



# Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

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Presbytery: 5022 9959

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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

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

4th Sunday Advent / Year B -  
23rd & 24th December 2017

## 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

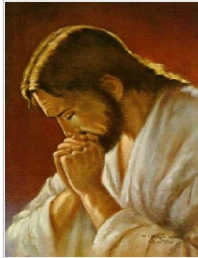
Wed: 9:15 am

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:** Joe Mammone

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Colin Jamieson

**Saturday 6pm:** Vendel Koroknai, Domenico Ficarra (One year anniversary), Angela Ficarra, Kylie Davis (20th anniversary) Douglas Marks (30 day Mass) Alessandro & Caterina Piscioneri

**Sunday 9am:** Giuseppe Martino, Sergio Malcotti

**Wednesday 9.15am:** Paolo Scopelliti (One year anniversary)

**Friday 5.40pm:** Pietro Marziano

*(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

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

We are all familiar with Luke's story of the annunciation, a story that has inspired artists through the ages. God's messenger, Gabriel, approaches a young Galilean Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth, and greets her as God's graced one. The angel's greeting to Mary is unique. No other person in the Christian scriptures is addressed as "favoured one" or "graced one". The Greek form *kecharitōmenē* contains within it the notion of grace, *charis* in Greek. It can also mean "mercied one".

Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, succinct as it is. After being addressed as "favoured one", she has been told only that God is with her. She knows the traditions of her people. She knows that those said to be the graced or favoured of God (Noah and Moses and Gideon and Samuel) are called to be agents of God's saving action and to carry heavy responsibilities. Now a young woman is called to be God's agent. In a formula that forms part of angelic announcements of birth, the angel tells Mary not to be afraid and reassures her by stating explicitly that she has been graced by God. The angel then proceeds to announce the conception and birth of the child she is to name "Jesus". This child will reign forever. The prophecy of Nathan, recounted in today's first reading, is to be fulfilled in the conception and birth of Mary's son who is also, and especially, God's son in the line of David who in his turn was first of many "sons of God" called to rule with the justice and the wisdom of God. In the face of almost constant failure on the part of the kings, later prophets projected Israel's hope into the future and looked for one who would truly have the characteristics of God, who would truly be "son of God".

Mary's response to the angel, "How can this be...?" echoes the prayer of David that follows today's first reading: "Who am I...and who are we that you have brought us to this point?" (2 Sam 7:18). Mary learns that God's dwelling place is her own human flesh and that this extraordinary event will be accomplished through the grace of God and the power of God's Holy Spirit. Mary is also to learn that her cousin Elizabeth with conceive a child despite her age "for nothing will be impossible for God." The mysterious workings of God in our world invite the response of Mary: "How can this be...?" As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we might pause to wonder at the goodness of God at work in the lives of all who incarnate the grace and mercy of God in our world. Let us name them, and give thanks in the spirit of today's gospel.

Veronica Lawson RSM

## PLEASE NOTE:

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

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY

### BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community, Isaac Harcoan, Cooper Madden, James McDonald, Jenson & Olive McGlashan, Orivie Murekezi & Ethan Tse whose Baptism occurs this weekend.



### 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**

**Meditation by Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ**  
 (after his stroke)

More than ever, I now find myself in the hands of God. This is what I have wanted all my life, from my youth. And this is still what I want. But now there is a difference: the initiative is entirely with God. It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in his hands, in the hands of this God who has taken hold of me.



## MILDURA CHRISTMAS MASSES 2017

### CHRISTMAS EVE

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

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Irymple  
 9.00am Mildura  
 10.30am Merbein



### PLEASE NOTE

**THERE WILL BE NO MASS BOXING DAY.**

**ALL OTHER MASSES THE SAME.**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS 9:00AM**

## PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1375.25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$2977.80
Loose Plate	\$ 520.80

## CHRISTMAS

### CHRISTMAS JOY AND TINGES OF SADNESS

*They come at evening, scenes from far away, the bitter-sweet of absence and of love, when memory opens her halls of yesterday, and draws her shuttered curtains from above.*

Taken from the poem Mission Memories by Columban Fr. John McFadden (1894-1978), these lines capture his bitter-sweet mood as he prepares to celebrate Christmas back home in the U.S. after many years in foreign mission lands. During the long December evenings, memories of Christmas celebrations in those far-away places flood his heart, bringing joy and sadness, tears and smiles.

