

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 7

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: Sheila Lock (Cairns), Nicola Alicastro

ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm: John (Jack) Calnan, Carmela Roccisano (Italy-sister-in-law to Domenico DeLuca)

Sunday 5pm:

Tuesday 6pm:

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Vittoria Pezzaniti

Anniversaries: Rosa & Grace Lamattina

MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Feb. 17th Donald Milton, 19th Margaret Burton, 20th Annie Olden, 21st Betty Hudson, 22nd Alice McCleary, Steve McCarthy, 23rd Anthony Callahan, Victoria Candia.

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

Our Parish Schools

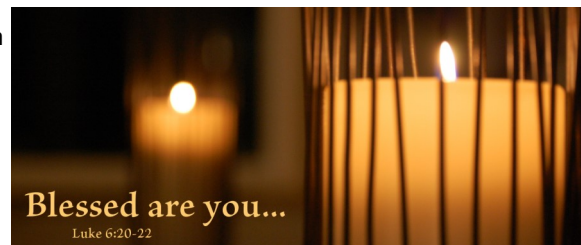
Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204
 St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567
 OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258
 St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Mark Gibson 5024 1654
 St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura
 Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year C 16th & 17th February 2019

We are unlikely to consider ourselves blessed or happy when we cannot pay our bills or put food on the table. We are likewise slow to count our blessings, much less dance for joy, when we find ourselves in tears or when we are excluded, rejected, and treated with contempt. We are more likely to consider ourselves blessed when we do not have to be constantly worried about money or food and when others treat us with respect. So why does Luke's Jesus declare the poor and suffering happy or blessed? And why does he seem to be so hard on those who enjoy economic security and the respect of others? What does the gospel say to those of us who are somewhere between the destitute who are declared blessed and the wealthy who are told to watch out? What does this gospel offer to those who attract neither praise nor blame? There are no easy answers to any of this, beyond the clear evidence that Luke's Sermon on the Plain engages the theme of reversal that permeates this gospel.

The poor are told that the reign of God is theirs. In other words, it is a present rather than a future reality. The poor can at least know that they are acceptable to God in ways that may be incomprehensible to the wealthy who, in their turn, are challenged to share their wealth. It is not much consolation for the hungry or those who weep to know that their "reward will be great in heaven" if heaven is a place enjoyed only in the afterlife. "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God's empire of justice and compassion. Reversal is expected in this life rather than the next. Weeping is usually connected in the prophetic literature with the disasters that flow from "ungodly" decisions. In our times, there are many weeping over "ungodly" decisions in relation to asylum seekers and carbon emissions. Laughter seems a remote possibility for many displaced people of our world. We are reminded today of the gospel imperative to work and pray that war-torn and climate affected countries will once again resonate with the sound of happy laughter. Finally, our experience makes us wary of those who flatter us or put us on pedestals. It is generally only a matter of time before we fall from favour and find ourselves on the receiving end of criticism or even attack. It is ultimately better to be misunderstood and to be at peace with one's conscience in the pursuit of compassion and justice than to be the object of adulation and praise. I suspect it is only in handling life's challenges with dignity, grace, and single-minded focus on the gospel that we find blessing or happiness.

Veronica Lawson rsm



THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY 9.15AM MASS DUE TO THE FUNERAL MASS OF NICOLA ALICASTRO AT 10AM.

Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Sacramental Life & Liturgy

RCIY
Weekly program —Thursday 21st February from 3.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.

RCIA 2018 –2019 Sacraments
Thursday 21st February 7pm, Hillman Room.



1st RECONCILIATION & 1st EUCHARIST Information Evening
Tuesday 19th February 7:00pm
Sacred Heart Church

All families of children in Grade 4 and above due to celebrate First Eucharist in June this year need to attend this evening. Further information regarding the programs for 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist including Registration Forms can be obtained at the Sacred Heart Parish Office 5021 2872.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY
In the future to be held during the 5pm Mass Sunday afternoon. Anyone interested in assisting Loretta as a Catechist can contact the Parish Office 5021 2872.

