

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



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Newsheet: Week 48

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*

1st Sunday of Advent / Year C 27th & 28th November 2021

RECENT DEATHS

Christine Davidson

Mildura

Anniversaries: Eugenio Morello

Saturday 6pm: Frank Cirillo and all deceased members of the Cirillo family, Alessandro & Caterina Piscioneri

Sunday 9am: Cosimo & Pasqualina Dichiera

Sunday 5pm: Giuseppe Ficarra, Anunziata De Maria

Tuesday 6pm: Rocco Mammone

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries: Giuseppe & Domenico Mammone

Thursday 5.30pm: Edward & Robert McDonald, Giuseppe D'Anna (30 day Mass)

Merbein

Anniversaries: Santo Rullo, Nancy McCarthy, Harry Farrell, Elena Bradie, Barry Rower, John Olden, Laurie Smith

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

Please note that if you have booked a memorial mass you are reminded to speak to the priest prior to the mass to let him know you are there.

Christmas Masses 2021

Christmas Eve

6pm Mildura

6pm Werrimull

8pm Merbein

8pm Red Cliffs

10pm Mildura

12am Midnight Mildura

We will look at having Christmas Carols half an hour before at each mass

Christmas Day

8.30am Irymple

9am Mildura

Message from our Parish Priest

This weekend we commence the first week of Advent. As we begin this journey of preparation prior to Christmas let us use this time to reflect and prepare for the birth of Christ. This week the candle we light is the candle of Hope, what am I hoping for in life, in my family and my faith and local community?

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. Is the psalm response being open and honest with and too God, that we are able to offer all of myself to God.

We have been prepared for change all through the year with different restrictions now we can stand ready for Christmas and be prepared to welcome and celebrate the birth of Christ.

On Friday 10th December we as a Diocese will celebrate the ordination to the Diaconate of Bill and Matt. Let us pray for them during this time of preparation.

God bless you all.
Fr Matthew Thomas



The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candles" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

Remember abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- Use the QR Check in App when entering church
- Use the hand sanitizer
- If you are feeling unwell please stay home

LOCAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

November Meetings 2021

Sunday 28 Nov: Red Cliffs Parish Council meeting after 10am Mass.

The Church Year

Thursday 25th November, 7pm in the in the Monaghan Centre.



Catholic Publications

Available at all churches copies of Australian Catholics for you to take home and read. Also available copies of Our Diocesan Community, editions No.64 & 65. Great reading.

Sacred Heart Piety Stall

Due to St Vincent de Paul closing the Piety Stall at Sacred Heart Church, the Sacred Heart Parish Office will have available in the coming weeks just a limited supply of items: Christmas Cards, Columban Calendars 2022, rosary beads, bibles, scapulars and small medals or if you are wanting to purchase particular items please call the Parish Office on 5021 2872 or visit during office hours Tuesday—Friday 9am—4pm



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests next weekend

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate.

Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. Envelopes available at all churches. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

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

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Sacred Heart Mildura

Scripture Group: Thursday 3:00pm – Monaghan Centre

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 4:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Monaghan Centre

Ordination to the Diaconate

Seminarians Matthew Restall and William Lowry will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, December 10, 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. This is a joyful occasion for the whole Diocese - our first ordinations in 8 years. We pray for Matt and Bill as they prepare to serve God's Church.

All are welcome to attend. Attendance requirements for the Cathedral is QR code or registration upon entry and full vaccination status needs to be provided to the COVID check-in Marshalls.

PRAYER FOR OUR CANDIDATES TO THE DIACONATE

We take this time today to join in pray for Matthew and William, who will be ordained as Deacons in the service of Christ's Church. We give thanks to God for their generous response to his call and we pray for them as they begin their life of ministry. May they be faithful and courageous ministers of God's mercy.

We pray too for all vocations. God calls each of us by name. He has a unique plan for each and every one of us. Our path is not always clear and is sometimes difficult, but it is also the path to fullness of life and joy. May all hearts be open to God's calling. May those who are still discerning find clarity. May those who are hesitant find courage. May those who have already responded persevere in faithfulness. And may those who are struggling find hope and strength.

Rosters

We are currently in the process of updating our Ministries rosters within our churches, as we are very aware that circumstances change during the course of time with each volunteer.

So, if you are currently on a roster especially, Eucharistic minister, counting money or reader and wish to make any changes or if you would like to take part in any of these ministries please contact the



LOCAL NEWS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	6PM	9.30AM	
WEDNESDAY	9:30AM		
THURSDAY	9:30AM	5:30PM	9:30AM
FRIDAY	6PM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9:00AM	10AM	10:30AM
		5PM		
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: Rosemary Byrne, Nancy Panuccio,

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Barry Crosbie

SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1286.35	\$191.25	\$180.10
2 nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$2303.30	\$142.55	\$815.15
Loose Plate	\$ 424.10	\$ 43.00	\$ 35.50



ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 27th & 28th November 2021

Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: A Naray
Sunday 9am: N Mataele
Sunday 5pm: B Bunting

Eucharistic Ministers: 3

Saturday 6pm: C Carmichael, M Cirillo, P Kerr
Sunday 9am: S Opie, P Opie, J Webster
Sunday 5pm: C Carlucci, V Carlucci, J Boord

Music: Sat 6pm: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon
Sun 9am: Tongan Choir, M Guthrie
Sun 5pm: S Faita, K Mapapalangi, L Duy

Counting Team: Team 8— C Welsh

Irymple

Reader: D Knight

Merbein

Reader: V Knight
Offertory: Iamarino Family

Red Cliffs

Readers: M Bell, M Lee
Music: Guitar
Offertory Procession: G Brizzi
Altar Servers: Group 3
Eucharistic Minister: S Orr
Church Cleaning: J Hazeldine
Flowers: Volunteer



Next weekend - 4th & 5th December 2021

Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: C Carmichael
Sunday 9am: Martha Kamara
Sunday 5pm: Inez Sullivan

Eucharistic Ministers: 3

Saturday 6pm: A Greville, T Fatai, K Quinlan
Sunday 9am: B Castillo, N Fatai, P O'Donnell
Sunday 5pm: J Willis, B Dolence, W Finn

Music: Sat 6pm: M Guthrie, All welcome
Sun 9am: Italian Choir, M Sullivan
Sun 5pm: M Hammond, J Macri

Counting Team: Team 9—G Dolence

Irymple

Reader: M Hoy

Merbein

Reader: N Prevedello
Offertory: Ellis Family

Red Cliffs

Readers: J Cameron, T Hawkes
Music: Guitar
Offertory Procession: L Bugno
Altar Servers: Group 4
Eucharistic Minister: B Pitt
Church Cleaning: Volunteer
Flowers: Volunteer



Next Weekends Readings: — 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C —4th & 5th December 2021

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125
Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
2nd Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



First Reading

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the
land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

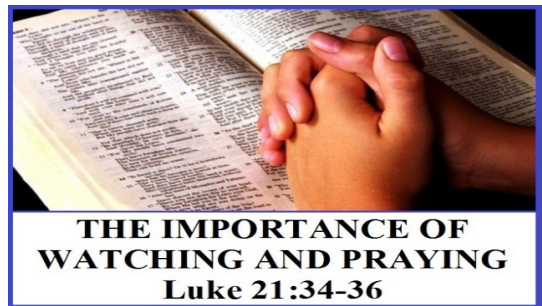
Gospel

Lk 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.

The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to ‘wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ’. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

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