

# 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

Newssheet: Week 8

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: Joseph Jones

ANNIVERSARIES: Elena Francesca Callipari

Saturday 6pm: Percy Richardson

Sunday 8.30am: Angela Spadaccini

Sunday 9am: Norma Sherlock

Sunday 5pm: Vincenza Carlucci

Thursday 5.30pm: Josip Grivec

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Ron Podbury

Anniversaries: Antonio & Giovanna Petrolina Sergi, Ivy Davis, Domenico Mammone

### MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries:

*(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

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year C 23rd & 24th February 2019

This classic gospel message is addressed to those who listen. To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible for those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

The recipients of this gospel, the members of Luke's late first century communities, were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (*oesed*) and womb-compassion (*rahamim*). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (*mishpat*) and right relationship (*sedeqah*) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing. The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of the world. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love.



Veronica Lawson rsm


## CHANGE OF MASS TIMES THIS WEEK ONLY

Wednesday: **5.30pm** ILO 9.15am


Thursday: **5.30pm** ILO 9.15am


# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy

**BAPTISM**  
 We welcome into our Parish Community Ethan Eborá & Doniro Panuccio whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

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

**RCIA 2018 –2019**  
**The Liturgical Year & the Season of Lent**   
 Thursday 28th February 7pm, Hillman Room.

**1st RECONCILIATION**  
 For children in Grade 4 and above will be held on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church.

**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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENING**  
 Will be held on Wednesday 27th February 7.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS**  
 Autumn Edition 2019 is now available. Features articles on: Reconciliation— with God, each other and creation. Making peace with nature—Laudato Si'

**LENT 2019**  
 Available now, Project Compassion Envelopes—at each church entrance.

**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.

**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.



### REGIONAL GATHERING

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

### SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1415.45	\$369.25	\$203.90
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$3078.15	\$179.00	\$350.75
Loose Plate	\$ 648.20	\$ 34.50	\$ 42.40
Monaghan Centre	\$ 177.00		

**This Weekend's Responsorial Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## A new standard for asylum seeker policy

We are all gearing up for the third election in a row when boat turnbacks and the punitive treatment of refugees and asylum seekers feature. It need not be so. It's time voters sent a message that it should not be so.

The overwhelming majority of our politicians and the overwhelming majority of voters are agreed that the boats from Indonesia carrying asylum seekers transiting Indonesia should be stopped, and the refugees and asylum seekers who have been languishing on Nauru and Manus Island should be treated decently and humanely. The disagreement is over whether after five and more years of aimless waiting and suspension, all those who are sick can be given appropriate medical attention either on site or in Australia.

A recent swathe of court cases demonstrates that when the decision whether to conduct a medical evacuation is left to Peter Dutton's public servants, the decision cannot always be classed as decent and humane. A narrow majority of our politicians thought it was time to insist that such medical decisions always be decent and humane. They remain insistent that the boats remain stopped, with turnbacks in place.

Last Wednesday night, Jacinta Collins, the Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate, announced her retirement from parliament. In her valedictory speech, she made a telling observation: 'I regret that officials did not alert Labor when we were in government that boat interceptions or turnbacks could safely occur. Much of what followed might not have subsequently occurred.' This needs to be unpacked.

At the 2013 election, Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott were equally committed to stopping the boats. While Abbott placed great store on turnbacks, Rudd thought the same result could be achieved only by other means. He negotiated deals with PNG and Nauru and announced that no asylum seeker taken to those places would ever be permitted to settle in Australia. Prime Minister Rudd, presumably with comprehensive security and military briefings, thought that the conditions for legal turnbacks could not be fulfilled. Abbott, without the benefit of the regular briefings available only to government, was able to wing it and promise turnbacks.

On his election as prime minister, Abbott instituted Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB) and within two months, turnbacks were a centerpiece of OSB. Many of us were troubled by the secrecy of the turnback arrangements because the previous year the expert panel chaired by the respected ex-head of the military Angus Houston had reported 'that the conditions necessary for effective, lawful and safe turnback of irregular vessels carrying asylum seekers to Australia are not currently met'. So what had changed?