Community Life & Outreach

REGIS ONTARIO AGED CARE MASS
Will be held on Thursday 21st February 2pm. All welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—Slovenia
“Come—Everything Is Ready” - is the theme for 2019 and is based on the passage from Luke 14:15-24.
At the core of the theme, an invitation—Come; and to enable the response—Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank and proclaim the kingdom of love. All are invited to join us in prayer for the needs of Slovenia and its people, on **Friday 1st March, 10am - Sacred Heart Catholic Church.**



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.

REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS cont.

REGIONAL GATHERING
The Regional Council Meeting of representatives of the Parishes of Merbein, Mildura, Ouyen and Red Cliffs will be held on Sunday 24th of February at Merbein following the 10:30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

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: Gilia Dichiera, Martin Rogers, Anne-Maree Whitechurch, Kit Coogan, Maria Pyatt, Ted Verryt, Frank Chandler, Fr Frank Smith CSSR

Red Cliffs: 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

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Tuesday March 5th - 6pm Ouyen
- 7pm Mildura (**please note change of time**)

Wednesday March 6th - 9.15am Merbein
- 10am Combined Primary schools Sacred Heart & St Pauls—Mildura
- 10am Red Cliffs
- 5.40pm Evening Mass Mildura



CONCERTO—SACRED HEART CHURCH

The Sacred Heart Parish is very fortunate to host a Summer Concert at the Sacred Heart Church on Monday 4th March 2019 at 7pm. For comfort you can bring a cushion. The Kammer Philharmonie Koln presents: A concerto for Violin, Strings, Bass & Obe. Please see flyers.

Tickets available at:
Mildura Visitor Information and Booking Centre, 180—190 Deakin Ave or phone: 5018 8380 or 1800 039 043 or tickets at the door one hour prior to the concert from 6pm (cash sales only). Tickets: \$40.00 adults, \$35.00 concession and \$30.00 students or children under 16.



FIGHT POVERTY WITH YOUR USED STAMPS!

Mary MacKillop International (MMI) recycles used postage stamps to:

- Give disabled children an education in Papua New Guinea;
- Train poor women to learn life-skills in Peru;
- Bring vital health care to poor communities in Timor-Leste

Since 2001, we have raised over \$260,000.

- Cut the stamp off, leaving a generous margin of envelope all around the stamp (please don't cut too close to the stamp)
- We also accept unusual envelopes and covers. In this case, DON'T cut the stamps off—just send us the whole thing (please don't fold them).
- Especially welcome are stamp albums, First Day issues, stamp catalogues, etc

Post to: John Altham, 17 Boronia Street, Kyle Bay NSW 2221.

Thank you!

This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

ON LOVE, MONEY AND VALENTINE'S DAY

EUREKA STREET

After 18 years of nuptial bliss (and dross), it's difficult to think of different gifts or ideas for Valentine's Day. What's your take on it all? The cards and gifts? The meals and moves?

While I enjoy dining sans kids, I'm no besotted swain looking to win over a paramour. Cupid shot me in the arse a fair while back. I like the act of giving gifts — in some ways it's a way of expressing a symbolic debt — but, for me, Valentine's Day is a chance to say thanks to my partner for still being there, and for helping raise our kids and build a life. It's not so much a grand romantic gesture, then, as an annual placeholder for the heart.

To be fair, Australian males are not necessarily recognised the world over as the most ardent or demonstrative of lovers. And to be candid, Valentine's Day is built on some fairly shaky historical ground.

There are at least three Valentines (all martyrs, ironically) who are recognised as saints by the Catholic Church. One Valentinus was said to have ignored a Claudian edict for soldiers to be single, by marrying young lovers on the sly. The historicity of that account may be on a par with the various Saint Nicholases paving the way for Santa Claus to barge his way down our chimneys each Christmas.

