

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
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Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 7

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*

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year B 13th & 14th February 2021

RECENT DEATHS

Angela Veneri, Margaret James, Dot Smith, Rosa Raco (Italy)
30 day Mass Giuseppe Simonetta Sunday 21st Feb 5pm

ANNIVERSARIES

Mildura

Saturday 6pm: Carmel Sofi

Sunday 9.00am: Nicola (Nick) Alicastro, Giuseppe (Joe) Rizza

Sunday 5pm:

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries: Rosa & Grace Lamattina,
Giuseppe D'Anna

Merbein

Anniversaries: Christopher Matotek, Rosa Longeri,
Milton Donaldson, Annie Olden, Margherita Berton

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

Message from our Parish Priest

This week we commence Lent with Ash Wednesday. This is the time of the year when we can change and adjust the way we think and act towards others and God. I myself look at changing something I do, I might give up sometime that I watch TV or doing an activity that I enjoy. Spending more time at prayer and reflection where I can pray from the community and others in the world.

Receiving of the Ashes is a sign to myself of the time I have damaged the relationship with others, myself and with God. Non of us are perfect so this is a time we can rebuild and mend these relationships.

Today's Psalm is I turn to you Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with joy of salvation. When we are in a time of trouble that is often when we can feel God's presence in our lives.

During Lent we have project compassion, with the arms-giving allows us to share what we have with those who are need.

God bless!

Fr Matthew Thomas

BULLETINS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE ALL MAIN CHURCH DOORS

Weekly Prayer Opportunities Mildura

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6:30pm

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 4:00pm
commencing 19th February.

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am—10:30am

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am in the
Church

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

UPDATE COVID RESTRICTIONS AS OF FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

- From midnight Friday 12th February all Masses will be cancelled until midnight Wednesday 17th February.
- No Weddings or Baptisms
- Funerals—no more than 10 people plus those necessary to conduct the funeral.
- The Reconciliation Parent Information evening for Tuesday 16th February, has been cancelled
- All Ash Wednesday Masses are cancelled.

While the next 5 days involve restrictions, let it be a fruitful time with some extra moments of quiet and reflection and prayer.

LOCAL NEWS

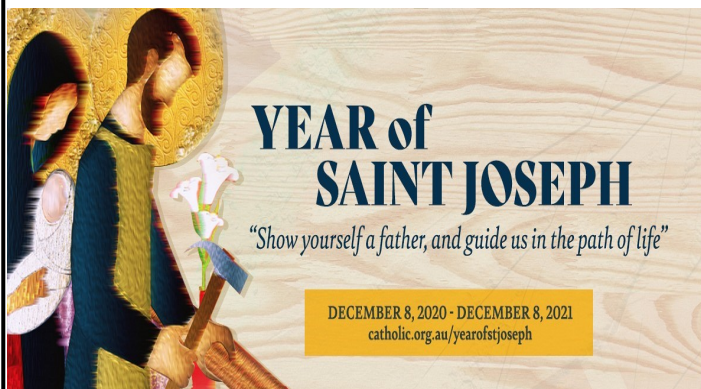
Sacred Heart Shared Table Market Stall & Cuppa

Will be held this Sunday 14th February after the 9am Mass
All money collected goes directly to the Projects of The Shared Table in Lima, Peru.
If you have surplus produce, crafts and preserves please bring them for the stall.
All welcome



2021 the year of St Joseph

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.



Reminder Sacrament of Reconciliation Program—Sacred Heart

Parent Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 16 February at

Sacred Heart Church, 7pm.

Enrolment forms to be completed and returned to the Parish Office before Parent Meeting.

For further information please contact the Parish Office Tuesday - Friday 9am—4pm

Piety Stall

Please note that the Piety Stall at St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs will be opened from 10am—12 noon each Sunday and each Monday by appointment only between the hours of 2.30pm—3.15pm.

For further information contact Janine 0438 730 976.

Ideas for Making the Most of Lent

Praying:

It helps us to grow in the love of God.

Reading scriptures.

Join a Lenten Group.

Fasting:

Limit yourself to one meal a day.

No meat on Fridays.

Volunteer:

Soup Kitchen –giving of your time to help others

Almsgiving:

Project Compassion Envelopes / Boxes

Available at church entrances

Stations of the Cross:

Fridays from 7pm-8pm Indian Community

Friday from 8pm-9pm Tongan Community

All welcome.

Communal celebration of Reconciliation

will be announced next week.

All welcome.