Up until the 2015 ALP national conference, Abbott and his Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison taunted Labor for its failure to embrace turnbacks. For example, on 28 May 2014, Morrison told Parliament: 'We need to stay the course on border protection and those opposite would change it all because they oppose the successful border protection policies of this government. They will turn back on turnbacks, you can be sure of that. This government will not be turning on turnbacks, you can be assured.'

Three months later, he was still at it: 'On turnbacks, we implemented the turnback policy which they said could never work and could never be done. When they see the results of that policy staring them in the face, they cannot support it now. The people of Australia know that, if they cannot support turnbacks now after the results they have seen, they will never support them, and they can never be trusted to put them in place.' At that time, there was no



publicly available evidence that the turnbacks were lawful and safe. We were being asked to trust a non-transparent government. With the clock ticking and with proven refugees starting to languish on Nauru and Manus Islands for two years without any prospect of resettlement, Abbott insisted: 'We will do whatever is necessary within the law and in accordance with our values as a decent and humane society to stop the boats and to ensure that they stay stopped. That is what we will do.'

This was Abbott's constant refrain — tough, decent and humane! The government would be tough on border protection, stopping the boats, refusing permanent resettlement in Australia, but always treating people 'humanely and decently' while they waited for resettlement elsewhere or until they decided to return home should they be proved not to be refugees. Meanwhile he continued to taunt Labor about turnbacks, in Parliament and on the airwaves: 'They always laugh when they are embarrassed. They do not know where they stand on turnbacks.'

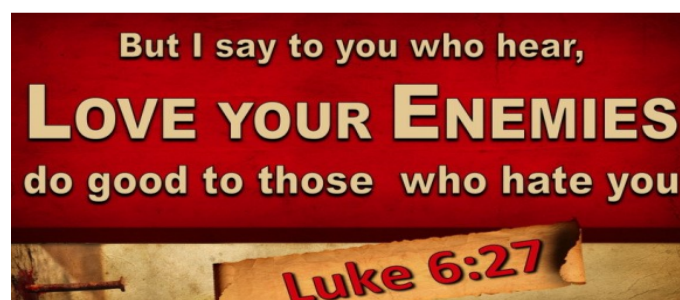
We, the public, were still none the wiser as to whether Angus Houston's preconditions for turnbacks had been fulfilled. The pressure on the ALP resulted in a change of policy at the 2015 ALP National Conference. Bill Shorten won the day gaining an endorsement for 'safe' turnbacks. His opponents included Anthony Albanese, Tanya Plibersek and Penny Wong. But Shorten was able to build a united front telling the media, 'We've had our debates in public, the Labor Party really argued this issue through, and I'm pleased to say that they backed my call.'

Since then, Labor has been able to put itself forward with a bipartisan commitment to stopping the boats safely. For example, Shayne Neumann, the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, told Parliament on 9 November 2016: 'The boats have stopped, and the bipartisan policy that combines offshore processing and boat turnbacks, when safe to do so, works.'

For more than two years, Labor has been adamant that there is not a sliver of light between them and the government on turnbacks and stopping the boats. Last Wednesday morning, Tony Burke, the Manager of Opposition Business in the House of Representatives told Fran Kelly on ABC Radio National *Breakfast*, 'There remains a bipartisan turnback policy that I would be surprised, deeply surprised, if the government decided to not implement it ... The real shift was when a way was found to be able to conduct turnbacks again. Once that happened, it was bipartisan to support that and that means that if someone puts their lives at risk on the high seas, they are turned back and sent back to Jakarta.'

