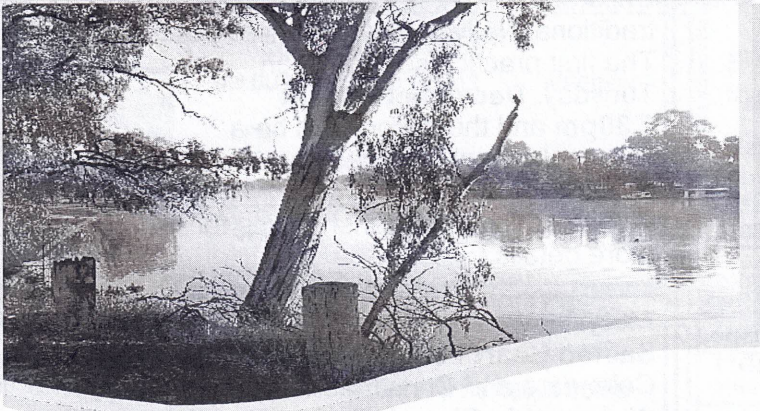


Sunraysia Catholic Communities



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 A 17th & 18th December 2022

RECENT DEATHS

Mildura

Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm: Natalina Chisari (30 day Mass) Leo De Maria, An-tonetta De Maria, Giuseppina (Josie) Furina, Jacob Nemtsas

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm: Domenico Carfora (30 day Mass) Domenico Ficarra, Anto-nio Domenico Timpano,

Friday 6pm: Andrea Pasquale (one year anniversary)

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries: Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna, Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone

Merbein

Winfred Deed, Rocco Di Mase, Frank Fox, Vincenzo and Angela Taglierini, Mark Seppings, Brain Deed, Betty Stirrat, Hazel Bell,

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.

Please abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- Masks now do not need to be worn in church but if you wish you can continue to wear them.
- Use the hand sanitizer
- If you are feeling unwell please stay home

Advance Notice Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours for December 2022

Please note from
24th December to 2 January 2023
the Parish Office will be closed.
From **3rd January till 31st January** the operating
hours for the Parish Office will be from
9am till 12noon only.
Thursday 26th January
Office closed Public Holiday.

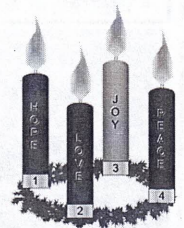
Message from our Parish Priest

Well we have finally made it to the last week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. Let us pray that peace will fall on all who live in our homes, that the world can find peace at least for a few days over Christmas and New Year, conflict in families can be healed and we find time to have a moment of peace in our hearts.

Please note that from Friday 23rd Dec— Tues Jan 3rd the office will be closed. Office hours from Tues Jan 3rd to Tues Jan 31st will be from 9am to 12noon.

New Security Camera's have been installed throughout the property, covering the Church, Presbytery and Parish Office.

God bless you all.
Fr Matthew Thomas



Sunraysia Christmas Mass Times 2022

Christmas Carols 1/2 hour before each Mass

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December

5.30pm St Joseph's Ouyen
6pm Sacred Heart Mildura
6pm Our Lady's Werrimull
8pm Our Lady's Merbein
8pm St Joseph's Red Cliffs
8pm St Mary's Robinvale
10pm Sacred Heart Mildura
Midnight Sacred Heart Mildura

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

8.30am St Francis Xavier Irymple
9am Sacred Heart Mildura
9am St Patrick's Manangatang
11am St Mary's Robinvale

LOCAL NEWS

For December 2022

Tue 20 Dec: BUPA Aged Care Service 10.30am

Wed 21 Dec: Communal Reconciliation 7pm, Sacred Heart Church

Please note: regular monthly meetings will not be held in January most meetings will restart in February 2023.



Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community — **Adriano & Joanna Crispo, Kora Martin, Elizabeth Santos, Owen Williams, Lucas Petrolo & Albas**

Vallelonga whose baptism occurs this weekend.

Weddings

We congratulate **Chaise Leslie & Erin Theofelos** who were married this weekend.



Anointing Mass—December 2022

Anointing
of the Sick

December Anointing Masses will be held at the following churches on:

Mildura: Wednesday 14th December 2pm

Merbein: Thursday 15th December 9.30am

Communal Celebration of Reconciliation Wednesday 21st December 7pm



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

"He shall save his people from their sins."

- Matthew 1:21 -

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 11:30am Monaghan Centre

Legion's of Mary: Tuesday after 6pm Mass

Sacred Heart Church Nativity Play Christmas Eve 2022

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The first practice session is on Tuesday, **December 13th at 5.30pm** and the second will be a dress rehearsal on Tuesday, **December 20th at 5.30pm**. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.