A more likely suggestion is that the early church popped St Valentine's feast day on to appropriate the 'Lupercalia' fertility rites (15 February), when the pagans would get down and dirty to honour their agricultural deities.

Rather than honouring a prelate offering bridal trysts, or hoping for a good harvest, I'm inclined to spare a thought for the Greek philosophers and poets who set up shop well before Romulus and Remus; I like to muse over their various efforts to pin down love.

The word *philia*, which we use left, right and centre as a descriptive suffix, means a deep affection; an abiding friendship between equals. In these respect-driving, Me Too times, this is a much more realistic description in relationships; it's especially true in most long-term relationships when ardour is on a slow burn rather than a blaze. The laughter and conversations I share with my significant other are just as valued as our caresses and embraces.

That's not to say that I (or we, more aptly) have forsaken *eros*: the sensual, sexual intimacy of shared breath and entwined bodies. Passion is the origin of us all and the sustenance for many people, and the motivator for Valentine's Day's countless bottles of vino, strawberries, oysters, boxes of chocolates, bouquets etc.

Singleness is a gift for some and a curse for others, as

are intimate relationships; it's a deeply foolhardy move to look at someone else's life and attempt to gauge their happiness or sorrow.



That relative latecomer to lust, the scholar, Christian apologist and Narnia writer C. S. Lewis, was deeply suspicious of 'Eros in all his splendour [who] may urge to evil as well as good ... mercilessly chaining together two mutual tormentors, each raw all over with the poison of hate-in-love'. Ouch. I'm inclined to think life was a lot sweeter for old Clive after he met, wedded and bedded Joy Gresham, but that's between them. Their story, as with all of our stories, has enough twists and turns to put philosophers to shame.

Lewis was much more comfortable addressing *agape* — a selfless, Celestial love attributed to the mysteries beyond human ken. Thomas Aquinas defined loving *agape* style as choosing 'to will the good of another'.

On my best days, I exercise that kind of selflessness. Like most of us, however, I'm much more familiar with the concept of *philautia* — love for one's own self. The Oxford Dictionary defines it as 'self-love; self-conceit; undue regard for oneself or one's own interests'. You can pop my photograph there for illustrative purposes most days. Are you any different?

For couples with kids, *storge* (generally accompanied by fatigue and fiscal woes) is a constant emotion; the abiding, tender love of a parent for a child. In some relationships, one adult treats the other like a child; not the desired emotion I'd suggest. *Storge* brings out the best in me and my partner; being a parent has made me a lot less selfish as a partner.

The long-standing bet for us, on those rare occasions my wife and I escape for a bite together, is to see who can go the longest without name-dropping the progeny. The loser picks up the cheque (I generally win that wager).

If you are in a relationship, whether or not you spare a thought for Saint Valentine, I wish you *pragma*: the love that is demonstrated in years lived in happiness and spared resolve, outliving the hormones and adrenaline of those first heady encounters.

Regardless of your relational or marital status, I wish you peace and fulfilment. Happy Valentine's Day.

Barry Gittins is a Melbourne writer.



SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE			
Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1344.00	\$ 91.30	\$213.65
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$1332.50	\$246.00	\$362.75
Loose Plate	\$ 434.65	\$ 28.00	\$ 35.80
Monaghan Centre	\$ 127.00		
The Shared Table	\$ 200.00		

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

PARISH INFORMATION:

Thank you to Parish Council Members and Parishioners who were able to attend the School/Parish Gathering last Thursday evening. Thank you to the school community for the food preparation and setting up all the tables and chairs. We are looking forward to some creative ideas to send into the Plenary Council.

