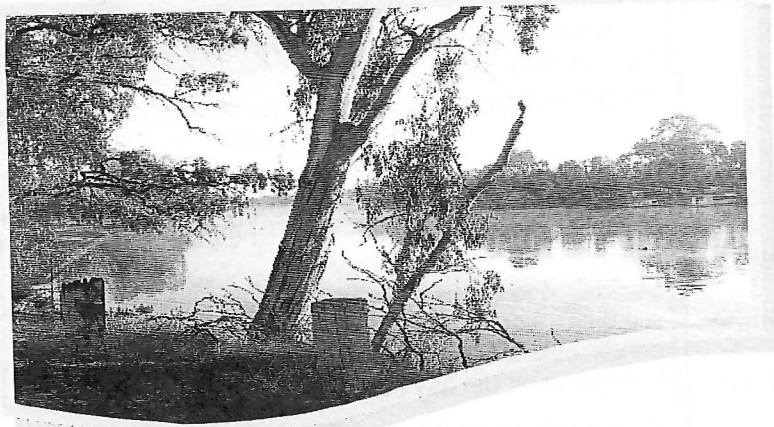


Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872
 Parish Mobile : 0417 862 082
 257 Eleventh Street Mildura
 P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502
 mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 1

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*

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God / Year A
 31st December 2022 & 1st January 2023**

RECENT DEATHS

Mildura

Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am: Filonena Garreffa

Sunday 5pm: Filonena Garreffa

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries:

Merbein

Anniversaries: Robert & Nancy McCarthy, Mary Malic, John Matotek

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

Please note that if you have booked a memorial mass you are reminded to speak to the priest prior to the mass to let



**Weekday Mass changes
 for this week**

**No 9.30am at
 Tuesday Red Cliffs
 Thursday Mildura**

Bishops Christmas Appeal

Will be held next weekend at all church centers.

Collectors will be available at each church entrance at the conclusion of each Mass.

This Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities for near and far who turn to the Diocese for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the Diocese of Ballarat.

A letter from the Bishop outlining the distribution of the 2021 Appeal is available from the Parish Office.

Message from our Parish Priest

Today we commence a New Year, Happy 2023, I hope that coming year brings everyone many blessing in times of joy, in times of sorrow comfort, in times of illness healing or acceptance.

We have been asked to pray for Pope Benedict XVI as he prepares for end of life that God will soon welcome him home as a good and faith filled servant and leader.

Can I once again please ask that if you ring the office phone number to leave a message, I had 27 missed calls this week and no messages left.

As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady today and ask for her to intercede and bless our year, we too can be like Mary and if asked to assist say Yes, be willing to be guided by God. Who knows what blessings we will receive and to whom we will encounter and be a presence of God too.



Enjoy the holidays and time with family and friends and if travelling please travel safely. If a visitor to the region enjoy this amazing part of the State.

*God Bless
 Fr Matthew*

Tap & Go—Presbytery 1st Collection

The Sacred Heart Parish has purchased a Tap & Go unit to trial at the Sacred Heart Church for the Presbytery—1st Collection during the next few months.

Should the trial be successful units will then be installed at all churches for 1st Collection.

The unit is currently located on the bench near the Baptismal font.

LOCAL NEWS

Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours January 2023

The Sacred Heart Parish Office will be closed till Monday 2nd January and will reopen Tuesday 3rd January as per limited operating times as below:

3rd January till 25th January 9am till 12noon only.

Thursday 26th January Office closed Public Holiday.

The return to normal office hours will commence from Friday 27th January 2023.

Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen

Will reopen on Monday 9th January at 5.30pm as per normal operating days and time.

Advance Notice Sacramental Dates for 2023

Parent meeting & celebration dates for the following sacraments will take place on:

Penance (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 15th February 7pm, SH Church.
Celebration 5th April, 7pm SH Church

Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 22nd March 7pm, SH Church
Friday 26th, Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May.

First Eucharist (Grade 4 and above)

Parent meeting 6th September 7pm, SH Church
Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd October

Penance (Grade 2 and above)

Parent meeting 4th October 7pm, SH Church
Celebration Wednesday 22nd November 7pm

Please abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- . Masks now do not need to be worn in church but if you wish you can continue to wear them.
- . Use the hand sanitizer
- . If you are feeling unwell please stay home

Weekly Prayer Opportunities **Sacred Heart Mildura**

Charismatic Group: Tuesday after 6pm Mass

Scripture Group: Thursday 3:00pm – Monaghan Centre

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 4:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30am Monaghan Centre

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

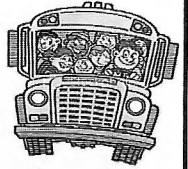
St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura

Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

WERRIMULL MASS BUS TRIP

Our first Werrimull Bus trip for 2023 will be held on Sunday 29th January.

To make a booking, please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.



Trading Stalls

Mildura & Red Cliffs 8th January 2023

Next Sunday, a Cuppa and Trading stalls will be held in Mildura after the 9am Mass & Red Cliffs after the 10am Mass.

