

# Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872  
Parish Mobile : 0417 862 082  
257 Eleventh Street Mildura  
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502  
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 51

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*

## 4th Sunday of Advent / Year C 18th & 19th December 2021

### RECENT DEATHS

Charlie Hadlow, Angelo Filippi

### Mildura

Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm Domenico Ficarra(5 Yr Anniversary), Domenico Antonio Timpano, Angela Ficarra

### Red Cliffs

Anniversaries:

### Merbein

Anniversaries: Frank Fox, Vincenzo & Angelo Taglierini, Mark Seppings, Brian Deed, Betty Stirrat, Betty Clifford, Hazel Bell

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

## Message from our Parish Priest

We are now in the final week of Advent, we light the candle of love. This is often the shortest week of Advent but this year we are fortunate to have the whole week to experience God's love for us.

As we approach the celebration of the birth of Christ we are fortunate enough to have restrictions lifted again, so no need to show vaccinations and no restrictions on numbers.

Please note the office will have limited hours this week. Please email or if you ring leave a message.

Rosters for the Christmas masses are in the foyer I ask people to sign up for their preferred ministry

God bless you all.  
Fr Matthew Thomas

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

## Anointing Mass

This week an Anointing Mass will be held at the following churches:

Tuesday 21st December 9.30am: Red Cliffs

Thursday 23rd December 9.30am: Merbein



## The 4th Sunday of Advent

Symbolizes Peace with the "Angels Candle" Reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good will Toward Men"

## 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

### December Meetings 2021

**Wednesday 15 Dec:** Oasis Aged Care Service 10.30am.

**Thursday 16 Dec:** Regis Ontario Aged Care Service 2pm.

**Sunday 19 Dec:** Merbein Parish Council after 10.30am mass.

**Tuesday 21 Dec:** BUPA Aged Care Service 10.30am.

**Wednesday 22 Dec:** Baptism Preparation evening 7.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.

### Gardening Working Bee Red Cliffs Church

A huge thank you to those who turned up for the working bee last Monday as trees & shrubs were pruned, trimmed and cut back and mulch was spread on Friday.



### Sacred Heart Church Nativity Play Christmas Eve 2021

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The second practice session will be a dress rehearsal on Tuesday, **December**

**21st at 5pm.** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

### Communion to the Sick—All Parishes

If you have a family member who is house bound or aged care (because of COVID hospital visits are not allowed at the moment) and they would like to receive communion, please consider this opportunity for you to help with our Communion to the Sick. This list continues to grow in all parishes. We will organise a short training session for new ministers after a weekend Mass in January 2022. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.



### Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community — Jessica Ogunbgesan, Poasi Paonga, Harry & Leo Bowden, Archie Ditchburn and Fletcher & Lincoln Ditchburn, Joseph Primarano whose baptism occurs this weekend.

### Weddings

We congratulate Franc Chirchiglia & Lara Caristo who were married this weekend.



### St Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2021

As there will be no Vinnies Christmas Tree with gift tags this year, Vinnies Christmas Appeal Envelopes will be left at **all** church entrances.



### Communal Celebration of Reconciliation Wednesday 22nd December 6pm

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

### Piety Stalls

**Sacred Heart Parish Office** has 2022 Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards for sale.

**St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs**—Piety stall is opened Sunday's after the 10am Mass with a great range of Christmas gift ideas, cards and 2022 Columban Calendars.

### 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

### Advance Notice

#### Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours

#### Christmas through to end of January 2022

The Parish Office will be **closed** from Christmas Eve Friday **24th December 1pm** until **Tuesday 4th January at 9am.**

Please note that from **4th to 25th January** the Parish Office will be opened from **9am till 12noon only.**

### RCIY

If you are between the **ages of 12 and 18** and are yet to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist and / or Confirmation. We are looking at commencing a program when school returns in 2022.

For further details please contact the Sacred Heart Parish office on 5021 2872.

