

# 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 13

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:

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am: Assunta Di Toro (1 year), Helen Campbell,  
George Farmer (5yr)

Sunday 5pm: George Matulic (b'day 1 Apr), Leonor Anchez (1 yr)

Tuesday 6pm:

Friday 5.40pm: Jim Graham

**IRYMPLE:** Olive Hardingham, Arthur Robertson

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Damiano Brizzi (1Apr), John Flanagan, Tom Smith

### MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Isobel Russell, Harry Deed, Joy Andrews,  
Cosimo Ierace, Molly Callahan, Jimmy York,  
Paul Desmond

## 4th Sunday of Lent / Year C 30th & 31st March 2019

Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters is a key motif in today's gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to critics is the story of a parent whose adult children lose their way. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his sibling's return.

We need to attend to the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons in the family; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is tantamount to wishing his parents dead. The older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear.

The contrast between the young man's acquisitive nature and his parents' capacity to relinquish substantial property in the interests of relationship is striking. No motive is offered for the son's readiness to break all his ties and get as far away as he can. In the distant country, he squanders both his inheritance and his identity. A "severe famine" becomes the catalyst for his change of direction. Famine in any age means devastation of the earth that can lead to displacement, to broken relationships and even to global conflicts. In turning back, the young man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family or ancestral lands. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his belly. He composes a speech about having sinned against his father and against God and about being prepared to share the status of the servants. Thanks to the expansive heart of an extraordinarily compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared. Famine becomes feast. So it is with our merciful God. We abandon, even betray. We waste the bounty of Earth. Our motives for returning to the sources of love and community are very mixed, and yet our merciful God is ever ready, with our cooperation, to turn famine into feast. For that to happen in our times, we must turn away from our acquisitive, wasteful ways and respond as one to the pain of our planetary home.

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

# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy

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

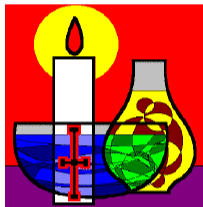
**RCIA 2018 –2019 Prayer**  
Thursday 4th April 7pm, Hillman Room.



## Community Life & Outreach

**BEREAVEMENT TEAM MEETING**  
Will be held on Tuesday 2nd April, 9am at the Sacred Heart Parish Office.

**REGIS TENTH ST AGED CARE SERVICE**  
Will be held on Tuesday 2nd April, 2pm. All welcome.



**ANointing MASS**  
Thursday 4th April 9.15am. All welcome

*An impromptu note of thanks to all of our committed volunteers. Your dedication to the works of our community are appreciated!!*

**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.  
**All welcome.**



**Lenten Communal celebration of Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday, 10th April, 6pm. Sacred Heart Church**



**LEADERS BOOKS:**  
Would all leaders please return the following booklets to the Parish office as soon as possible:  
  
Sacrament of First Eucharist 2018 & Sacrament of Reconciliation 2019

**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 bus will leave for Werrimull on Sunday 31st March 10am at the SJC 12th St school entrance.  
Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.



**FR ROJAN—BURONGA CHURCH**  
Fr Rojan—Vincentian priest will once again be in the region from Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th April at St Michael's Church Buronga from 6pm—9pm where he will be reciting the Rosary, followed by Holy Mass, Adoration and Healing Prayers. All welcome.

**MASS TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK**  
**Holy Thursday April 18:** 7pm-Mildura & Red Cliffs  
**Good Friday April 19:** Way of the Cross 10.30am  
Ceremony 3:00pm-Mildura & Red Cliffs  
**Easter Vigil Saturday April 20:** 7.00pm Mildura & 6.30 pm Red Cliffs  
**Easter Sunday April 21:** 8.30am Irymple  
8am Mildura & 10am Mildura (no 5pm Mildura)  
  
10am—Red Cliffs  
10.30am—Merbein  
12noon—Werrimull



**PROJECT COMPASSION** FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 31st March 2019 **Caritas AUSTRALIA**

**Michaela** is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis center in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential health care, employment and training for First Australians like Michaela.**



**Lives change when we all give 100%.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**'Virtue signalling' and other slimy words**

Election campaigns are carnival times for dodgy words. Politicians and their hacks dog-whistle them out of their lairs, summon them from Shakespearian lexicons and haul them back from used-word graveyards. The most noxious of them slither noisesomely in, sleazing and sliming their handlers.