Pray for Vanuatu

World Day of Prayer Service 2021

Date: Friday 5th March

Time: 10:00am

Location: St Margaret's Anglican Church, Cnr Deakin Avenue & 11th Street, Mildura

Contact: Isabel: 0409 310 542 or

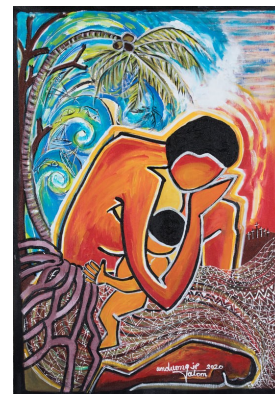
Gill 0419 567 650.

Please bring a mask.

There will not be morning tea.

Please RSVP by Tuesday 2nd

March.



Lenten discussion groups

Group 1: Thursdays, 3pm, Monaghan Centre commencing Thursday 18th February. For further information contact Sr Helen 0438 734 524

Group 2: Aileen Curran—Thursdays, 10.30am commencing Thursday 18th February. For further information contact the Parish Office 5021 2872.



Thank you

The St Joseph's Parish Community of Red Cliffs wish to thank Maria & Pat Mammone & family for kindly donating Peace Lilies to the church.

LOCAL NEWS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY	NO MASS		
TUESDAY	NO MASS		
WEDNESDAY	NO MASS		
THURSDAY	NO MASS		
FRIDAY	6:00PM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

IRYMPLE MILDURA RED CLIFFS MERBEIN

SATURDAY	6:00PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9:00AM	10:30AM
		5:00PM	10:30AM
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: Maria Sapuppo

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Lily Flanagan, E Mammone, Barry Crosbie, Maurice O'Connor, Faye Rhook, Frank Mammone



Weddings

We congratulate **Adam Luitjes & Grace Cammisotto** who were

REMINDER

IMPORTANT DATES—FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday 14th February:

Red Cliffs Parish Council meeting, Gathering area after 10.30am mass. **CANCELLED**

Tuesday 16th February:

Reconciliation Parent night, Sacred Heart Church 7pm—**CANCELLED**

Wednesday 17th February: **CANCELLED**

Ash Wednesday times—Vigil Tuesday 6pm—Mildura
 - 9.30am Mildura, 9.15am Red Cliffs
 - 12.45pm—Merbein
 - 6pm—Mildura

Thursday 18th February:

Regis Ontario Aged Care Service, 2pm

Sunday 21st February:

Merbein Parish Council meeting, after 10.30am mass.

Wednesday 24th February:

Baptism Preparation Evening, Monaghan Centre 7.30pm

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend — 13th & 14th February 2021

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Rosemary Barnes

Sunday 9am: Maria Munro

Sunday 5pm: Greg Johnston

Eucharistic Ministers: 2

Saturday 6pm: R O'Callaghan, A Naray

Sunday 9am: L Belej, J Cresp

Sunday 5pm: C Slattery, J Jose

Music: Sat 6pm: M Issanchon, Filipino Group

Sun 9am: M Guthrie, B Lewis, B Prescott

Sun 5pm: M Sullivan, J Ljubic

Counting Team: Team 7— Helen Kay

Irymple Reader: K Modoo

Merbein

Reader: Kevin Aston

Red Cliffs

Readers: D Eagle, M Slater, J Vines

Altar Servers: S & G Mapapalangi, L & L Cochrane

Music: Guitar

Counting Team: F & M Dominelli

Eucharistic Minister: J Tassone

Flowers: Volunteers

Next weekend - 20th & 21st February 2021

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Anita Naray

Sunday 9am: Mary Jackson

Sunday 5pm: Barb Bunting

Eucharistic Ministers: 2

Saturday 6pm: C Carmichael, M Cirillo

Sunday 9am: E Garreffa, L Welsh

Sunday 5pm: C Carlucci, V Carlucci

Music: Sat 6pm: M Sullivan, J Macri

Sun 9am: Tongan Choir

Sun 5pm: S Faota, K Mapapalangi, Duy

Counting Team: Team 8— Trevor Aust

Irymple Reader: D Knight

Merbein

Reader: Josephine O'Connor

Red Cliffs

Readers: K Hawkes, M Bell, M Bowering

Altar Servers: I & J & E Manno, G Cory

Music: Guitar

Counting Team: F & M Dominelli

Eucharistic Minister: G Brizzi

Flowers: Volunteers

Number of People Attending Mass

Approximate people to church size:

Mildura: 450 people

Merbein: 150 people

Irymple: 50 people

Red Cliffs: 250 people

SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1108.65	\$114.00	\$165.50
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$ 821.00	\$115.00	\$162.00
Loose Plate	\$ 290.10	\$ 38.80	\$ 35.55

First Reading

Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life. © Greg Sunter