

# 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 14

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: Generoso Zappia, Domenico Musolino

ANNIVERSARIES: Frank Virgona (1st year anniversary)

Saturday 6pm: George Matulic,

Mona Richardson (1st year anniversary)

Sunday 5pm: Antonio Paiano,

Maria Giuseppa Pascale (birthday remembrance)

Friday 5.40pm: Gilia Dichiera (30 day mass)

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Cameron Allford

Anniversaries: Giuseppe D'Anna

### MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: 10<sup>th</sup> Richard Murphy Jnr. 12<sup>th</sup> Kevin Forbes.

Mass today is being offered for Paul Desmond whose anniversary occurred last Sunday.

*(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

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

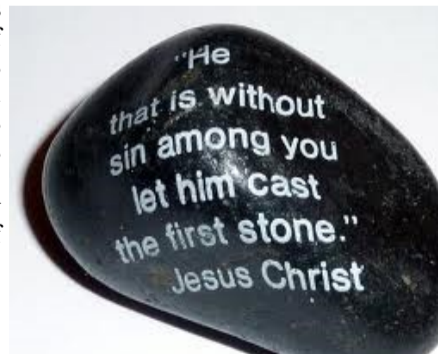
Historian Gerda Lerner has demonstrated that patriarchy emerged some 3000 years ago with the emergence of weapons of war and the consequent gender division of labour. By the first century CE, when the gospels were written, every woman in the Roman world knew what that she was the possession of a man, initially of her father, and then of her husband or successive husbands. Slaves, both men and women, were the property of and sexually available to the head of the patriarchal household. Even free women had fewer choices than men in regard to such matters as choice of life partners and social contact outside the family. In the context of Second Temple Judaism, a woman's sexual liaison with another man was a sin against her husband who was also her proprietor. Her shame was of less consequence than her husband's loss of status and honour.

We are told nothing of the precise circumstances of the woman said to be "taken in adultery". She could not have been "taken" alone: there is a man somewhere in the wings who is at least as guilty as the woman. But only the woman is "brought" to Jesus in the public arena, a spectacle for the assembled crowd. Ironically, the lawyers have little interest in the woman or her fate. Their interest is in Jesus. They want to test him and catch him out on his attitude to and enactment of the Mosaic law. In other words, Jesus is the one on trial in this public setting, and the woman is no more than a dispensable object in the process, a means to a sinister end.

The woman's life is of little concern to her accusers. They ask Jesus for a legal opinion on her case. Should the full force of the law be exercised? Should she be stoned to death? Jesus does not dignify their manipulation with a response. Rather, he takes away their power over the woman by bending down and writing with his finger on the ground. What does he write? We can never have an answer to that question. They keep asking him to provide a ruling.


Jesus subverts their ploy by confronting them with their own sinfulness: "let the one without sin cast the first stone". They move off one by one and the woman is finally accorded the dignity of responding for herself. She is freed from the burden of condemnation. She can move forward with a strong sense of her worth and the knowledge that she matters in the scheme of things. As we bring today's gospel into dialogue with stories of violence against women, such as the horrifying stories of Yazidi women returning to their homes after years of captivity in Syria as the sex slaves of ISIS operatives, we might commit ourselves anew to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Veronica Lawson rsm



# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy

 **BAPTISMS**  
This weekend we welcome into our Parish Community Jack Morffew & Jivanni Sinclair.

**WEDDINGS**  
We congratulate Bradley Smith & Melissa Romeo and Steven Sellens & Bianca Bunney who were married this weekend.




**RCIY**  
Weekly program —Thursday 11th April from 3.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.

 **RCIA 2018 –2019**  
**Explanation of Holy Week & Easter**  
Thursday 11th April 7pm, Hillman Room.

## Community Life & Outreach


**KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS MEETING**  
Will be held on Monday 8th April 7.30pm at the KSC Clubrooms.


**SACRED HEART LADIES SOCIAL GROUP**  
Will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday 9th April, 2pm in the Hillman Room.  
All welcome.




**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 Wednesday, 10th April, 6pm. Sacred Heart Church.**  
**ALL WELCOME.**

**MUSIC ROSTER 2019-2020**  
Musicians and Leaders are asked to collect their music roster from the cupboard near the organ please. The rosters have been named for your convenience. Thank you to all who support our parish through the music ministry and as we approach the Easter ceremonies, please be aware that all leaders are welcome to come and join in leading the community in song during this special time for our church.  
Holy Thursday / Good Friday / Easter Vigil / Easter Sunday 8am & 10am. Thank you, Marion Guthrie



### 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, 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

### 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 & 10am Mildura  
(no 5pm Mildura)  
10am—Red Cliffs  
10.30am—Merbein  
12noon—Werrimull



### PROJECT COMPASSION FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 7th April 2019



Salma featured in Project Compassion 2013. At the time she was pregnant with her first child, sick and terribly frightened. In distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children. Salma is committed to giving her children the education they need to provide them with the future she hoped for.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help reduce infant mortality rates in countries like Bangladesh and provide hope to pregnant women in remote communities for happy and healthy families.**

**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.



### INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS—RED CLIFFS

Available now—1 x 1 bedroom unit. Conditions apply.  
Please contact Peter Bramsen on 5021 1393 or 0427 567 650.

