

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 12

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	
SATURAY	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: Elizabeth Byrne, Mateus Soares (Timor Leste)

ANNIVERSARIES: Cristina Soares (Timor Leste)

Saturday 6pm: Lidia Cavallo (1st year anniversary), Harold Green

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm: Elizabeth Byrne (recent)

Tuesday 6pm: Larry Cavallo

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Eileen McDonald

MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Carlo Longeri, Terry Rowe, Domenica Manna

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

3rd Sunday of Lent / Year C 23rd & 24th March 2019

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about an unproductive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong.

So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "you will all perish as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community.

The parable of the unproductive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a mo it is gift. Let us take it, but let us not take it for granted.

Veronica Lawson rsm

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



Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Sacramental Life & Liturgy

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community Evie Brice, Nicholas Caminiti & Emilia Nocera whose Baptism occurs this weekend.



WEDDINGS

We congratulate Michael Conditorio & Madeleine Slattery and Dylan Orchard & Jamane Taylor who were married this weekend.

RCIY

Weekly program —Thursday 28th March from 3.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.

RCIA 2018 –2019

The Creed—Our Core Beliefs

Thursday 28th March 7pm, Hillman Room.



1st RECONCILIATION

We pray for and ask for God's continuing blessings for the children and their families who have been preparing these past few weeks and who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation for the very first time on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church.

Community Life & Outreach

BUPA AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 26th March at 10.30am.



BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENING

Will be held on Wednesday 27th March, 7.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.



MASS MONDAY 9.15 AM (FEAST ANNUNCIATION)

LENTEN PROGRAM 2019 TRUST

Mildura Group 1: Leaders—Aileen Curran & Wilma Schmidt— Thursday's 10am, Hillman Room. First session starts Thursday 7th March.

Mildura Group 2: Leader—Janet Hill—Friday's 10am. Phone Janet 0438 234 765. First session starts on Friday 15th March.

MAKING THE MOST OF LENT

Project Compassion—envelope packs at church entrances

Stations of the Cross

Friday from 6.30pm Tongan Community All welcome.

Lenten Communal celebration of Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday, 10th April, 6pm. All welcome.



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: Clair Lang, Michele Vanni, Sandra McCarthy, Jean Lanigan, Albis Dy, Jill Antonie, Brian Ramsey, Graeme Lewis, Vince Alicastro, Fr Denis Dennehy, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

Merbein: Martin Rogers, Anne-Maree, Whitechurch, Kit Coogan, Maria Pyatt, Ted Verryt, Frank Chandler, Fr Frank Smith CSSR

Red Cliffs: Maureen Lee, Fr Patrick Flanagan, Max Slatter, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Jean Lanigan, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Raymondo Chan, Albis, Roman & Joe Dy, Graeme Lewis, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Joe Cufari, Maurice O' Connor, Joe Mammone

WERRIMULL BUS TRIP

The next Werrimull Bus Trip will be held on Sunday 31st March.

To make a booking please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY—Thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful celebration after Mass on Sunday; the Irish Dancers who exhibited wonderful professionalism; Recorder in Company group; Banjo's for donation of bread; KSC for cooking the egg & bacon rolls. Special thanks to Meg Sullivan for co-ordinating the event.

MASS TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday April 18: 7pm-Mildura & Red Cliffs

Good Friday April 19: Way of the Cross 10.30am Mildura **Ceremony 3:00pm-Mildura Stations of the Cross 3.00pm Red Cliffs**

Easter Vigil Saturday April 20: 7.00 pm Mildura (No Easter Vigil at Red Cliffs)



Easter Sunday April 21:

8.30am Irymple

8am and 10am Mildura

(no 5pm)

10am—Red Cliffs

10.30am—Merbein

12 noon—Werrimull



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
24th March 2019



Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future.

Lives change when we all give 100%! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



This Weekend's Responsorial Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

FRANCIS SULLIVAN: Why stay?

Since the conviction of Cardinal Pell I have been asked why I remain a Catholic. It is an obvious question. The extent of criminal behaviour and the active cover up by bishops and religious leaders of perpetrators has been breath taking. Ordinary Catholics have been played as mugs by the Church leadership. Why stay?

My answer is - why not? The abuse scandal has rocked my confidence in the clericalist management of the Church but not my sense of the collective journey I walk with other Catholics. I believe the "assembled walkers" are the Church! I feel no compulsion to leave them. I feel participating in a faith community a vital aspect of my self-expression. Being Catholic for me is less a religious tag or a member of a religion and more a chosen pathway of personal and spiritual discovery best undertaken in community. It is my way of living the Gospel.

