



# Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

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Presbytery: 5022 9959

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Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

Fr James Kerr—Assistant Priest

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues—Fri 9am—4pm

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Werrimull

St. Francis Xavier  
Elms Street, Irymple

3rd Sunday Advent / Year B -  
16th & 17th December 2017

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 6:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 am, 5:00 pm

Irymple: 8:30 am

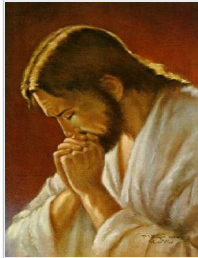
Werrimull 11:00 am (last Sunday of each month)

### Weekday Masses

*If there is a Funeral Mass on **Wednesday** or **Thursday**, the advertised Mass will be cancelled.*

Tues: 6:00 pm      Wed: 9:15 am  
Thurs: 9.15 am      Fri: 5:40 pm  
Sat: 9.30 am

### Weekly Prayer Opportunities



**Rosary:** Monday 5:00pm

**Prayer of the Church:** Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri. 8:40 am

**Charismatic Prayer Meeting:** Tuesday 6.30pm

**Christian Meditation:** Sat 11:30 am Parish Prayer Room

**Devotion Prayer and Exposition:** Fri 3:00pm

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 10:00am

**RECENT DEATH:** Joseph Hunyadi, Pietro Calarco (Sydney-friend of Vincenzo Mammone)

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

**Saturday 6pm:** Alicia Novak (One year anniversary), Vincenzo, Caterina, Francesco & Leo Monteleone

**Sunday 8.30am Irymple:** Gino D'Amico

**Sunday 9am:** Gaetano Mammone, Giuseppe Martino

**Sunday 5pm:** Nick Mazza

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



#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

Jean Muir, Albis Dy, Jill Antonie, Ron Russell, Yvonne Ash, Brian Ramsay, Graeme Lewis, Joan Appleby, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

Today's gospel reading falls into two sections. The first section comprises a statement from the prologue of John's gospel and the second revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue presents John the baptizer as "a man sent from God". He is not "the light"; he is rather a "witness" whose role is to testify to "the light". The true light [Jesus] was "coming into the world". As we proclaim Jesus as "the light", we might take time to appreciate the wonder and the properties of the material reality that informs this metaphor.

In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptizer responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions are relentless and John's responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God's messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the "descendants of Levi" He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God's people to prepare the way for God's advent, God's coming.

John knows who he is. He understands the parameters of his mission and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is a pivotal one in the story of God's saving action. His story is also pivotal in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem "Jews": "Who are you?" If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the "one who is coming", the light of the world, the revelation of God.

A caution is in order regarding this gospel reading: we must remember that not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama, including Jesus, are Jewish. The group of characters specifically named in the narrative as "the Jews" includes some influential members of the Jewish religious leadership, but cannot be identified with them because it comprises a more extensive group who are consistently in conflict with Jesus. It would be a serious disservice to the gospel to condemn the Jewish people on the basis of this and similar stories of Jewish opposition to Jesus.

Veronica Lawson RSM

#### PLEASE NOTE

**Due to Sacred Heart Primary School End of Year Mass on Tuesday 19th December at 12noon. The 6pm evening Mass has been cancelled. Please note Masses also as advertised at BUPA and Princes Court.**

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY



### FIRST EUCHARIST 2018

All information pertaining to preparation for the reception of Reconciliation & First Eucharist in 2018 is now available at the Parish Office. Parents of our children in Catholic Schools should receive information from their School.

Parents must attend the following Parent Information evenings to enrol your child:-

**Reconciliation** Wednesday 7th February  
**First Eucharist** Wednesday 23rd April

*Please make a note of these dates now.*

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE following Masses:

**Saturday 23rd 6pm, Sunday 24th 9am**  
**Christmas Eve 6pm, 8pm & midnight**  
**Christmas Day 9am.**

**ROSTER SHEETS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.**



### NATIVITY PLAY CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

All children are invited to attend and be part of our annual and traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The first practice session is on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December at 4pm and the second will be a dress rehearsal on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December at 4pm both in the Sacred Heart Church.