So that brings us back to Abbott's constant refrain that with the boats stopped, our government will treat everyone firmly, but decently and humanely. It's no surprise that after more than five years living precariously and on hold, refugees and asylum seekers who are still Australia's responsibility develop physical and psychiatric conditions that need to be treated here. Just as we have depoliticised safe turnbacks, we must now depoliticise appropriate medical treatment by competent decision makers. Listening to Messrs Morrison, Dutton and Pyne this past week, one could be forgiven for thinking it was no longer possible to stop the boats while treating everyone decently and humanely as Mr Abbott would say. To form government in Australia today, you need to be able to stop the boats safely, lawfully, and effectively, while treating everyone, especially the sick, humanely and decently. If you can't do that, you don't deserve to be in government.

*Frank Brennan SJ is the CEO of the Catholic Social Services Australia.*



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

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Is at the Uniting Church next Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm. The country of focus is SLOVENIA and the theme is **'Come – Everything Is Ready'**. The guest speaker is Josie Gerden a Slovenian lady from Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura. Please come along and support this Ecumenical Prayer gathering.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. The 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 after 9.15am Mass on Ash Wednesday and from then on each Thursday after 9.15am.

## SCHOOL NEWS: Sustainability

Australians use around 10 million plastic bags every day, contributing to an estimated 8 million tonnes of plastic dumped into the ocean every year. Plastic straws are also to blame, and are one of the most common items found on beach shores all over the world. All of this plastic fills our landfill, harms our wildlife, and can take lifetimes to break down. Remember to say 'no bag please' in supermarkets and other shops, and 'no straws please' in bars and restaurants. **Congratulations to the School Sustainability group for leading the way in caring for our 'Common Home'**

## SUNRAYSA THERESIAN GROUP

We are a group of women who meet at the Merbein Parish House on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>.

## NO CHANGES TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK EXCEPT FOR THURSDAY—9.30AM

## MEETINGS

St Vincent de Paul: Thursday 28th February 7pm.

## CUPPA AND TRADING TABLE AFTER MASS TODAY

Proceeds from the Trading Table today will go towards Project Compassion.



## REMINDER

The 30th day Mass for Giuseppe D'Anna will be at 7.00 pm on Monday, March 4.

## RED CLIFFS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The meeting to launch this year's program will be this Wednesday, February 27 in the Library of St Joseph's School at 7.00 pm. The first class will be today week, Sunday, March 3 in St Joseph's School Library at 9.00 am.

## LENT 2019

Envelopes and boxes for Project Compassion are available today. The slogan for this year is GIVE LENT 100%. Wednesday March 6 is Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday we do not eat meat, and we fast. FASTING for Catholics is very mild - One full meal, two light meals, no eating between meals. ASH WEDNESDAY MASS AT RED CLIFFS is at 10.00 am.

## LLL&L GROUP

Will commence their first Lenten Group—Trust—session on Monday 4th March at Janine Cameron's place. For further information please contact Janine on 0438 730 976

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C / 2nd & 3rd March 2019

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

Responsorial: Ps 91:2-3, 13-16

Response: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45



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	Katy Quinlan	Soane Fatai	Barb Kelly	D Knight	T Hawkes C Markham/M Monteleone	Janine Dannatt	
Music	M Guthrie All welcome	Italian Choir	Lam Duy J Ljubic		Guitar		
Offertory		Joy Morvell			Lewis Family	Piscioneri Family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Douglas Mapapalangi	Volunteer Please	
Eucharist Ministers	Anne-Maree Greville	Maryanne Modica	Naomi Kennedy	P Riordan	Setefano Mapapalangi	Vicki McCarthy	
	Taiana Fatai	Lyn Welsh	Mario Zema		Grace Mapapalangi	Val McCarthy	
	Margaret McDonald	Giuseppe Scopacasa	Josie Zema		Reba Hynam		
	Paul Kerr	Maria Scopacasa	Andrea Welsh		G Brizzi		
	Anita Naray	Susan Lewis	Trish Cirillo		L Bugno	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Minda Wright	Volunteer please		J Camron	Vi Barling Margo Farnsworth	
	Volunteer please				FLOWERS Volunteers		
Counting Team	TEAM 5	JIM FARRELLY 0477 140 759			M Adams/L Mayes		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	