As Christmas approaches, many people have similar experiences. At unexpected moments, memories of a childhood Christmas gift, or of the first Christmas season as a newly-wed couple, or of a surprise guest at the Christmas dinner table stir up in us bittersweet

Elvira, Felisa, Elida, Mabel, Ines, Silvia, Rosann, Margarita, Leonora, Georgina, Norma, Paulina, Noemi, Leticia, Hello, Mary Lou!

These are among a list of people that Fr. McFadden knew and loved in distant places, faces from the past who "pass before my eyes, as twilight dies." Each one of us could compose our own list, which would include some who are still living, as well as others who are deceased. Confronted with grief and loneliness as he recalls those who have died, Fr. McFadden finds comfort in the hope of a joyful reunion.

*But 'God will wipe away all tears' one day, and bid us up with Him, our gracious Lord; Safe in his care, we'll rest, all grief away, our lives, our loves, our family all restored.*

With the consoling realization that the past and the future are safe in God's hands, Fr. McFadden concludes his poem with a prayer for the present Christmas season.

*Lo! The Most High from royal throne descends, to be Our Saviour, sprung from David's line; May His and Mary's joy be yours, my friends, Noel! Noel! O Night, O Night Divine!*

Fr. Tim Mulroy



### THANK YOU

To all who helped my recovery recently through their prayers, kindness and gestures. It was very much appreciated. Christmas Blessings to all. *Moya Campbell*



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

### THANKS & GOD BLESS

I have been telling the Grade Six children this year as I celebrated end of year Masses, that this is the first time since I was ordained a priest that I have been able to watch children who began school in Prep reach Grade Six. Mildura is now officially my longest appointment in any Parish, including overseas.

Thank you to all who continue to gather to celebrate Eucharist, not only on Sunday, but throughout the week as well. It continually assures me, Fr. James and Fr. Pat Flanagan, that our ministry is supported and that we are privileged to serve such wonderful people, sharing in their faith and all that life's journey presents us with.

I am particularly mindful at this time of year of families who have lost loved ones over the past twelve months. Your Christmas this year will be difficult and sad. We assure you all of our continued prayerful support.

Special thanks to Carmel Russo for her tireless work as Secretary of the Parish, including duties pertaining to the Parishes of Red Cliffs, Merbein and Ouyen. Carmel's ability to remain calm and friendly no matter the circumstances never ceases to amaze me. I am also very grateful to Trevor Aust for his helpful assistance in the Parish Office, and to Maureen Gothorp and Mark Barrow as well.

Margaret McDonald keeps us tidy in the house, and provides us with continued nourishment for which both Fr. James and I are forever grateful. Thank you to Gwen Hill who, despite some serious illness this year, continues to direct the affairs of the sacristy. I must also mention Mary Grivec, Paul Kerr and Ross Tongue whose assistance is invaluable. Our Parks & Gardens Team keep our Church, Parish Office and Presbytery surrounds looking beautiful. Despite the loss of the most recent Director in Terry Murphy during the year, they continue to perform.

I am in debt to the Parish Finance Team whose collective experience, knowledge and expertise have saved me a lot of headaches. The Parish Council has resurrected itself this year, and the support of its members is most appreciated.

There are many people involved in various Parish Prayer Groups, as well as those who assist through various ministries within and beyond our liturgical celebrations throughout the year. I regularly hear from visitors to our Parish about how much they have enjoyed the Masses that they have attended. We are very fortunate to have such talent and dedication.

