

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
 257 Eleventh Street Mildura
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 Presbytery Mildura: 5022 9959
 Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966
 Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
 parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 48



Fr. Michael McKinnon PP Fr. James Kerr Fr. Pat Flanagan

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

Sacred Heart
Mildura

Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull

St. Francis Xavier
Irymple

St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed under Parish Heading

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY		9:30AM	
TUESDAY	6:00PM	5:30PM	
WEDNESDAY	9:15AM	9:30AM	
THURSDAY	9:15AM	5:30PM	AS ADVISED
FRIDAY	5:40PM	9:30AM	
SATURDAY	9:30AM	9:30AM	

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6:00PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9:00AM	10:00AM	10:30AM
		5:00PM		

WERRIMULL 11:00AM (LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

MILDURA

Recent Deaths: Michele Briotto (Italy-brother-in-law of Teresa Parente)

Anniversaries: Matthew Spain

Saturday 6pm: Peter Dichiera (1st anniversary), Kevin Curran, Nick Mazza

Sunday 9am: Rocco Mammone, Joseph, Josephine & Christiana Lamin

Sunday 5pm: George Ribarits, Moises Freitas & Sebastio de sa' Beredasi

Tuesday 6pm: Knights of the Southern Cross Deceased Members Mass. Social night to follow at clubroom.

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: Edward & Robert McDonald

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Nov. 27th Robert Cox; 30th Peter Dichiera. Dec. 1st Nancy McCarthy, Harry Farrell; 2nd Barry Rowe, John Olden; 3rd Laurence Smith; 5th Frank Callahan, Angela Gentile; 6th Guiseppa Gentile. (Only immediate family members of the deceased are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)

Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204

St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258

St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Mark Gibson 5024 1654

St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura

Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

1st Sunday of Advent / Year A 30th November & 1st December 2019

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's *The Rock*. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, "Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the destruction of our planet. Right now, the human community is challenged in unprecedented ways to restore the life we have lost by living beyond our means and by destructively exploiting the riches of the Earth.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be "awake", to be "ready" all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple "advents" or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that '[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to "see" God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Historical Context

The Advent Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Sacramental Life & Liturgy



BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Charlotte Sullivan** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

RCIA

This Sunday and next, we welcome our current enquirers into the Catechumenate. With us this week are Brooke Mobilio, Marcus Parker, Ellie Zappia and next week we welcome Simon Davies. Let us continue to hold them in our prayer as we accompany them from this time on until they are fully initiated into the Catholic Faith Community next Easter.

Jesus

Thursday December 5th 7pm, Hillman Room.



Communal Celebration of Reconciliation Wednesday 18th December 6pm



Let us prepare to celebrate the gift of Christ's Peace at Christmas by acknowledging our need for healing and forgiveness.

Community Life & Outreach

BEREAVEMENT TEAM MEETING

Tuesday 3rd December 9am, Parish office.

REGIS TENTH AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 3rd December 2pm. All welcome.

ANOINTING MASS

Thursday 5th December 9.15am. All welcome

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

Meet weekly every Thursday at 10am in the Hillman room, Sacred Heart Presbytery. All welcome.

SACRED HEART FAMILY GROUP

Will have their final gathering for the year at the Gateway Tavern at noon on Sunday 1st December for lunch. Please bring a Kris Kringle to exchange to the value of \$10. All welcome to join our group. Intentions to Denise & Gerry 50211918. See you there.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

Gift tags are available on the "Giving Tree" in the gathering space. Gifts to the value of \$10 will be gratefully accepted until 7th/8th of December. With thanks Sacred Heart Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society.

WORKING BEE SACRED HEART CHURCH

21st December from 8am—12 noon

Many hands will make for light work.

Sausage sizzle provided. Please contact Parish Office 5021 2872



Weekly Prayer Opportunities Mildura

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

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6:30pm

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 3:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Prayer Room

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: Fr Denis Dennehy, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuionisio, Lily Chumg, Lorna Kearney, Dien Brown, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Vince Alicastro, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy,

Merbein: Martin Rogers, Maria Pyatt, Ted Verryt, Frank Chandler, Fr Frank Smith CSSR

Red Cliffs: Maureen Lee, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Reynaldo Chan, Albis Dy, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Joe Cufari, Maurice O'Connor, Joe Mammone

PLENARY COUNCIL THEMES FOR DISCERNMENT

Copies of each Theme are now available at the Sacred Heart Parish Office for those who attended the meetings and for those who wish to be a part of the discerning group. Further information in the coming weeks.

