

# 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  
 Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966  
 Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716  
 parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au  
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 3



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: Yolanda Ferracutti (Adelaide), Athole Langdon

Anniversaries: Pat Rocca

Saturday 6pm: Walee McRae (1st year anniversary), Andrew & Mary Matulin

Sunday 9am: Yolanda Ferracutti

Sunday 6pm: Maria & Giuseppe Piscioneri and all deceased members of the Piscioneri & Scali families, Sarah Leonardis



### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Fr John O'Kelly

### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Jan.20<sup>th</sup>, Guiseppe Manno; 21<sup>st</sup> Steve Panuccio; 24<sup>th</sup> George Russell; 25<sup>th</sup> Joseph Olden.

*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

## / Year A

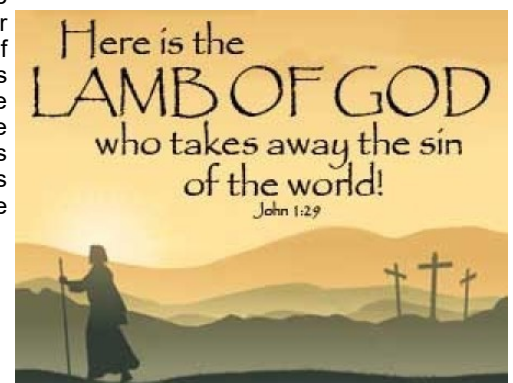
### 18th & 19th January 2020

To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony provided in the reference. John the Baptist took it upon himself to provide a reference for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who is more than a prophet or teacher. John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus "might be revealed". He wants them to know that Jesus is "of God". He is the "lamb of God", the "chosen one of God". He is the one on whom God's Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him.

Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That's what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist's testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is "yes, but not exclusively".

Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or with John the gospel writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is "God's lamb". Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John's gospel in relation to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is "God's lamb" the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who assumes the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham's sacrifice in Genesis 22? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 ("I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter")?

There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John's gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 "takes away" the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God's Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response to the distress of God's people and the distress of God's Earth.



Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy



### BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Vailima Fatai & Sulia Afu** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

### ADVANCE NOTICE RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2020

Parent Information Evening  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 7pm  
Sacred Heart Church

All families of children in Grade 4 and above due to celebrate First Eucharist in June this year need to attend this Parent Information Evening. Further information regarding the programs for **Reconciliation & First Eucharist** including Registration Forms can be obtained by contacting the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.



### 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:** Brian Weightman, Mary Flinn, Fr Denis Dennehy, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuoniso, Lily Chung, Lorna Kearney, Dien Brown, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Vince Alicastro, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy

**Merbein:** Sr. Grace, Martin Rogers, Frank Chandler, Mary Avery, John Dorman

**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 still 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.

## Community Life & Outreach



### BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENING

Wednesday 22nd January 7.30pm,  
Monaghan Centre  
Sacred Heart Church.

### PLANNED GIVING

If you have Planned Giving envelopes numbered **146** please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 as soon as possible.

### LENTEN PROGRAM 2020

If you would like to order a book/s for Lent, please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 by Friday 25th January.



### LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Vacancies exist in a Lenten Discussion Group which will meet during Lent. The group will meet in the Hillman Room on Thursdays from 10am until 11am following the 9.15am Mass, commencing on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

If you are interested in joining the group contact Wilma or George Schmidt on 5021 4953 or the Parish Office on 5021 2872. There is a once only cost of \$10 for the resource book.

### ADVANCE NOTICE 2020

#### REGIONAL 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.

#### CATHOLIC MISSION DIARIES 2020

Now available at each church entrance pocket sized copies of Catholic Mission Diaries for 2020. Be quick as limited copies were sent.

### TENNIS SEASON A PIECE OF INTERESTING INFORMATION

*This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Margaret Court's remarkable achievement of [winning all four grand slam tennis titles in the one year](#), an achievement which is to be celebrated at the Australian Open which begins on 20 January.*



*Her achievements in tennis are legendary. She won a record 64 Grand Slam tournament titles, including a record 24 singles titles (more than any other man or woman in history), 19 women's doubles titles and a record 21 mixed doubles titles. She also set the record for most titles won in a single Grand Slam event, with 11 Australian Open wins, a record only surpassed by [Rafael Nadal](#) on June 9, 2019 when he won his [12th French Open title](#). She was the first Australian woman to win [Wimbledon](#) (in 1963).*

THAT YOU MAY  
**BELIEVE**

JOHN'S GOSPEL

### 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



**BUSHFIRE DIVISIONS ETCHED IN SAND**

Over the New Year I was holidaying at Gerroa on the Southern New South Wales coast. Though safe the town was relatively close to the fires. It was an edgy time: in a season dominated by fires and the suffering they brought to people and to nature, it seemed a little self-indulgent to be relaxing by the sea.

The Gerroa beach, part of a national park, runs broad and curving as far as the eye can see. Each morning the sun rose red as a tomato and disappeared behind the acrid smoke for the rest of the day. Each rising tide dumped on the shore black clumps of charred twigs, leaves, ashes and the remains of native flora and fauna. Each receding tide drew the black ash back into the sea only to throw it back again with the change of tide.

Later, as the sea withdrew, each wave left behind a curling black line. The lines crossed one another. As a result, at low tide the long white beach became a map in which territories were separated from one another. That image reflected the reality of the fires and the changing ways in which they were perceived. They were always more than localised events. They affected relationships that spread far beyond the fire.

These included changes to things that we take for granted: the light of the sun, transparency of the air, colour of beaches and the arrival of birds driven outside their normal habitat. The fires also affected social relationships. Communications in the form both of movement of people and goods and of electronic contact with families, medical centres and fire authorities, were disrupted. So was the commercial activity so important to the livelihood of coastal towns along the coast.