The slimy words are those that convict their targets of simulating virtue. They include the old favourite 'bleeding hearts', the perennial 'political correctness' and the most recently minted 'virtue signalling'. All these phrases began as commendation.

The original Bleeding Heart was Jesus' heart seen as a symbol for compassion: Bleeding Heart Tavern in London originally had a sign emblazoned with a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The phrase was then applied to people who were compassionate and open-hearted. As such, of course, it was appropriated by politicians to describe themselves as genial and generous. That vanity provoked cynicism, leading the phrase to be used as an insult by acerbic journalists. In the United States, for example, Westbrook Pegler described as bleeding hearts the supporters of a federal bill to impose penalties for lynching.

'Political correctness' was coined to commend people for acting consistently with their ideology. Their opponents, disagreeing with their ideology, then turned the phrase to imply that their actions were not based on reasoned argument but on party loyalty.

'Virtue signalling' was also first used to describe actions that expressed a religious faith or way of life. Convinced Christians, for example, who visited people in prison might be said to signal virtue through their actions. Critics then turned the phrase to describe the motivation of the action and not its effect, and further implied that it was done to look good or draw applause, not to be of service to the people visited.

When people speak of bleeding hearts, political correctness and virtue signalling today, they do so to attack their opponents and the opinions they commend. Bleeding hearts are soft-headed, sentimental and weak. Their arguments may be dismissed because they are driven by emotion, not by reason.

People who are politically correct are motivated by the desire for approval of the crowd, are self-regarding, lack an intellectual centre and are not serious seekers after truth. Their judgments may also be dismissed because they do not reflect intellectual argument but acceptance of majority opinion. People engaged in virtue signalling are driven by the desire to look good. Their positions may be dismissed because they do not arise out of honest reflection on the issue at stake but out of either vanity or ulterior motives, such as seeking commercial advantage through endorsing a popular cause.

The reason why these phrases are slimy, slithery and sludgy is that they purport to be counters in rational argument but dismiss opposed arguments without engaging with them. They rely on destroying the credibility of the argument by insinuating the personal unreliability of the person who makes the argument.

This frees those who have recourse to these phrases from the bother of careful analysis of their opponents' positions, still less of demonstrating the motives attributed to them. They display a fundamental lack of respect both for their opponents and for the discipline of argument. In the vernacular, they play the man and not the ball, or more precisely, they take out the man behind the play.

If you drag slimy creatures along the floor you make it slippery, making it likely that you will slip on it. So it is with resorting to slithery phrases. If you define a conversation by the use of phrases such as virtue signalling, you are essentially claiming the high moral and intellectual ground. Your opponents are driven by emotion and not by reason, by the desire for popularity and not for truth, by the search for advantage and not for truth or integrity. You, on the other hand, are the stern representative of pure reason, hard love and disinterested judgment. On that claim your argument stands or falls.

In this case it inevitably falls, because the rhetorical style in which it is made is characterised neither by disinterest, love, the exercise of reason nor virtue. It is an exercise of power in which opponents are crushed by scorn and innuendo not by rational and respectful engagement. It is not a trial of opposed ideas which is followed by judgement discerning the truth of the matter. It is a judgment that disregards truth and the respect due to the search for it, and substitutes for the trial. Those who resort to the use of such oleaginous arguments are besmeared by the slime that attaches to them.

No doubt when elections draw near, truth, respect and rationality are as rare and endangered as rainbow coloured butterflies in a dust storm. Concern about slithery arguments will seem a little delicate when walking through grasslands full of hyenas, jackals and funnel web spiders as well as snakes. Still, a proper attentiveness to the decent use of words needs to start somewhere.

*Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*



**END OF DAY-LIGHT SAVING**  
At 3.00 am next Sunday morning, April 7, we turn our clocks back to 2.00 am, and enjoy an extra hour's sleep.