**This Weekend's Responsorial Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

**NO SHORTCUTS TO REFORM AFTER CHURCH ABUSE CRISIS**

The sentencing of Cardinal George Pell highlighted the dismay and soul-searching among Catholics at sex abuse and its devastation of the lives of victims and their families. It also brought home the depth of the crisis caused by clerical sex abuse in the Catholic Church. Although it still challenges understanding, a historical parallel may help illuminate it.

Emperors Decius in 250 AD and Diocletian in 303 AD persecuted Christians in response to military reverses and perceived decline in Roman values. They called for a return to traditional values and religious practices and saw Christians as a subversive and alien force, much as Muslim people are seen by some in Australia today. They first targeted bishops and clergy, then all Christians, ordering them to hand over their sacred texts and vessels and publicly to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods. Those who refused were fined, tortured or killed. Many Christians, including bishops and clergy, had fled or apostasised (denied their faith by publicly offering sacrifice, handing over the sacred books or buying certificates of compliance).

Where the persecution was systematically pursued, it deprived the church of strong leaders and burdened it with the shame of those who sacrificed. The disruption to congregations after the persecution can be imagined. They included members who had been blinded, deafened or crippled while remaining faithful under torture (confessors), others grieving relatives who had been killed, some who had escaped notice, bishops and priests who had returned after flight to safer places and sought to resume their responsibilities, local clergy who had been ordained to serve in their place, and, significantly, many people who had publicly apostasised.

In a church which gloried in the courage of the martyrs as a sign of God's presence, apostasy was a corruption that tore at its heart. The congregations were inevitably riven with anger, resentment, guilt, confusion, and above all disillusion at the gap revealed between their leaders' and members' proud profession of faith and their cowardly repudiation of it.

The standard accounts of the time held that the crisis was overcome by the cooperative work of strong bishops who had resolved disputes and preserved church unity. They had dealt with the corruption of apostasy by establishing common rigorous rules for reconciling people who had betrayed the faith in more or less serious ways. They accomplished this through local and regional synods.

Although this reform of governance was a remarkable achievement, it ignored the depth at which apostasy had shaken the church and to which reconciliation of those who had fallen therefore needed to reach. It also failed to deal with the suspicion that bishops themselves had been the primary channels of corruption in the church.

These weaknesses in the response explain partly why sectarian divisions continued to affect the churches in Rome, Egypt and Africa. In most cases the bishops who led dissident groups demanded a much more restrictive approach to reconciliation and represented themselves as the church of the martyrs.

They also commonly accused their rival bishops of flight during persecution or of inheriting a tradition of selling out faith. The divisions were only intensified when the now Christian Emperors penalised the breakaway churches. They could now boast that 'we are the persecuted who do not persecute'. They had inherited the mantle of the confessors. This claim was significant because the traditional account minimised the crucial importance of the living victims of persecution. In the initial stages they were held in high honour, and people who had apostasised sought their patronage in order to

return. Their mediating role in reconciliation expressed their moral authority within the church and their favour with God. Their disfigurement by torture both symbolised what was expected of followers of Jesus and highlighted the disgrace in abandoning the faith.

The reforming bishops, however, criticised the arbitrariness and lack of uniformity in the confessors' judgments, and made of them eccentric and marginal figures in their church reform. This neglect contributed to the continuing suspicion that the corruption of apostasy had not been addressed in sufficient depth and that the processes of reconciliation were superficial.

The parallels between these events and the Catholic Church today after sexual abuse are striking. In both cases people who represented the church acted in a way that destroyed lives, destroyed trust in the church and God's presence in it, and broke relationships. In both cases these actions left victims whose physical or mental scars were evident. And in each the institutions involved in the corrupting actions have sought to restore credibility and promote reconciliation by reform.

The experience of the early church suggests that a pattern of shameful actions that call into question the basis of the church cuts very deep indeed and, if left unmet at that depth, can work its poison for centuries. It follows that the first challenge facing any attempted reform is to stay focused on the deep reality and corrupting effects of sexual abuse and to recognise the way in which it can poison even the attempted reform. To believe that you can move on from it after 50 years or so undermined reform in the early church and will do so again if attempted. It is like the belief of people addicted to alcohol that they can move on from their addiction.

The second challenge posed by the experience of the early church is to recognise victims, to respect them as the keepers of conscience, and to involve them as the mediators of reconciliation. To sideline them as unreliable observers who can be acknowledged verbally and ignored as persons, or to believe that they will fade away, opened the way for division in the early church and perpetuated the corruption of apostasy. There is no reason to believe that the effects of similar neglect today would be less pernicious.

In the Catholic Church today the victims are people whose lives have been directly or indirectly marred by sexual abuse. To make them mediators of reconciliation is more difficult today than in the early Church. Then the victims were those who had suffered persecution by the state, and those needing reconciliation with the Church sought them out. Now the victims are those persecuted by representatives of the Church, and the Church that needs to be reconciled to them in order to be reconciled to itself.

