

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
 Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
 mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 2

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew
Retired Priest Fr. Pat Flanagan

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*

The Baptism of the Lord / Year B 9th & 10th January 2021

MILDURA

Recent Death:
 Anniversaries: Bob McKenzie
 Friday 6pm: Maria & Giuseppe Piscioneri, Vincenzo & Teresa Piscioneri, Rosa & Domenico Scale

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:
 Anniversaries: Connie Russo (1st year anniversary), Grazia & Vincenzo DeMaria

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Teresa Gadzinski, Emma Sedgemen, Bob Berriman, Rita Tellefson

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

Message from our Parish Priest

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, when Jesus came forward to John the Baptist to be baptised in the river Jordan. Our Baptisms might not have been as public as his was but it still has the same importance. It begins our faith journey within our faith community.

The symbols we use in baptism the water being poured three times in the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit reminding us of the Holy Trinity being present in our lives. The lighting of the Candle as the light of Christ in our lives and the world we live in, the white stole of our purity in God. Our God Parents have a special role in the lives of their God child as they assist and support the person through life and faith.

Let us remember and celebrate our baptism and faith journey today.

*God Bless
 Fr Matthew*



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

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

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$773.50	\$ 67.00	\$155.10
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$705.00	\$155.00	\$342.00
Loose Plate	\$170.30	\$ 10.00	\$ 39.60

Face Masks

As from 1st January 2021 we now have to wear masks again while inside the Church.

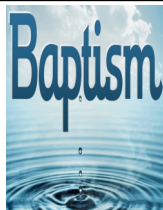
We ask to keep everyone safe that you wear a mask. Those who have a health issue are exempt from doing this.



LOCAL NEWS

Baptisms

We welcome to our Parish family—
Peter Englefield, Vincenzo Cirillo,
Landon Cochrane,
whose baptisms occur this weekend.



SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

New CDFpay online payment portals are now available for Mildura, Merbein & Red Cliffs. Please follow the links below:

Mildura: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMildura>)

Merbein: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMerbein>)

Red Cliffs: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayRedCliffs>)

If you are contributing to the 2nd Collection please include your Planned Giving number in the comments section. **(Please do not use the Presbytery option when using the links above).**

The preferred & dedicated link for Presbytery (1st Collection) is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpaySunraysia>

Carmel will gladly help with any enquiries.

MASS COLLECTIONS— COVID rules

Mildura: Two collection baskets clearly labelled 1st Collection and 2nd Collection are available for your use on either side of the sanctuary.

Irymple: Baskets left on offertory table

Merbein: Baskets left on offertory table.

Red Cliffs: Baskets left on offertory table.

Opportunities will be available before, during and after Mass for you to contribute.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING MASS

Approximate people to church size:

Mildura: 450 people

Merbein: 150 people

Irymple: 50 people

Red Cliffs: 250 people



Do you like getting involved—an hour can make a difference.

Do you like using your skills and talents for good.

Do you like meeting people within our Parish community.

Do you like working for a cause you believe in helping others.

If you believe you can make a difference using your skills, talents and meeting new people please contact the Parish Office 50212872.

Parish Office Hours

Changes to opening hours for January 2021

Please note the Sacred Heart Parish Office opening hours will be from **9am till 12noon** from Tuesday 5th January till Friday 22nd January.

FR PAT'S FAREWELL MASS

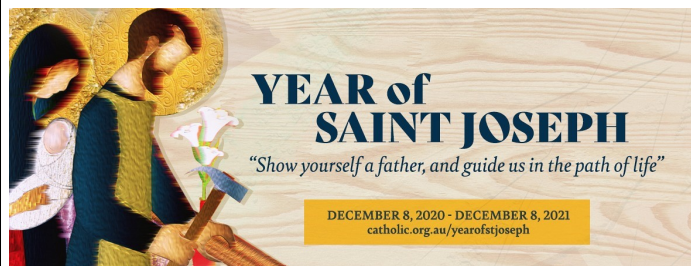
Will be held 10.30am on Sunday, January 24, 2021 at St Joseph's Red Cliffs, with a luncheon to follow.