### St John of God Healthcare Ballarat - Pastoral Associate Role

The hospital has exciting opportunities available for dedicated and committed Pastoral Associates to join the Pastoral Services team in promoting the Mission and Values of St John of God Health Care. To view the job description and/or to apply, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>

### Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

#### – Online Study

Our partner, Dayton University, offers low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes. Study cycles are over 3 or 5 weeks. The first Cycle of 2022 begins January 17. Registrations are open now. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

# 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	5.30PM
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
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1349.25	\$ 68.85	\$195.60
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$2958.25	\$187.50	\$240.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 468.40	\$ 24.50	\$ 35.40
<b>The Shared Table</b>	\$ 515.00		
<b>Trading Table Red Cliffs - Vinnies Christmas Appeal</b>			\$124.00
<b>Ballarat Clergy Support Fund -combined total to date</b>		\$2122.40	

# ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

**This weekend - 18th & 19th December 2021**

**Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am**

### Mildura

**Readers:** Saturday 6pm: K Quinlan

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm: Peter Hammond

**Eucharistic Ministers: 3**

Saturday 6pm: A Greville, T Fatai, A Naray

Sunday 9am: E Garreffa, S Lewis, M Wight

Sunday 5pm: M Zema, J Zema, T Cirillo

**Music:** Sat 6pm: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon

Sun 9am: Tongan Choir, M Guthrie

Sun 5pm: S Fatai, K Mapapalangi, L Duy

**Counting Team:** Team 1—G Lavery

### Irymple

**Reader:** M Duck

### Merbein

**Reader:** F Cox

**Offertory:** Dannatt Family

### Red Cliffs

**Readers:** P Hunt, J Vines

**Music:** Guitar

**Offertory Procession:** C Cavallaro

**Altar Servers:** School Holidays

**Eucharistic Minister:** J Strangio

**Church Cleaning:** Volunteers

**Flowers:** J Cameron



**Next weekend - 26th December 2021**

**Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am**

### Mildura

**Readers:**

Sunday 9am: P Opie

Sunday 5pm: R Zalec

**Eucharistic Ministers: 3**

Sunday 9am: R & R Op't Hoog, C Howell

Sunday 5pm: C & V Carlucci, J Macri.

**Music:** Sun 9am: M Guthrie

Sun 5pm: S Fatai, K Mapapalangi, L Duy

**Counting Team:**

### Irymple

**Reader:** W Schmidt

### Merbein

**Reader:** B Wells

**Offertory:** Piscioneri Family

### Red Cliffs

**Readers:** J Lewis, D Eagle

**Music:** Tongan Choir

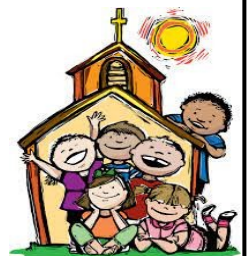
**Offertory Procession:** F Dominelli

**Altar Servers:** School Holidays

**Eucharistic Minister:** J Tassone

**Church Cleaning:** Volunteers

**Flowers:** J Cameron



**Next Weekends Readings: — The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year C — 26th December 2021**

1st Reading: Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 83: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Response: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

2nd Reading: St John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52



## First Reading

Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives  
birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will ex-  
tend his power

to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## Second Reading

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for  
sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law  
lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacri-  
fices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices  
for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he  
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is  
abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second.  
And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering  
of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a  
town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zech-  
ariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as  
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her  
womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.  
She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are  
the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from  
the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greet-  
ing reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for  
joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the prom-  
ise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

There is always excitement at this time of the year. It  
is as if everything is filled with promise. Animosities  
are set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconcilia-  
tion; the whole world seems gentler; and we are filled  
with the spirit of generosity. In the days just before  
Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpa-  
ble. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us  
even before the actual day has arrived. Today we  
stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that  
God has prepared for us is open before us, even  
though we have not yet stepped out into it.

The incarnation takes place in human history, thus  
affirming the fundamental goodness of human life  
and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The  
child comes from simple people, from a place that is  
relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's pref-  
erence for what is ordinary. The body that was of-  
fered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us  
through having been offered up, was the body that  
grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific  
deed of God was accomplished through his coming  
into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ  
played out through his body fulfilled for us the promis-  
es made by God.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment  
of an event that has already taken place. We ritually  
reenact it so that we never take it for granted, so that  
we never forget that it is in and through human histo-  
ry that the marvellous deeds of God are accom-  
plished.

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