At the same time, however, the fires deepened people's relationships to one another and to the natural world. People distant from the fires came to see their destructive violence, the heroism of those fighting the fires, the human reality of being stripped of home and family history. The ABC News channel became a gateway to empathy with people in their grief and courage.

The fires also elicited a generous response as distant farmers brought feed to farms and a host of appeals began for donations to support people in their recovery. The fires also brought home to Australians the wider connections between the fires, high temperature and drought in which fire flourished, and the necessity to address climate change seriously and to deal with its effects.

That was the first phase. As the initial shock was handled, this breadth of vision and unity in responding to the fires became fragmented. The boundary lines separating divergent interests and priorities were marked on the sand. The world was divided into those regarded as virtuous and vicious, as unimportant and of central importance.

As a result things that were part of a whole were separated and presented as competitive.

Their importance relative to one another was neglected. Responsibility for the fires was variously assigned to climate change, drought, arson, and the neglect of preventative burning of forests as if these were disconnected and unrelated. The responses advocated to the fires became also correspondingly narrow.

Territories were also marked out by special interests seeking support in the response to the fires: the forestry industry, workers, the insurance industry, small businesses, for example. Some territories were notably neglected: the plants and animals killed and species potentially eradicated as a result of fire, for example. All these things are important, but when they are seen in isolation and as competitive and not as part of a map whose complex hierarchy of relationships needs to be recognised, they will not address the factors that lead to fires. The recurrence of fires can be guaranteed. Preventative burning may help reduce the effects of future fires but it must be consistent with nurturing the diversity of flora and fauna.

And, like all other partial steps, it will be affected by the effects of climate change and must be set within a comprehensive plan to address and minimise them.

The location of houses, the allocation of water, protection of river systems, the support given to particular forms of farming, must all be reviewed in the light of the effects of climate change.

All this requires a reflective and universal view in a political world that thinks in terms of small actions to defend small defended territories. The Prime Minister's emphasis on resilience and adaptation is not encouraging in that light. Both qualities are important, particularly in caring for people during a time of change. But as a response to the world revealed in the fires, they represent business as usual when the ineffectuality of that business has been exposed.

*Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*



**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](http://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.

**SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE**

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1471.55	\$135.20	\$ 351.60
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$1670.00	\$207.30	\$1013.75
Loose Plate	\$ 549.55	\$	\$ 96.20

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

## PARISH NEWS

### 'Our Parish' Newsletter

Hopefully everyone has taken their copy of 'OUR PARISH' Newsletter which Bernadette Wells so capably and generously produces for us each year - Many, many thanks Bernadette!

**Plenary Council:** Just a reminder to anyone who would like to add anything to the Plenary Council Statement (which is in Our Parish Newsletter) before it is sent in before Easter. Please let Nancy Prevadello or Sr. Carmel know of your wishes.

**Lenten Program:** We need to order the books for anyone who would like to take part in the Lenten Program. It is one of the few opportunities we have to reflect upon and share our faith and hopefully grow in our understanding of what it means to be an active Christian in today's world. The program would be for 1 hour a week for the 6 weeks of Lent - either afternoon or evening sessions. Please let Sr. Carmel know ASAP if you are interested in taking part.

## BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community **Evelun Lohmeyer** whose baptism occurs today.



## WEEKDAY MASSES

Unit 9—Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9.30am Tue, Thu: 5.30pm

## CALENDAR

**Monday 3rd Feb:** Students first day back to school

**Wednesday 17th Feb:** Ash Wednesday

## AUSTRALIA DAY

As usual I will talk at the Australia Day Mass on national matters. This year I will be trying to contribute to the discussion on 2 very important matters: 1. Irrigation water & 2. Readiness to fight bushfires in the future.



I myself have seen and have testified that this is the

# Son of God

John 1:34



# JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD

## CUPPA & TRADING TABLE

Our first Cuppa & Trading Table for 2020 will be after Mass next Sunday. Proceeds are for CATHOLIC MISSION.



## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS / 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 25th & 26th January 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23—9:3  
 Responsorial: Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14  
 Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.  
 Second Reading: St Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17  
 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23



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	Rosemary Barnes	Maria Munro	Sue Hermans	W Schmidt	K Hawkes M Bell / J Cameron	Elena Nemtsas
Music	M Guthrie All welcome	Singing Group M Sullivan	Lam Duy J Ljubic		Tongan Choir	
Offertory	Baptism	Baptism			G Brizzi	Ellis Familt
Children's Liturgy		To start March 2020				
Altar Servers	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please		GROUP 1 S Mapapalangi	Volunteer Please
Eucharist Ministers	Anne-Maree Greville	Elina Garreffa	Clem Carlucci	P Riordan	P Hill	
	Taiana Fatai	Maryanne Modica	Vittorio Carlucci		P Hunt	
	Margaret McDonald	Lyn Welsh	Jacinta Macri	OASIS AGED CARE	C Markham	CHAFFEY AGED CARE
	Paul Kerr	Giuseppe Scopacasa	Paula Cox	G Schmidt	CUPPA'S	Kay Wagner Val McCarthy
	Anita Naray	Maria Scopacasa	Jennifer Boord		R Chase B Pitt	
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Susan Lewis	Volunteer please	LAY LEADERS	January 26th—2020	LAY LEADERS
	Minda Wright			FLOWERS Volunteer	Bernadette Wells Kay Wagner	
Counting Team	TEAM 2	JOE DEJONG 5023 7802			G & S WARMAN	As per arrangement
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement				Volunteers	As per arrangement