To put at the centre of pastoral strategy reconciliation with people whom you have harmed, and will often want only to be shot of you, is a brave commitment. Given that the harm done by sexual abuse has radiated out through generations, the commitment must be for the long term. History suggests that nothing less will do.

*Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*

**SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE**

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1189.70	\$ 53.95	\$226.80
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (includes all EFT)	\$2293.30	\$194.00	\$251.00
Loose Plate	\$ 578.35	\$ 13.30	\$ 56.20
The Monaghan Centre	\$ 20.00		
Project Compassion	\$	\$ 81.75	

**SUSTAINABILITY NEWS**

There are over 1 million plastic bags used every minute worldwide and a lot of these are being disposed of incorrectly and end up destroying our Oceans. Soft plastics can be collected and recycled at Woolworths and Coles stores, which stops it going to landfill and into our oceans.

**EARTH DAY:** In the face of increasing threats to creation, Catholics around the world are standing up together. 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 28<sup>th</sup>. Maybe we could plant a tree as a sign of solidarity with the Amazon people. Any other ideas??

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

**LENTEN PROGRAM**  
The last session for the Ecumenical Group will meet on Monday April 8th at the Parish House at 7.30pm. 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. Only two weeks to go!**

**SCHOOL NEWS**  
School finished for term 1 last Friday. Term two will recommence on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.  
Upcoming events:- April 25<sup>th</sup> Anzac Day ; 26th Easter Liturgy – 12.30pm; Mother's Day Liturgy -May 10<sup>th</sup>; OLSH Movie Night – May 10<sup>th</sup> (see notice on Board).  
The children at OLSH are collecting Bread Tags which are sent to South Africa where they are sold to a plastics company. These proceeds are then used to provide wheelchairs to people who can't afford them. Over 600 wheelchairs have been supplied through this program in the past 12 years. Let us support the school in this project. A container will be left on the table at the back of the church for these tags.

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**  
The children in Grade Five and Six who made their First Reconciliation last year are being invited to prepare for the reception of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. The lessons will be held over May and June and both Sacraments will be celebrated on the Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, at the 10.30 Mass. More information will be available as the dates approach.



**NO CHANGES TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK:**

**BAPTISM**  
Our parish community welcomes Sylvia Marciano whose baptism occurs this weekend.

**YOUTH-LED MASS, TODAY, 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

**PALM SUNDAY AT RED CLIFFS**  
Because of the building works at St Joseph's School, THIS YEAR ONLY we assemble on the lawn in front of the church, to process from there into the church. Please remember that the holy water fonts are empty for Holy week, waiting to be filled from the Font of Baptism at the Vigil of Easter. So we go into the church without looking for holy water, we proceed to our places without genuflecting, and we remain standing.  
We sit for the reading of the Passion; but when we come to the part about Jesus' death, we kneel and pause for a while. Then we resume the reading.

**HOLY THURSDAY**  
The Red Cliffs Mass is at 7.00 pm. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is placed at the Altar of Repose in the foyer. Because of this please observe quiet after Mass. The Church will remain open until 9.30 pm for any who wish to come and pray.

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
Red Cliffs Good Friday is at 3.00 pm as usual; but in place of reading John's Passion we will have a simple stations of the Cross.

**NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS Palm Sunday Year C / 13th & 14th April 2019**

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7**  
**Responsorial: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24**  
**Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**  
**Second Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11**  
**Gospel: Luke 23:1-49 (short form)**



	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>	Katy Quinlan	Laurie Fry	Jancy Thomas	M Smith	As per notice board	Vernon Knight	<b>April 28th</b>	Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
<b>Music</b>	Filipino Community Mary Issanchon	Marion Guthrie All welcome	Timorese M Sullivan		As per notice board	Knight Family		
<b>Offertory</b>		Jim O'Donnell			As per notice board			
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Group 6	Volunteer Please	<b>May 26th</b>	Bernadette Wells Kay Wagner
<b>Eucharist Ministers</b>	Anne-Maree Greville	Susan Lewis	Paula Cox	W Smith		Vi Barling		
	Taiana Fatai	Minda Wright	Jennifer Boord			M Farnsworth		
	Margaret McDonald	Rose Op't Hoog	Reni Cheriyan					<b>June 30th</b>
	Paul Kerr	Rini Op't Hoog	Wendy Finn		As per notice board			Frances Sabo Sr Carmel Setford
	Anita Naray	Cora Howell	Tony Finn		As per notice board	<b>CHAFFEY AGED CARE</b>		
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Narie Lewis	Melanie Ransome		As per notice board		Sr Carmel Setford	
		Renata Byra			<b>FLOWERS</b> J Cameron			
<b>Counting Team</b>	<b>TEAM 1</b>	<b>GERRY LAVERY 5021 1918</b>				T & J Lewis		
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	As per arrangement				As per arrangement	<b>Group 5</b>	As per arrangement	