MILDURA & REGION CHRISTMAS MASSES 2019

Christmas Eve

Mildura 6:00pm; 8:00pm; 12:00 Midnight

Werrimull 6:00pm

Merbein 7:30pm

Red Cliffs 7:30pm Carols; 8:00pm Mass

Christmas Day

Mildura 9:00am

Irymple 8:30am

Merbein 10:30am

Ouyen 9:00am

New Year's Day

Mildura 9:00am

CAROLS IN SUNRAYSA

Irymple Carols—Hensilwood Oval

Sunday 1st December from 5.30pm

Merbein Carols—Kenny Park

Friday 6th December from 6.30pm

Mildura Carols—Nowingi Place

Saturday 14th December from 5pm

Red Cliffs Carols—Barclay Square

Friday 20th December from 8pm



Community Life & Outreach

NATIVITY PLAY—CHRISTMAS EVE 2019

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. Practice sessions and dress rehearsals times will be advertised next weekend. For further information please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.



This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

**POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:
THE FUTURE OF THE VERY YOUNG**

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering. The Pope's Intention for December asks that all nations will create the conditions in which small children can be children. In doing this he also invites us to reflect on the many ways in which children are not allowed to be children, but are treated as pawns on the chessboard of profits and political self-interest. Their childhood is then made a pit of suffering and disrespect.

Pope Francis is convinced that children are human beings like ourselves. They are precious in themselves and in God's eyes. They are also our future: the relationships that children form with adults and with their peers will shape the direction that our world takes. So it is our business as human beings and as people responsible for our society to ensure that they can grow through childhood to become responsible adults.

For that they need respect, tenderness and the support of adults who will model for them what it means to be a good human being. Sadly, for so many children today that respect and humanity are lacking. That is why Pope Francis' intention is so important. We need to think only of the small children who enslaved in factories, in sex work and in begging, the young children who are made to fight in wars, the children separated from their families who are detained in immigration prisons and held in gaols, and the children dependent on violent adults who often suffer from mental illness. So often small children are treated as things, have the same demands made on them as adults and in disciplinary systems are subject to the same punishments as adults.

At Jesuit Social Services we accompany many vulnerable young people, including those in the Justice System. Our experience underlies our advocacy for raising the age of criminal responsibility and minimising the reliance on detention as a response to antisocial behaviour.

At the heart of Pope Francis' intention is the need to let children be children. Children need nurturing, need to explore their world in play and need to be loved and respected. Unless they experience these things in their childhood they are unlikely to grow into mature, generous adults. They need time to build good relationships with parents and siblings, with other children and with adults. These are demanding challenges in life. To be prepared for them children need time, trust and confidence.

Small children are especially vulnerable. If they are treated violently, unloved, exposed to addiction from an early age, deprived of education and the opportunity to work, or taken away from their families, they will be vulnerable to mental and physical illness and will find it helpful to contribute to society as adults.

Pope Francis tells us that they deserve better. They are our future to which we contribute best by nurturing, loving, mentoring and respecting them. 500

Andrew Hamilton SJ

Photo from Sacred Heart Parish—Feast of Christ the King. Many thanks to all who contributed to a wonderful celebration: traditional food, dance and attire/costume and flags of the many nationalities our Parish represents.



THANK YOU

To those who assisted last Saturday with the removal of the tree next to the Presbytery, a sincere word of thanks. It was quite a task in the end, and we still have a little work to complete the job, but we are all very grateful. Fr Mick



MERBEIN SOUTH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the Community Hall Recreation Ground on Sunday December 15th at 6.30 onwards. BYO chairs. It is the community's effort to endeavour to lift the people's spirits after such a devastating year of drought. All Welcome! If possible it would be good to support this event.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS Did you know?

There are over 1 million plastic bags used every minute worldwide and a lot of these are being disposed of incorrectly and end up destroying our oceans. Soft plastics can be collected and recycled at Woolworths and Coles stores, which will stop it going to landfill and into our oceans.

DROUGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The Australian Government have awarded the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia \$15 million dollars in drought relief funding under the Drought Community Support Initiative – Round 2 (DCSI) The project ends on 30 June 2020. Eligible applicants to the DCSI can receive a one-off cash payment of \$3,000. Farming community members can apply by going to the online application form, which can be found at www.vinnies.org.au/droughtrelief Assistance with the application form can be obtained by phoning 1300 846 643. Or direct donations to:

Millewa-Carwarp Farmers Fund.

Funds that go direct to the farmer - BSB – 063520 Account – 10078126. Please put FD at the start of the reference.

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1167.75	\$ 89.40	\$ 277.50
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$2616.75	\$170.00	\$1072.00
Loose Plate	\$ 603.80	\$ 47.20	\$ 154.30

ADVANCE NOTICE 2020

PARISH MISSION

- March 8th to March 13—Fr Ray Sanchez will again visit our Parish for a Mission.

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

- April 20—May 16 CLC/Jesuit Tertian First Spiritual Exercises Retreat are organising an online/home Retreat for Mildura.

They will be offering the first retreat Inner Peace in Divine Love. The retreats are usually co-guided with a CLC member.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Fr Elio Capra will once again visit us in May/June for our Sacramental Program.

Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart Merbein St. Joseph's Red Cliffs

PARISH NEWS

Thank you for your participation in the discussions in preparation for Plenary Council. Your responses have been compiled and will be included in 'Our Parish Magazine' which will be distributed at the Merbein Christmas Masses

Thank you to those who have already purchased a ticket in the OLSH School major raffle. There are ten tickets left in our book which is on table at the back of the church. The raffle will be drawn next Thursday so this will be the last chance to get a ticket. Please support our school by buying some tickets.

Christmas Eve Mass: Any children who will be attending Christmas Eve Mass this year and who would like to take part in a very simple Christmas play would you please contact the school or Sr. Carmel so that we can organise a small play to be part of the Christmas Mass. Any children who will be visiting families and would like to participate are most welcome. Names of these children would be most helpful. Mass will be held on December 24th (Christmas Eve) at 7.30pm, at the Merbein Catholic Church. The usual 10.30 Mass will take place on Christmas Day.

Next Sunday will be the final Parish Council Meeting until February 2020. Anyone who feels they would like to contribute to our parish with some ideas and suggestions are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL NEWS:

School Concert will be held at the school next Thursday December 5th at 6.00pm. All Welcome

Merbein Christmas Carols on Friday 6th of December. The evening begins at 7.30pm. OLSH Choir will be performing on the night at approximately 7.45pm. All are welcome to come and join in the fun evening!

Preps 2020 Transition Program

The dates for the 2020 Prep students to spend some time at OLSH as part of their transition process continues and is as follows: Wednesday 4th December, Monday 9th December, Tuesday 10th December each day being from 9.00 – 3.25pm (Play lunch & lunch will be required)

An information session for parents will be held on Wednesday, 4th December at 3.45pm. At this session parents will be provided with information that will ensure a successful introduction to school for their child.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Unit 9—Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9.30am Tues, Thur: 5.30pm

CALENDAR

Monday 2 Dec: Jacaranda Village Prayer Service 11am—Low Care Cottages

Tuesday 3 Dec: Jacaranda Village Prayer Service 10.30am—High Care Manor

Wednesday 4 Dec: End of Year School Concert 6pm. School Grounds.

Sunday 8 Dec: End of Year Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass



FR GREEN SCHOLARSHIP

Any baptised member of our Parish in year 6 who is going into a Catholic secondary school in 2019 is entitled to sit for the Fr. Green scholarship, which is a small contribution towards the costs of Year 7. Students from our parish that don't attend St Joseph's PS and wish to sit for the standardised test that takes about 45 minutes please contact the Mark Gibson, Principal of St Joseph's Primary school on 5024

Money Raised from the Trading Table last Sunday \$121.95 will go towards Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

ROSTERS FOR 2020

If you would like to help out in any of our volunteer duties: for our Sunday Liturgy, Church Cleaning, helping with our monthly Cuppa & Trading Table, flowers, counting money etc, please update the list in the foyer of the Gathering Area or contact Carmel Russo on 5021 2872 by Friday 13th December.

ADVENT FORGIVENESS MASS

Our signs of repentance at our Advent Mass, besides the prayers for forgiveness are two-fold. We write out our sins on a sheet of paper, and we bring them to the Sanctuary to be burned, and we bring a present for a needy child to our Christmas tree on Sunday December 8th.

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 2nd Sunday of Advent 7th & 8th December 2019

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 11am	Sacred Heart Saturday 6pm	Sacred Heart Sunday 9am	Sacred Heart Sunday 5pm	Irymple Sunday 8:30am	Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am	Merbein Sunday 10:30am
Leader / Reader	Mary Jackson	Sonia Opie	Christine Slattery	G McCracken	T Hawkes M Lee / J Lewis	Kevin Aston
Music	Singing Group M Sullivan	M Guthrie B Lewis/ J O'Bryan/B Prescott	M Hammond J Ljubic / M Macri		Guitar	
Offertory	Baptism	Baptism			M Suppa	Piscioneri Family
Altar Servers	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please		GROUP 2 B Williams	Volunteer Please
Eucharist Ministers	Maria Cirillo	Jean Rocca	Wendy Finn	R Barbary	G Brizzi	Pat Sylvia
	Christine Carmichael	Bobby Castillo	Tony Finn		J Cameron	Julie Phelan
	Jacinda Deacon	Talia Faingaanuku	Bill Dolence	OASIS AGED CARE	Volunteer please	LAY-LED LEADERS December 29th
	Katy Quinlan	Michael Faingaanuku	Jacqui Willis	W Schmidt	CUPPA'S	Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
	Vince Pileggi	Nancy Fatai	Barbara Bunting			CHAFFEY AGED CARE
	Volunteer please	Peter O'Donnell	Volunteer please	LAY LITURGY LEADERS		Sr Carmel Setford
	Volunteer please			FLOWERS J Cameron		
Counting Team	TEAM 5	JIM FARRELLY 0477 140 759			C Markham/ D Eagle	As per arrangement
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement				Volunteers	As per arrangement