Please contact Rebecca Siale 0427300878 or Megan Wilkes 0418374873 with any questions.

## COMMUNITY LIFE & OUTREACH

### PRINCES COURT AGED CARE MASS

Tuesday 19th December 10am. All welcome.

### BUPA AGED CARE MASS

Tuesday 19th December 10.30am.



### THE GIVING TREE - ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Grateful thanks from the members of the Sacred Heart Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society to all those who contributed so generously to this year's toy appeal.



### PARISH WELCOMERS

Being a Parish Welcomer involves greeting and welcoming Parishioners and visitors as they arrive and make their way into church and the latest Parish Bulletin will also be offered to each person or family.

If you are interested in being a Parish Welcomer please contact the Parish Office and a name badge will be provided.

*"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."* **Hebrews 13: 1**

## John 1:6 - 8

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

### ADVENT

### SOME SIMPLE THINGS TO PRAY FOR DURING ADVENT

10. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
  11. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
  12. Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
  13. Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
  14. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
- Pray for a passion to pursue justice. ~ Edited from Whitney Hopler's "Pray for Simplicity this Advent"*

## MILDURA CHRISTMAS MASSES

2017

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**6:00pm Mildura**

**8:00pm Mildura**

**12 Midnight Mildura**

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**8.30am Irymple**

**9.00am Mildura**

### LENTEN GROUPS 2018

As Easter comes early next year books for the Lenten Program need to be ordered next week. If you are interested in being part of a Group or forming your own please contact the Parish Office by next Wednesday.

## PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1377.15
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$3031.00
Loose Plate	\$ 486.75

## ADVANCE NOTICE

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER FROM 2PM AND REOPEN ON TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY AT 9AM.**

## COMMISSIONER THANKS SURVIVORS FOR THEIR COURAGE

After five years of inquiry, Commissioner Peter McClellan yesterday delivered his final sitting address at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *The Catholic Leader* reports.

“For many sexual abuse is a trauma they can never escape, it can affect every aspect of their lives,” Justice McClellan said in a wide-ranging speech in which he thanked survivors as “remarkable people” who shared their stories and “deserve our nation’s thanks”.

During the \$500 million inquiry, the largest royal commission held in Australia, more than 8000 people spoke to commissioners in private sessions, more than 1300 written accounts were received from survivors and more than 2500 allegations reported to police. So far 230 prosecutions have started, although some alleged perpetrators have since died.

“For victims and survivors telling their stories has required great courage and great determination. Most are stories of personal trauma and many are of personal tragedy,” Justice McClellan he said.

“It has been impossible not to share the anger many survivors have felt when they tell us of their betrayal by people they believe they were entitled to trust.

“For many survivors talking about past events required them to revisit traumatic experiences that profoundly harmed them.

“Many spoke of having their innocence stolen, their childhood lost their education and prospective career taken from them and their personal relationships damaged for the rest of their lives.”

Justice McClellan said the greatest number of alleged perpetrators and abused children in church-managed facilities “that we were aware of” occurred in Catholic institutions.

“In many religious institutions in particular but not only the Catholic Church, the power afforded to people in religious ministry and the misplaced trust of parents combined with aspects of the culture, practices and attitudes within the institutions to create risks for children,” he said.

Outside the Royal Commission, abuse survivors, many who gave evidence, demanded that a national redress scheme for compensation must be an immediate priority, after the final commission report is handed to the Governor-General and to parliament.

A book containing 1000 personal messages written by survivors was handed to the National Library of Australia. Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission Gail Furness described the volume as “too heavy to lift”.

The final royal commission report was delivered to Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove on Friday.



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

I was lucky enough to travel to Sydney last week for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Catholic Youth Festival with a few of the young people from our parish. The theme for this year’s gathering was “Spreading the Joy”, and true to form much joy was spread! Joy in meeting new friends. Joy in encountering Christ. Joy in experiencing and sharing his love for us. Joy in celebrating that encounter with much singing and dancing!