LENTEN PROGRAM:

It has been decided to use the Program prepared by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong entitled 'Trust'. Ecumenical group to meet on Monday night at Parish House—beginning Monday 4th March. Program will also be offered on Thursday morning after Parish Mass for those who are interested and who do not like coming out at night. Beginning on Thursday March 7.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

The gardens around the church have nearly all been weeded and once the watering system has been checked parishioners will be invited to take responsibility for a garden bed. We already have one volunteer and a bed has been claimed. The school have also offered to look after a section of garden. Thank you in anticipation!

SCHOOL NEWS

Last week we celebrated our Beginning of Year Mass, with lots of families joining us for the occasion. The students sang and read beautifully, as always, and School Leaders, Sports Captains and Student Leaders were presented with their badges. We wish these students well as they represent the rest of the student body in 2019. Thanks goes to Mr. Canavan for his preparation of the Mass.

SUNRAYSA THERESIAN GROUP

We are a group of women who meet at the Merbein Parish House on the 1st Monday of each month at 7.30pm. Our motto is "Women in support of women, reaching out with Gospel values". The format of our meetings is 1) Meet & Greet; 2) General Business & Correspondence; 3) Prayer & Reflection; 4) Guest Speaker; 5) Supper. New members are welcome. Contact Val McCarthy 0428252658 or just arrive on the night. Our next meeting will be March 4th.

NO CHANGES TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

MEETINGS

Finance: Wednesday 20th February 7pm, Gathering Area of the Church.

Parish Council: Wednesday 20th February 7.30pm, Gathering Area of the Church.

CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY



LENT 2019

Our preparation for Easter begins with Ash Wednesday which this year is March 6. Our Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 10.00 am.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2019

Project Compassion Envelopes and boxes will be available next Sunday.

REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS cont.

TRAVEL 2019 & 2020

- 2019 Visitations of Mary. Be truly uplifted on this gently paced journey combing the two great Marian Shrines of Fatima & Lourdes as you follow a Sainly path through quaint Spanish villages rich in the history of their holy men and women who have gone before, accompanied by Fr James Kerr —11 Nights / 12 Days—Thursday 10 October—Monday 21st October. For further information please see Fr James or call the Parish Office 5021 2872.
- European Whirl with Oberammergau. Since 1634, and now only every ten years, the picturesque Bavarian village of Oberammergau performs the Passion Play. This moving chronicle depicts the Passion of Christ at the time of the crucifixion. The cast comprises local villagers exclusively and equals any professional production in both sheer spectacle and emotion; attracting visitors from around the world. It is an experience that will exceed every expectation. For further details contact Maureen Smith 0408 147 382, a meeting will be held Sunday 3rd March after 9am Mass in the Monaghan Centre. Travel dates: **Wed 24 June—Sun 5 July 2020.**

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C / 23rd & 24th February 2019

First Reading: Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Responsorial: Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38



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
Leader / Reader	Gary Huxtable	Ross Tongue	Vince Muscatello	K Moodoo	J Vines M Lee / J Lewis	Nancy Prevedello	
Music	Lam Duy J Macri / J Ljubic	M Sullivan / B Lewis J O'Bryan/B Prescott	Youth Group M Sullivan		Tongan Choir		
Offertory	Baptism	Baptism			F Dominelli	Ellis Family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Elektra Papanicolaou	Volunteer Please	
Eucharist Ministers	Maria Cirillo	Gina Raiti	Barbara Bunting	Malcolm Hoy	Isabella Manno	Vi Barling	
	Christine Carmichael	Anna Vartuli	Katrina Groves		Abby Collihole	M Farnsworth	
	Ellen Frauenfelder	Sara Visona	Judy Hall		Megan Collihole		
	Jacinda Deacon	Juliet Cresp	Myrna Rodi		M Suppa		
	Katy Quinlan	Louise Belej	Maree Irvin		J Tassone	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Vince Pileggi	Nancy Leonardis	Sue Hermans		J Vines	Kay Wagner Val McCarthy	
		Elina Garreffa			FLOWERS Volunteers		
Counting Team	TEAM 4	KEVIN SCHUTLZ 5023 8778			F & M Dominelli		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	