

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 52

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: Tina Baldwin

ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm: Iolanda Dimasi (1st year anniverseary), Giuseppina Zappia (30 day Mass—died in Italy 24th November) sister of Carmelo Zappia
 Sunday 9am: Pietro Marziano, Rosa & Paolo Panuccio

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: Domenico Mammone

MERBEIN

Recent Death: Hazel Bell

Anniversaries: 30th Dec. Charles Cook, Rodney Nokes; Jan.2nd Robert Mc Carthy, Jacqui McGill; 3rd Anthony Marcius, Jack O'Day, Cathy McPhee, Jessie Flemming; 4th Mary Duncan, Betty Hillier.

(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

Feast of the Holy Family / Year A 28th & 29th December 2019

Dreaming is an important part of life, both the dreaming we do at night and the "day dreaming" we engage in as we look to the future. In today's gospel story, Joseph is a dreamer who listens to his dreams and hears the voice of God directing him to go where he may not have chosen to go. The visit of the wise ones or astrologers from the east has left him with some questions. Now the pieces begin to fall into place. In his dream, he becomes aware of the danger that is threatening the family. The new born child is at risk. Steps must be taken to protect the child and his mother.

The desert road to Egypt had long been the place of refuge for Joseph's ancestors. It is still a place of refuge and asylum, away from the centre of international affairs. Although the gospel presents a patriarchal image of family with the husband as head of the household, there is no sense that family leadership resides in the exercise of power over others. It resides rather in constant vigilance and in care and protection of the most vulnerable. The reader of the gospel has already been told that Joseph is "just": he has acted with integrity and will continue to do so.

The story-teller uses a literary device, that of "formula-citation", to locate the story of this special family within Israel's bigger faith story. Centuries before, Israel (Jacob's family) had fled into Egypt in time of famine. Their descendants were later rescued from slavery in Egypt. This new-born child will also go down into Egypt for protection and be led out to safety through God's providence. There is no neat correspondence of character to character or event to event, simply allusions to the power of God at work in the great saving events in the lives of God's people. The reader is being prepared for the momentous destiny in store for the world through the agency of a child at risk.

The child's mother receives little attention in the telling of this story. We may like to retell the story through the lens of her fears and hopes or through the lens of the fears and hopes of the millions of refugees and asylum seekers of our time. God is just as much at work in the lives of those who are threatened now as was the case in the life of the family we name as "holy". God worked through the agency of Mary and Joseph and other wisdom figures to protect the child. God works in our times through those who imagine or dream of a different future for the homeless and bereft and act to achieve those dreams. As we move into a new year, we need to ensure we are among them. And let's not forget the other-than-human families at risk on our planet.



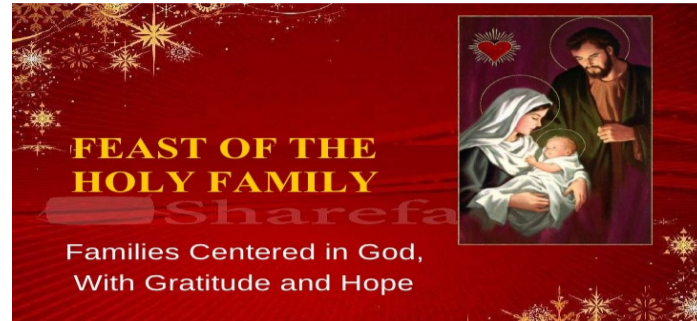
Veronica Lawson rsm

**SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON
 THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2020 ALL CALLS &
 ENQUIRIES TO PRESBYTERY 5022 9959**

This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all those who have helped in our celebrations for Christmas. So to those who have helped clean and decorate our churches, to those who have helped set up, to those who have led us so beautifully in our music and to those who have served in some ministry across our Christmas Masses, to the children who were part of our Nativity play and to the parents who prepared them so well, to those who made a real effort to welcome visitors (and to those who happily surrendered their favourite seat without grumbling!) and to those who invited their family and friends along to join us... we say thank you and God bless!



THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29: Feast of the Holy Family
 Wednesday, January 1, 2020: Feast of Mary, Mother of God
 Sunday, January 5: Feast of the Epiphany
 Sunday, January 12: The Baptism of Our Lord. The Season of Christmas is completed by the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at his Baptism in the River Jordan, to fit him for the mission the Father has entrusted to him.



**New Year's Day Masses
 Sacred Heart Church
 Vigil Tuesday 6pm
 Wednesday 9:00am
 NO MASSES THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND
 SATURDAY MORNING**

PARISH NEWS—MERBEIN

Thank you to everyone who helped in the preparations for Christmas. We hope you are able to stay and join in our light lunch today and celebrate the gift of each other as we move into the New Year of 2020. May this coming year be a year of blessings for our faith community and may it be a year that brings you much joy and personal fulfilment.

RED CLIFFS NEWS

Mass Times For This Week
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9.30am
 Thursday 5.30pm.
Tuesday is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. Mass in the church at 10.00 am.

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1552.45	\$	\$252.35
2 nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$1430.00	\$	\$843.00
Loose Plate	\$ 610.30	\$	\$122.20

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS

The Epiphany Year A / 4th & 5th January 2020

First Reading: Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6
Responsorial: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Second Reading: St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



	Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 11am	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
Leader / Reader		Gary Huxtable	Jim O'Brien	Jancy Thomas	J Kearney	M Bell M Lee / J Lewis	Sr Carmel Setford
Music		M Guthrie All welcome	Italian Choir M Sullivan	NO MUSIC		Guitar	
Offertory			Louise Belej			M Suppa	Dannatt Family
Altar Servers		Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		GROUP 6 S Morello	Volunteer please
Eucharist Ministers		Maria Cirillo	Sonia Opie	Wendy Finn	M Hill	G Brizzi	Evaine Kremor
		Christine Carmichael	Philip Opie	Tony Finn		J Cameron	Natalie Besgrove
		Jacinda Deacon	Elvira Mazza	Bill Dolence	OASIS AGED CARE	C Cavallaro	LAY LED LEADERS January 26th 2020
		Katy Quinlan	Jill Joslyn	Jacqui Willis	W Schmidt	CUPPA'S	Bernadette Wells Kay Wagner
		Vince Pileggi	Lisa Cirillo	Barbara Bunting		To commence January 26th 2020	CHAFFEY AGED CARE
		Volunteer please	Laurie Fry	Volunteer please	LAY LITURGY LEADERS	FLOWERS Volunteers	Vi Barling Margo Farnsworth
Counting Team		TEAM 9	GEORGE DOLENCE 5023 7993			G & S Warman	As per arrangement
Church Cleaning		As per arrangement		As per arrangement	Volunteer		As per arrangement