19,000 young Catholics from across Australia gathered together for the few days. For some of the time they all joined together, but for much of the Festival participants were free to wander around and choose what they wanted to be involved with according to their interests. There were many musicians and speakers leading concerts, talks and prayers. Bishops made themselves available to listen to the young people and answer their questions. There were many stalls set up by various missionary groups, youth movements, religious orders and the like where participants could find out about the many ways in which they might live and strengthen their faith. Different groups from around the country got to know each other and old friends reunited. Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation were all made available, and through them many young people encountered Christ’s love for them in a profound way. The Festival culminated in the Final Mass in the Domain, which was preceded by a pilgrimage. Our group began ours at the Shrine of St Mary Mackillop, and walked from there over the Bridge and past the Opera House (many photos were taken!).

As expected, each of the young people who came from our parish made the most of the opportunity and were very moved by the experience. And, it must be said, so was I. Jesus always surprises us with his grace! Many thanks to Fr Michael for his support of the trip, and for all those who prayed for us and gave us encouragement.

The next Festival has been announced for December 2019 in Perth. It is a big commitment and can be a difficult time of year, but I honestly believe it is worth taking every young person in the parish who is eligible (Yr 9-30 years old). Start praying about it and have a chat with your families. I haven’t met anyone who regretted attending. It is a fantastic experience.



*Our Parish Vision*  
*“Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community*  
*united by our faith in Jesus Christ.*  
*We work together in the power of the Holy*  
*Spirit to spread the good news of God’s*  
*Kingdom.”*

**The Parish of Sacred Heart is committed to the obligation to ensure the safety of all children in our care.**

**Our Parish Schools**

Sacred Heart Primary School  
 Principal: *Des Lowry* 5023 1204

St Paul’s Primary School  
 Principal: *Vince Muscatello* 5023 4567

St Joseph’s Secondary College  
 Principal: *Marg Blythman* 5018 8000

16th & 17th December 2017		
THIS WEEK’S READINGS		
<b>First Reading: Isa 61:1-2, 10-11</b> <b>Resp Psalm: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. R. Isa 61:10</b> <b>Response: My soul rejoices in my God.</b> <b>Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24</b> <b>Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28</b>		
EUCCHARIST MINISTERS		
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6PM	9AM	5PM
6 Ministers	7 Ministers	6 Minister
A Greville	N Lewis	T Cirillo
T Fatai	R Byra	J Jose
M McDonald	K Mapapalangi	J Ribarits
T McNamara	S Opie	C Carlucci
P Kerr	P Opie	V Carlucci
A Naray	C McErvale	C Slattery
	E Mazza	
MUSIC		
M Sullivan	Tongan Choir	St Pauls
		Graduation Mass
ALTAR SERV ERS		
Please	Please	Please
Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
OFFERTORY PROCESSION		
2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
	L & C Welsh	
READERS		
Volunteer	Philip Opie	St Pauls School
Please		
COUNTING TEAM 2		
JOE DE JONG 5023 7802		
IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM		
READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER	
M Hoy	M Hill	

23rd, 24th & 25th December 2017					
NEXT WEEK’S READINGS					
<b>First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16</b> <b>Resp Psalm: 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2</b> <b>Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.</b> <b>Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27</b> <b>Gospel: Lk 1:26-38</b>					
EUCCHARIST MINISTERS					
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS EVE	MIDNIGHT	CHRISTMAS
6PM	9AM	6pm	8pm		9am
6 Ministers	7 Ministers	10 Ministers	7 Ministers	7 Ministers	10 Ministers
Volunteers	Volunteers				
needed	needed				
		AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	
MUSIC					
M Guthrie	M Guthrie	AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	
All welcome	All welcome				
ALTAR SERV ERS					
Please	Please	AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	
volunteer	volunteer				
OFFERTORY PROCESSION					
2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required				
Baptism	C & L Welsh	AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	
READERS					
Katy Quinlan	Rose	AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	
	Op’t Hoog				
COUNTING TEAM 3					
PETER MCDONALD 5022 1531					
IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM					
CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30am					
READER	EUCH. MINISTER	READER	EUCH. MINISTER		
G Schmidt	M Hoy	Volunteer	Volunteer		