<b>SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE</b>			
<b>Last week's collections</b>	<b>Mildura</b>	<b>Merbein</b>	<b>Red Cliffs</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	<b>\$ 1,566.65</b>	<b>\$ 75.60</b>	<b>\$ 249.60</b>
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT)	<b>\$ 2,482.00</b>	<b>\$ 229.00</b>	<b>\$ 414.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 682.90</b>	<b>\$ 31.15</b>	<b>\$ 66.85</b>
<b>The Monaghan Centre</b>	<b>\$ 360.00</b>		
<b>Project..Compassion Trading Table</b>	<b>\$ 519.20</b>	<b>\$ 70.95</b>	<b>\$ 770.00</b> <b>220.00</b>

# 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.

**SUNRAYSIA THERESIANS:**  
Next meeting will be held on Monday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Parish House. All welcome.

**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. Please show your support for our school by buying a ticket. **Grandparents Day** is 5th April—special friends welcome. Congratulations to **Aleisha Hoyle** (Grade 6) who showed commitment and courage to shave her head for cancer! Aleisha also raised extraordinary money for the cause. Further donations invited.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** In preparation of our Child Safe Audit, a special meeting for those responsible will take place on Sunday 7th April after 9.00am Mass (Mildura) in the Monaghan Centre

**EARTH DAY:** In the face of increasing threats to creation, Catholics around the world are standing together for the Amazon. Wherever we live we must be part of the circle to protect all creation. This year Earth Day is Sunday 28th April. Maybe we could plant a tree of solidarity with the Amazon people. Other ideas??

**NO CHANGES TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK:**  
MASS OFFERED FOR TOM SMITH

**LENT 2019**  
Envelopes and boxes for Project Compassion are available today. The slogan for this year is GIVE LENT 100%.

**YOUTH-LED MASS, NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 7**  
**Leader:** Alessandra Cavallaro  
**First Reading:** Gabrielle Spataro  
**Psalm:** Nino Suppa  
**Second Reading:** Cenza Tassone  
**Forgiveness Prayers:** Tomas Hawkes & Olivia Strangio  
**Holding the Bibles:** Gabriella, Tomas, Topui & Foloe  
**Lay ministers:** Topui & Folole Mapapalangi  
**Assisting at Data Projector:** Madaleina Strangio & Gemma Monteleone

**LLL&L GROUP**  
Will have their fourth Lenten Group session on Monday 1st April at Janine Cameron's place. Please contact Janine on 0438 730 976.

**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.

**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 5th Sunday of Lent Year C / 6th & 7th April 2019

**First Reading:** Isaiah 43:16-21  
**Responsorial:** Psalm 125  
**Response:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy  
**Second Reading:** Philipians 3:8-14  
**Gospel:** John 8:1-11



	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
<b>Leader / Reader</b>		Gary Huxtable	Jim O'Brien	Inez Sullivan	M. Hill	K. Hawkes A. Higham, P. Hunt	Kevin Aston	<b>March 31st</b>
<b>Music</b>		M. Guthrie All welcome	Italian Choir	No music		Guitar		Frances Sabo Sr Carmel Setford
<b>Offertory</b>		Baptism	Baptism			M. Adams	Piscioneri Family	
<b>Altar Servers</b>		Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Group 6	Volunteer Please	<b>April 28th</b>
<b>Eucharist Ministers</b>		Maria Cirillo	Nancy Leonardis	Trish Cirillo	R. Hill		Pat Sylvia	Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
		Christine Carmichael	Elina Garreffa	Jenna Jose			Annette Lemon	
		Ellen Frauenfelder	Maryanne Modica	Clem Carlucci				<b>May 26th</b>
		Jacinda Deacon	Lyn Welsh	Vittorio Carlucci		M. Monteleone		Bernadette Wells Kay Wagner
		Katy Quinlin	Guiseppe Scopacasa	Christine Slattery		N. Morello	<b>CHAFFEY AGED CARE</b>	
		Vince Pileggi	Maria Scopacasa	Jacinta Macri		S. Orr	Vi Barling Margo Farnsworth	<b>June 30th</b>
<b>Counting Team</b>		<b>TEAM 10</b>	<b>Brian Grogan 5021 2099</b>			T & J Lewis		Frances Sabo Sr Carmel Setford
<b>Church Cleaning</b>		As per arrangement			As per arrangement	<b>Volunteers</b>	As per arrangement	