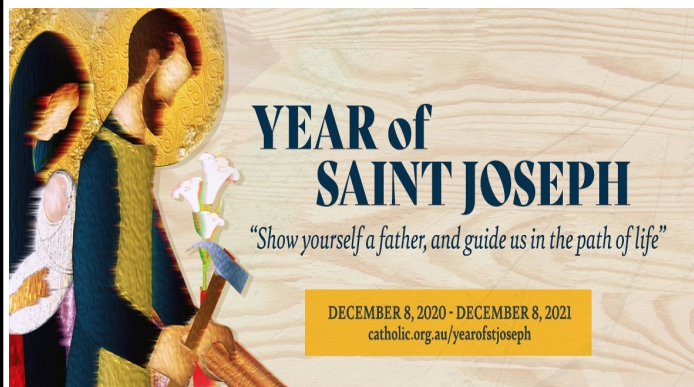
Passes will be available for collection from the Parish Office from Tuesday 9th March.

Failure to present this pass will result in the possibility of your vehicle being towed away.



2021 the year of St Joseph

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.



This is my beloved Son; listen to him.

Mark 9:7

Ideas for Making the Most of Lent

Praying:

It helps us to grow in the love of God.

Reading scriptures.

Join a Lenten Group.

Fasting:

Limit yourself to one meal a day.

No meat on Fridays.

Volunteer:

Soup Kitchen –giving of your time to help others

Almsgiving:

Project Compassion Envelopes / Boxes

Available at church entrances

Stations of the Cross:

Fridays from 7pm-8pm Indian Community

Friday from 8pm-9pm Tongan Community

All welcome.

Communal celebration of Reconciliation

will be announced soon.

All welcome.



Lenten discussion groups

Group 1: Thursdays, 3pm, Monaghan Centre.

For further information contact Sr Helen 0438 734 524

Group 2: Aileen Curran—Thursdays, 10.30am.

For further information contact the Parish Office 5021 2872.

Group 3: Red Cliffs LLL & L Lenten Group, Mondays 10am. For further information contact Janine Cameron 0438 730 976.



Piety Stall

Please note that the Piety Stall at St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs will be opened from 10am—12 noon each Sunday and each Monday by appointment only between the hours of 2.30pm—3.15pm.

For further information contact Janine 0438 730 976.

Pray for Vanuatu World Day of Prayer Service 2021

Date: Friday 5th March

Time: 10:00am

Location: St Margaret's Anglican Church, Cnr Deakin Avenue & 11th Street, Mildura

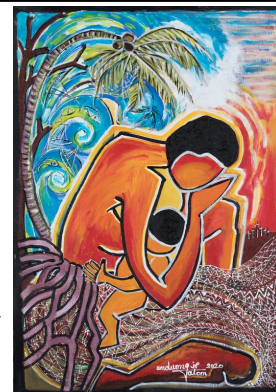
Contact: Isabel: 0409 310 542

or Gill 0419 567 650.

Please bring a mask.

There will not be morning tea.

Please RSVP by Tuesday 2nd March.



PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE

Caritas AUSTRALIA

2nd Sunday of Lent—28th February 2021

Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



LOCAL NEWS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	6:00PM	9:30AM	
WEDNESDAY	FUNERAL 10AM	9:30AM	
THURSDAY	NO MASS	5:30PM	9:30AM
FRIDAY	6:00PM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

IRYMPLE MILDURA RED CLIFFS MERBEIN

SATURDAY	6:00PM			
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9:00AM	10:30AM	10:30AM
		5:00PM		
WERRIMULL	11:00AM (5TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)			

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

If you want a sick person prayed for, ask their permission. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.

Mildura: Maria Sapuppo

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Lily Flanagan, E Mammone, Barry Crosbie, Maurice O'Connor, Faye Rhook, Frank Mammone

REMINDER

IMPORTANT DATES—MARCH 2021

Bereavement Team Meeting: Tuesday 2nd March 9am Parish Office

Knights of the Southern Cross: Monday 8th March 7.30pm in the clubrooms.

Sacred Heart Finance Meeting: Tuesday 9th March 7.30am Parish Office

Princes Court Aged Care Mass: Tuesday 9th March 10am.

Sacred Heart Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 9th March after 6pm Mass—Monaghan Centre.

Red Cliffs Parish Council: Sunday 14th March after 10.30am Mass—Gathering Area.

St Anthony Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16th March 7.30pm Monaghan Centre.

Oasis Aged Care Mass: Wednesday 17th March 10.30am.

Merbein Parish Council: Sunday 21st March after 10.30am Mass.

BUPA Aged Care Mass: Tuesday 23rd March 10.30am.

Baptism Preparation Evening: Wednesday 24th March 7.30pm Monaghan Centre.

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend — 27th & 28th February 2021

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Christine Carmichael

Sunday 9am: Lyn Welsh

Sunday 5pm: Inez Sullivan

Eucharistic Ministers: 2

Saturday 6pm: Taiana Fatai, Jacinda Deacon

Sunday 9am: Rini & Rose Op't Hoog

Sunday 5pm: Wendy & Tony Finn

Music: Sat 6pm: M Guthrie—All welcome

Sun 9am: M Issanchon

Sun 5pm: M Sullivan, J Macri

Counting Team: Team 9—George Dolence

Irymple Reader: M Hoy

Merbein

Reader: Kevin Aston

Red Cliffs

Readers: T Lewis, J Cameron, Volunteer please

Altar Servers: Ella, Katie, Holly, Gabriella, Sebastian

Music: Tongan Choir

Counting Team: F & M Dominelli

Eucharistic Minister: M Dominelli

Flowers: Volunteers

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Next weekend - 6th & 7th March 2021

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Gary Huxtable

Sunday 9am: Narie Lewis

Sunday 5pm: Jancy Thomas

Eucharistic Ministers: 2

Saturday 6pm: A Greville, T Fatai

Sunday 9am: E Garreffa, M Modica

Sunday 5pm: M & J Zema

Music: Sat 6pm: M Guthrie, All welcome

Sun 9am: M Issanchon

Sun 5pm: M Sullivan, J Macri

Counting Team: Team 10—

Irymple Reader: G McCracken

Merbein

Reader: V Knight

Red Cliffs

Readers: C Russo, M Duck, D Eagle

Altar Servers: Nathan, Megan, Elektra

Music: Guitar

Counting Team: M Adams, L Mayes

Eucharistic Minister: T Gardiner

Flowers: Volunteers

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Number of People Attending Mass

Approximate people to church size:

Mildura: 450 people

Merbein: 150 people

Irymple: 50 people

Red Cliffs: 250 people

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 804.95	\$106.60	\$248.45
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$1918.20	\$235.00	\$199.00
Loose Plate	\$ 279.15	\$ 5.00	\$ 66.45

First Reading

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ

Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

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