Seeking donations of produce: fruit, vegetables, plants, seedlings, **conserves:** jams, chutneys, relish, **baked goods:** cakes, biscuits, slices, bread etc. If these can be brought in on the day of the stall it would be appreciated

Proceeds from the Mildura Trading Stall goes to The Shared Table and proceeds from the Red Cliffs Trading Stall this month will go to The Lenten Ladies.

Lenten Program 2023

We are now taking orders for those who wish to participate or organise a group for the 2023 Lenten Program. For further information or to place an order please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE 2023

It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of parishioners who are unable to get themselves to Mass each weekend. If you know of any Parishioners in this circumstance, or if you are willing to assist please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872 so that arrangements / rosters can be made.

Notices for the Bulletin

All requests for notices for the weekend bulletin need to be in by 12noon each Thursday. You can either email: mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au or call 5021 2872 during office hours.

Sacred Heart Church Car Park Permits

Permits will only be granted to those who use the car park weekdays during office hours. **You do not need a permit for evening or weekend use.**

For a permit to be issued you need to call into the parish office and supply your vehicle registration and current contact details.

Failure to present this permit will result in the possibility of your vehicle being towed away.

Anniversary Masses

Anniversary Masses are celebrated during Weekend Masses or during any normal Weekday Mass.

Please contact the Parish Office to register your Mass Intention and a reminder to notify the priest prior to Mass.

Fr Matthew

Communion to the Sick—All Parishes

If you have a family member who is house bound or in aged care and they would like to receive communion, please consider this opportunity for you to help with our Communion to the Sick. This list continues to grow in all parishes. We will organise a short training session for new ministers after a weekend Mass in January/February 2023. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

LOCAL NEWS

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9AM	10AM	10:30AM
		5PM		
WERRIMULL 11:00AM (5TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)				

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	6PM	NO MASS	
WEDNESDAY	9.30AM		
THURSDAY	NO MASS	5.30PM	9.30AM
FRIDAY	6PM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

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: Teresa Camarotto, James Bowring, Caleb Bowers, Margaret Mottram, Rosemary Byrne, Maria Raboteg

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Jenny Boyd, Catherine Bell, Faye Cufari, Marie Adams, Barry Crosbie

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$4957.10	\$872.00	\$572.20
2 nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$624.00	\$	\$202.00
Loose Plate	\$	\$	\$



ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 31st December & 1st January 2023

Next weekend - 7th & 8th January 2023

Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Sat 6pm: G Huxtable
Sun 9am: T Fainga'anuku
Sun 5pm: M Bowring

Eucharistic Ministers: x 3 people

Sat 6pm: A Greville, P Kerr, M McDonald
Sun 9am: J Rocca, E Mazza, volunteer please
Sun 5pm: J Hall, T Finn, B Dolence

Music: Sat 6pm: M Guthrie, All welcome
Sun 9am: Italian Choir, M Sullivan
Sun 5pm: No music

Offertory Procession:

Sun 9am: L & C Welsh

Counting Team: Group 4—M Roper

Irymple

Reader: M Hill

Merbein

Reader: F Sabo

Offertory: F Sabo, Val McCarthy

Red Cliffs

Readers: J Lewis, M Bell

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: Cameron Family

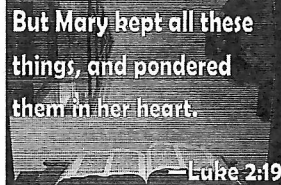
Altar Servers: Volunteers most welcome

Eucharistic Minister: A Higham

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Flowers: Volunteer

Please find your own replacement if you are unable to attend on your Rostered Day.



Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Sat 6pm: R Tongue
Sun 9am: J O'Brien
Sun 5pm: B Bunting

Eucharistic Ministers: x 3 people

Sat 6pm: N Naray, R Tongue, V Pileggi
Sun 9am: P O'Donnell, T Faingaanuku, J Cresp
Sun 5pm: M Bowring, B Bunting, K Groves

Music: Sat 6pm: S Faitai, K Mapapalangi
Sun 9am: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon
Sun 5pm: No music

Offertory Procession:

Sun 9am: L Belej

Counting Team: Group 5—H Kay

Irymple

Reader: G Schmidt

Merbein

Reader: Val McCarthy

Offertory: P Sylvia, J Rogers

Red Cliffs

Readers: M Slater, J Cameron

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: Cameron Family

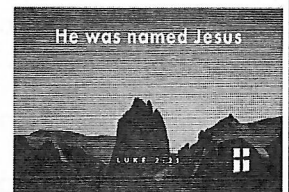
Altar Servers: Volunteers most welcome

Eucharistic Minister: P Hill

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Flowers: Volunteer

Please find your own replacement if you are unable to attend on your Rostered Day.



Next Weekends Readings: - The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A — 8th January 2023

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



First Reading

Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading

Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.



Gospel Acclamation

Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib... When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

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