Piety Stall

Sacred Heart Parish Office has 2023 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 greater range of Christmas gift ideas, cards and 2023 Columban Calendars or call Janine Cameron to organise an appointment on 0438 730 976.

St Vincent De Paul—Vinnies Mildura

Have you, or someone you know, been affected by the rising flood water?

Vinnies has assistance items for those who are affected by the floods.

If this is you or someone you know please call in to 109 Pine Avenue between 11-1 weekdays. Denise Knight



Vinnies
good works

Advance Notice Sunraysia Catholic Communities Sacramental Dates for 2023

Parent meeting & celebration dates for the following sacraments will take place on:

Penance (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 15th February 7pm, SH Church.

Celebration 5th April, 7pm SH Church

Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 22nd March 7pm, SH Church

Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th June

First Eucharist (Grade 4 and above)

Parent meeting 6th September 7pm, SH Church

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd Sunday 23rd October

Penance (Grade 2 and above)

Parent meeting 4th October 7pm, SH Church

Celebration Wednesday 6th April 7pm SH Church

Thank you to all the contributors of recipes for the book, **Food Nurturing Friendship**, and for all who purchased the book.

\$2,245 has been placed in Fr Mick's account for his many projects in Peru.

There are still 5 books remaining if there is someone still wanting a Christmas gift for someone.

Thanks again. Sr Helen Nolen.

LOCAL NEWS

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

IRYMPLE MILDURA RED CLIFFS MERBEIN

SATURDAY		6PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9AM	10AM	10:30AM
		5PM		

WERRIMULL 11:00AM (5TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

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	9:30AM
FRIDAY	6PM		
SATURDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE TIMETABLE (NO 9.30AM MASS)		

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: Teresa Camarotto, James Bowring, Caleb Bowers, Margaret Mottram, Rosemary Byrne

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Jenny Boyd, Catherine Bell, Faye Cufari, Marie Adams, Barry Crosbie

SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 1325.30	\$123.80	\$236.30
2 nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$1044.50	\$210.00	\$295.00
Loose Plate	\$ 454.65	\$ 59.15	\$ 100.30

Volunteers are still needed for all the Christmas Masses.
Please see the roster sheets at the back of the church.

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 17th & 18th December 2022

Next weekend - 24th & 25th December 2022

Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Sat 6pm: C Carmichael
Sun 9am: R Op't Hoog
Sun 5pm: St Pauls Graduation

Eucharistic Ministers: x 3 people

Sat 6pm: M Cirillo, C Carmichael, P Kerr
Sun 9am: J Rocca, B Castillo, T Faingaanuku
Sun 5pm: P Cox, J Boord, volunteer please

Music: Sat 6pm: Singing Group, M Sullivan
Sun 9am: Tongan Choir, M Guthrie
Sun 5pm: St Pauls Graduation

Offertory Procession:

Sun 9am: Baptism

Counting Team: Group 3—P McDonald

Irymple

Reader: M Duck

Merbein

Reader: N Prevedello

Offertory: N & B Prevedello

Red Cliffs

Readers: M Duck, T Gardiner

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: G Brizzi

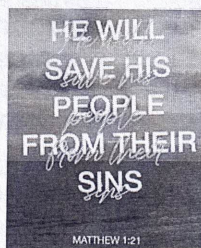
Altar Servers: Volunteers most welcome

Eucharistic Minister: M Dominelli

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Flowers: J Cameron

Please find your own replacement if you are unable to attend on your Rostered Day.



Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas roster

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas roster

Music: Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas roster

Offertory Procession: Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas Roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas Roster

Irymple Christmas Day 8am

Reader: W Schmidt

Merbein Christmas Eve 8pm

Reader: E Piscioneri

Offertory: E & S Iamarino

Red Cliffs Christmas Eve 8pm

Readers: As per Christmas Roster

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: As Per Christmas Roster

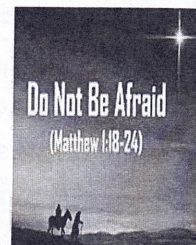
Altar Servers: Volunteers most welcome

Eucharistic Minister: As per Christmas Roster

Church Cleaning: Mapapalangi Family

Flowers: J Cameron

Please find your own replacement if you are unable to attend on your Rostered Day.



Next Weekends Readings: - Christmas Day Year A - 24th & 25th December 2022

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1-3, 11-13

Response: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

2nd Reading: St Paul to Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14



First Reading

Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of
men

without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

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