The Knights of the Southern Cross, St. Vinnies and the Soup Kitchen Committee deserve our thanks for the fact that they keep our Parish Community focused on the mission that is ours in the name of Jesus – to be mindful of the disenfranchised and marginalised within our broader Community.

The parishioners who commit themselves to sacramental preparation are such an important resource. Baptism Preparation, RCIA, Confirmation & Eucharist, FOCCUS, as well as those who support through the Bereavement Team – your ongoing commitment is deeply appreciated.

I acknowledge our Parish School Communities and once again thank Principals and Staff for their hard work and dedication. To the families - thank you for providing us with such wonderful children who are the special focus of our care. Thank you to the Staff of St. Joseph's College. The task of educating and forming young people can be very complex in this age. May God continue to bless your efforts.

We are grateful for the fact that two Sisters of Mercy have joined us in Sunraysia this year. Sister Carmel Setford is living in Merbein and accompanying the Parish there. Sister Helen Nolen is assisting our Parish Sacramental Program and accompanying teachers in the area of Religious Education. I have no doubt their involvement will broaden. We are very fortunate to have the continued presence of the Sisters here amongst us and we thank them sincerely for their selfless witness to the Gospel.

Thank you to Fr. James Kerr for his assistance and companionship – I have been fortunate to have James with me, as in fact we all have. Fr. Pat Flanagan continues to assist whilst residing at Red Cliffs. With the added responsibilities associated with the Parish of Ouyen, I am particularly grateful to Pat for his continued support.

May God bless all of us and our families at this time, and may 2018 be a year of peace, health and happiness.

*Fr. Michael McKinnon*

## CHRISTMAS

### A TIME FOR SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES & MIGRANTS

In this Christmas season we recall the Holy Family, who shared the same pain of forced displacement and vulnerability encountered by refugee families today. Let us stand in prayerful solidarity with all those families separated across borders.

**“To welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate”:**  
**Pope Francis calls for solidarity with migrants and refugees**

In his message for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, to be commemorated on 14 January 2018, Pope Francis has called for the international community “to respond to the many challenges of contemporary migration with generosity, promptness, wisdom and foresight”.

The Pope reminds us that the Church has a particular concern for migrants and refugee, as “every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age”.

In 2018, the international community will be working towards two ‘global compacts’, for migrants and refugees. The Pope’s message calls for these compacts to be defined by four verbs: “to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate”. As such, the Pope advocates for increased opportunities for family reunification, alternative solutions to detention, access to employment and protection from exploitation. On 4 December 2017, the Pope reiterated these themes in his video address to an international meeting preparing the two Global Compacts.



*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

23rd, 24th & 25th December 2017

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

**First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16**  
**Resp Psalm: 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2**  
**Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**  
**Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27**  
**Gospel: Lk 1:26-38**

**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 needed	Volunteers needed				
		AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	

**MUSIC**

M Guthrie	M Guthrie	AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	
All welcome	All welcome				

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Please volunteer	Please volunteer	AS PER	CHRISTMAS	ROSTER	

**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
G Schmidt	M Hoy

30th & 31st December 2017

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**First Reading: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3**  
**Resp Psalm: Ps 104:1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7,8**  
**Response: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**  
**Second Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**  
**Gospel: Lk 2:22, 39-40**

**EUCCHARIST MINISTERS**

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6PM	9AM	5PM
6 Ministers	7 Ministers	6 Minister
M Cirillo	J Joslyn	J Macri
C Carmichael	L Cirillo	P Cox
E Frauenfelder	L Fry	J Boord
J Deacon	J Webster	R Cheriyan
K Quinlan	J Rocca	W Finn
K Anesbury	B Castillo	Volunteer please
	R Tongue	

**MUSIC**

Singing Group	M Guthrie	NO MUSIC
M Sullivan	B Lewis	
	B Prescott	

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION**

2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
	M Gobbo	

**READERS**

M Jackson	R Tongue	M Ransome

**COUNTING TEAM 4**

KEVIN SCHULTZ 5023 8778

IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM

READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER
G McCracken	G Schmidt