I have found deep comfort in and direction from my faith tradition. I feel nurtured in the sense that I am part of a pilgrim people, ever moving into a better understanding of the divine in my life and an appreciation of what that means for me as person in society.

The clerical sex abuse scandal is a crisis primarily about the culture of the Church. It may well cause some to rethink their beliefs and practices, but for me it has been a call to deepen my spiritual practice. To commit to daily meditation and reflection. To draw on the sacramental life of the Church and the richness of scriptural practices like lectio divina. It has been a time to become mature in my faith development, less dependent and literally more adult in my engagement with the institutional Church.

I have benefited by being raised as a Catholic and being involved in social and spiritual apostolates of the Church. I have found the wisdom of the teaching and spiritual tradition a rich source of inspiration, information and discernment.

At the same time I understand that participation in the Church is a continuum of engagement. For some the Church is a mainstay or safety net providing moral and social certainty. For others it is more a launching pad for confident and competent engagement come storms or calm waters.

So if others are asking whether it is worth hanging in there with the Church I say now is the time for lay Catholics to claim their rightful place within the organised expression of the Church. If nothing else the scandal has demonstrated the massive power imbalance that lays at the heart of the institution. The clericalism, so bemoaned by Pope Francis, has delivered an institutional structure too top heavy with clerics, company men and time servers. It has relegated the interests of lay people to a sad second after the organisational demands for financial sustainability, orthodoxy and the maintenance of social conservatism.

Being Catholic has always been a mix of the identification with a religious tradition and a personal integration of faith and reason. When this development is healthy Catholics gain confidence of their place in the Church and become more articulate in the revealed truths the faith. The abuse

scandal has clouded the atmosphere for Catholics but not the imperative to seek the Beyond and join with others in pursuing truth, goodness and beauty.

I believe the wisdom of the Gospel tradition has much to offer postmodern society. Not as a bulwark against secularism or a last bastion of traditional values. More as a font for personal freedom and agency in a society that prizes human rights and autonomy. A reclaiming from the Catholic tradition of the primacy of personal conscience would be no small thing in how Catholics navigate life with its competing philosophies, social narratives and identity politics.

For to be Catholic is to be attentive to how our society becomes more human, more compassionate and creative in prizing the dignity and inherent value of everyone. Virtue ethics is far from being outmoded and prudence in discerning our times and circumstances remains an essential life skill.

For me that makes my faith real, practical and important. It compels me to be less self-centred and precious. It implores me to move from my comfort zone to places that open my spirit and hopefully my heart. It shows me that God is forever creating and I can participate in that. So, why leave?

These days I am energised by a spirituality that seeks to promote human flourishing. This is a far cry from my childhood catechism, with its obsession over sin and undertones of a judgemental and exacting God. For today's Catholics an authentic spiritual pathway does not need to involve a constant struggle to deny healthy instincts and desires. We can and should celebrate the embrace of love as it arrives in our lives and not demonise human nature when it presents inconveniently or challenges us to rethink our set ways.

This spirituality leads to an ever deepening acceptance of my self as the place God comes to me. A self-centeredness that by its nature is expansive and transcendent. It gives religious expression in that it personalises the way forward in someone like Jesus and seeks to search for an evolving depth to our reality in a consciousness named as Christ. This is my catechism today. If I have that wrong then so be it. If it means somehow I have drifted from elements of the institutional Church, or they have left me, I can live with that. Otherwise let's stay and keep going!

Francis Sullivan most recently was CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council. He has degrees in Theology and Politics and lives in Canberra.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED for two Filipino gentlemen coming to Sunraysia for permanent employment end April. Not necessary to be accommodated together. Financial contribution is intended. Contact Parish office if able to assist: 5021 2872

SACRED HEART TENNIS CLUB invites players to join the winter season. Senior & junior players of all grades welcome. Contact Merle Watson 5023 2883 or Inez Sullivan 5023 0742.



SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 1,184.05	\$ 83.45	\$225.05
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$ 1,471.00	\$ 110.00	\$288.00
Loose Plate	\$ 548.95	\$ 21.40	\$ 65.75
The Monaghan Centre	\$ 100.00		
Project Compassion	\$ 336.90	\$126.30	\$200.00

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

LENTEN PROGRAM

Ecumenical Group will continue to meet each Monday night at Parish House at 7.30pm. All welcome. In solidarity with the racially discriminated. As suggested by Pope Francis, let us "Fast from hurting words and say kind words"

PROJECT COMPASSION

Lent is a time to reflect on our faith and values such as love, generosity, peace and justice. Everyone is invited to pick up envelopes and join in the journey for Project Compassion. Caritas Australia is the major fund-raising body of the Catholic Church and monies raised through Project Compassion are used to help people, in the poorest of countries, to help themselves. **Please be generous in your giving this year.**

SCHOOL NEWS

The Easter Raffle is one of the major fund-raising events for the school. Tickets are available on the table at the back of the church. **Grandparent's Day** is 5th April & movie night in Term 2

PARISH COUNCIL

An important agenda item at the Parish Council Meeting last Sunday was the preparation for the Child Safe Audit which will take place in early May. A special meeting for those who have taken on the responsibility of ensuring that all requirements are in order will take place on Sunday 7th April 2019 after the 9.00am Mass in the Monaghan Centre (Sacred Heart Church, Mildura). **ALL OFFICERS MUST ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. PLEASE BRING RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**

EARTH DAY: This Earth Day, we're coming together for the Amazon, where forests and their rich diversity of life are being eradicated. Wherever we live, we're all part of the circle of protection for all creation. This year Earth Day is on Sunday, April 28th. Maybe we could plant a tree as a sign of solidarity with the Amazon people. Any other ideas??

SCRIPTURES MONDAY—SATURDAY 9.30AM

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Parish Community Marcello Zara who will be baptised today.



LENT 2019

Envelopes and boxes for Project Compassion are available today. The slogan for this year is GIVE LENT 100%.

LLL&L GROUP

Will have their third Lenten Group session on Monday 25th March at Janine Cameron's place. Please contact Janine 0438 730 976.

CUPPA & TRADING TABLE:

After Mass 31/03/2019. Proceeds from the Trading Table this month will go towards Project Compassion.



PALM SUNDAY

Because of the building works going on at St Joseph's School, this year we will need to gather to start Palm Sunday on the lawn in front of the church.

A reminder to those who make palm crosses to get cracking for this year.

ADVANCE NOTICE—APRIL 7th

Our next youth led-Mass will be on Sunday April 7. Lent Mass asking God's Forgiveness will be on Sunday, April 7. During the prayers for forgiveness you will be invited to come forward and place your hand on the Bible, pledging yourself to live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

BOTTLES FOR BAPTISM WATER FOR EASTER

Very few who took bottles to bless their homes last year have returned those bottles. Once we have run out of those bottles, which cost 30 cents each, they won't be replaced.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR EMPTY WATER BOTTLES

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 4th Sunday of Lent Year C / 30th & 31st March 2019

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12
Responsorial: Ps 33:2-7
Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Second Reading: St Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



	Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 1:00am	Sacred Heart Saturday 6.00pm	Sacred Heart Sunday 9:00am	Sacred Heart Sunday 5.00pm	Irymple Sunday 8:30am	Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am	Merbein Sunday 10:30am	Merbein Lay Led Assembly Last Sunday of the month
Leader / Reader		Chris Carmichael	Jill Joslyn	Greg Johnston	G. McCracken	D. Eagle/ T Gardiner	F. Sabo	March 31st
Music		Lam Duy J. Ljubic	M. Hammond J. Macri	M. Sullivan M. Issanchon		Guitar		Frances Sabo Sr Carmel Setford
Offertory		Volunteer please	Louise Belej	Volunteer please		M. Suppa	Besgrove Family	
Altar Servers		Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Group 5	Volunteer Please	April 28th
Eucharist Ministers		Anne-Maree Greville	Peter O'Donnell	Sue Hermans	R. Barbary	P. Hunt	E. Kremor	Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
		Taiana Fatai	Greg Johnston	Naomi Kennedy		C. Markham	N. Besgrove	
		Paul Kerr	Gina Raiti	Mario Zema		M. Matotek		May 26th
		Anita Naray	Anna Vartuli	Josie Zeme				Bernadette Wells Kay Wagner
		Ryan O'Callaghan	Sara Visona	Bernadette Avery			CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
		Margaret McDonald	Juliet Cresp				V. Barling M. Farnsworth	June 30th
Counting Team	TEAM 9	George Dolence 5023 7993				M Adams/L Mayes		Frances Sabo Sr Carmel Setford
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement				As per arrangement	C. Dichiera	As per arrangement	