An opportunity will be provided for you to sign in for the farewell at each of the churches or you can phone the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

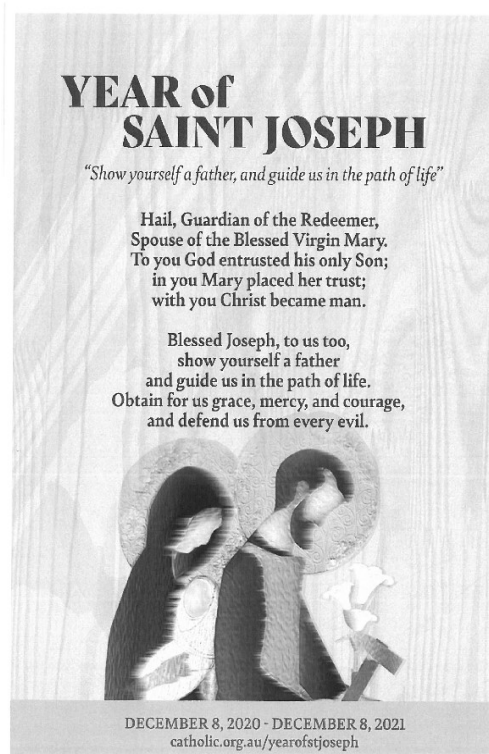
Donations towards a gift for Fr Pat can be left at the Parish Office or with Sylvia Orr at Red Cliffs.



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.



LOCAL NEWS

Sunraysia Parishes Mass Times this week

Weekdays

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	9.30am Red Cliffs 6pm Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am Red Cliffs 9.30am Mildura
Thursday	9.30am Merbein 9.30am Mildura 5.30pm Red Cliffs
Friday	6pm Mildura
Saturday	9.30am Mildura

Sunday Masses

Saturday	6pm—Mildura
Sunday	8.30am—Irymple 9am—Mildura 10.30am—Red Cliffs 10.30am Merbein 5pm Mildura

Parishioners from all Parishes are encouraged to use the QR Code displayed in all churches.

HERE ARE SOME NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IDEAS

- Focus on a Passion
- Give one compliment a day
- Do random acts of kindness
- Volunteer
- Write down one thing you're grateful for every night
- Call a friend instead of texting them
- Let go of grudges
- Start a new hobby
- Talk less, listen more
- Help a friend in need
- Go to bed happy each night
- Stay in touch with people who matter
- Whatever your goals are, write them down

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend — 9th & 10th January 2021

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Anita Naray
Sunday 9am: Jill Joslyn
Sunday 5pm: Tony Finn
Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.
Music: Sat 6pm: Mary Issanchon / Filipino Choir
Sun 9am: M Sullivan, B Prescott, J Ljubic
Sun 5pm: No Music
Counting Team: Team 2—Joe De Jong
Irymple Reader: Pat Riordan

MERBEIN

Reader: Elena Nemtsas

RED CLIFFS

Readers: C Russo, M Cavallaro, M Duck
Music: Guitar
Counting Team: G & S Warman
Eucharistic Minister: 1 volunteer
Flowers: Volunteers
(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

Next weekend - 16th & 17th January 2021

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Chris Carmichael
Sunday 9am: Jim O'Brien
Sunday 5pm: Vince Muscatello
Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.
Music: Sat 6pm: M Hammond, J Macri
Sun 9am: Tongan Choir
Sun 5pm: No Music
Counting Team: Team 3 Peter McDonald
Irymple Reader: M Hill

MERBEIN

Reader: Jeanette Ellis

RED CLIFFS

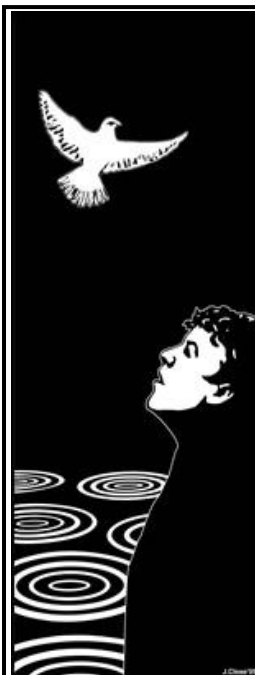
Readers: J Vines, D Eagle, T Gardiner
Music: Guitar
Counting Team: G & S Warman
Eucharistic Minister: 1 volunteer
Flowers: Volunteers
(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. Unlike the public announcements of Jesus as the beloved Son of God that occurs in other gospels, in the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, 'You are my Son' not, 'This is my Son.' But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.

John the Baptist serves another particular function in the gospel story. Aside from fulfilling scriptural prophecy by proclaiming the one who is to come, he provides a point of contrast with Jesus. In many ways, John represents the Jewish religious belief of the time. For John, baptism is a ritual of purifying and forgiveness of sin that can be administered as often as required. The way to God is through strict observance of the Law and through ritual acts of prayer and purification. For Jesus though, the way to God is through love and through Jesus himself. The baptism that Jesus will give is a baptism of the Spirit – pouring out the Spirit on those who realise and accept the love of God in their lives.

© Greg Sunter



First Reading

Is 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6. R. v.6

(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:7-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

