

# 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 2

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: Jean McCarthy, Kaye Thompson

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm: Maria Tassone

Sunday 9am: Mario Venneri, Giovanni Gallace (95th birthday remembrance)

Tuesday 6pm: Michelina Ganci (30 day mass—mother of Sandra Delesi)

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Mary Cameri

Anniversaries: Cecilia & Domenico D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone, Francesco & Maria-Antonia Tassone

### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: January 13<sup>th</sup> Emma Sedgmen, Bob Berriman, Rita Tellefson; 18<sup>th</sup> Jessie Barnes, Katie Cohrs.

*(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

## The Baptism of the Lord / Year C 12th & 13th January 2019

Today's celebration of the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The liturgy of the Christmas season invited us to reflect on and to experience the various comings of Christ in our world. It invited us to open ourselves to the action of God's grace at work in our encounters with the living Christ. The readings from Luke's gospel led us from the story of the birth of Jesus to the story of his personal decision at age twelve to remain in God's house, the Jerusalem Temple, listening to the teachers of the Law and astonishing them with his answers to their questions.

Now, as an adult and along with "all the people", Jesus receives John's water baptism. The crowds are wondering if John the Baptist is the Christ/Messiah, God's anointed one. John points the people away from himself and towards Jesus who "will baptise ...with the Holy Spirit and fire". Did Jesus also engage in a ministry of baptising the people "for the forgiveness of sins" or is John's reference to Jesus' activity of baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire a metaphor for the distinctive features of his future gospel ministry? It could well be both. As already noted in the reflection for the third Sunday of Advent, the three instruments of God's saving and purifying action for the Essene community at Qumran were fire, water and "a holy Spirit". In Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, the presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by tongues of fire. Fire is a powerful symbol that functions as a threat on the one hand and as a source of energy and light on the other.

The gospel reading tells us that Jesus is God's Chosen One, the Beloved, on whom God's Spirit rests. In light of the first reading from Isaiah 42, the voice of God in the baptism scene commissions Jesus to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare; to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. Those baptised into Christ through the ages are baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" and are called to the same mission as Jesus and the same sensitive approach to that mission. The fire in our hearts sometimes flickers in the face of life's challenges. We are sometimes guilty of crushing "the bruised reed" or extinguishing the flickering flame of hope. As we move into Ordinary Time with its often extraordinary demands, we might think about stirring the embers and fanning the flame of God's love so that justice might prevail in our world and for our planet-justice without violence, if not without pain.

Veronica Lawson rsm



# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy

### WEDDINGS

We congratulate Tom Summerhayes and Simone Dawes who were married this weekend.



## Community Life & Outreach

### KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS MEETING

Monthly meeting will be held on Monday 14th January 2019 at 7.30pm.

## REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS cont.



### BAPTISM AND BABIES

The largest percentage of Baptisms in our Church are still infant Baptisms, even though the process of faith and conversion is essentially an adult experience and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is now the norm in the Catholic Church. So what does all of this mean for

those infants?

Obviously, infants cannot respond immediately to the call/response aspect of the sacrament. Nor can an infant understand the change of allegiance, the putting off of the old and putting on of the new, the dying and rising, the new life, or the sharing in the life of Christ. However, the parents of those infants can understand and live those values and pass them on to their children. They can also experience the support of the community in living those ideals, and that is extremely important.

Infant Baptism only makes sense if parents are true Christian disciples. If they are not, then it makes little sense to initiate their children into a Church which calls for a commitment to living the mission of Christ.

The Rite of Baptism for Children emphasizes the importance of faithfulness on the part of parents when it says to parents: In asking to have your children baptized, "you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith." That word *practice* is crucial; it calls for Christian modelling on the part of parents. Considering the future orientation of Baptism and the fact that we are marked for a lifelong journey of discipleship, it is important that parents be strong role models and lead the way. It is equally important that the children's sponsors (godparents) do the same. They are significant supporters of parents and the ones who can first begin to reveal to their godchildren the value of the Christian community.

Children learn to be Christian by osmosis, by *experiencing* Christianity at home. The "domestic church" prepares children for the local and world Church. It is in the home, in the domestic church, that children first learn basic trust which is the foundation of faith. Without the experience of faith, hope and commitment in the home, children will not be able to know and understand the larger Church.

Vatican II's *Declaration on Christian Education* points this out quite emphatically: "Since parents have given children life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied when it is lacking....It is particularly in the Christian family...that children should be taught from their early years to have a knowledge of God according to the faith received in Baptism, to worship him and to love their neighbour."

### 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:** Michele Vanni, Sandra McCarthy, Jean Lanigan, Mick Joslyn, 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, Mary O'Leary, 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

### SHARED TABLE STALL & CUPPA after the 9am Mass this Sunday

Donations to this stall need to be perishable items such as: fruit, vegetables, preserves, home baked and home crafted items.

All money collected goes directly to the Projects of The Shared Table in Lima, Peru.

### CUPPA

All are invited to stay on for a cuppa after the 9am Mass this Sunday for:



### LENTEN PROGRAM 2019—TRUST

If you would like to order a book/s for Lent, please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 by Friday 25th January. If you are wanting to organise/host or be part of a group please contact the Parish Office for further information.

### SAVE THE DATE—4TH MARCH 2019

The Sacred Heart Parish is very fortunate to host a Summer Concert at the Sacred Heart Church on Monday 4th March 2019 at 7pm. Further information in the coming weeks.

**This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

**CHURCH REFORM SCORECARD** from Eureka Street  
 Scoring the performance of the Australian church is a complex task at any time. Dioceses and congregations vary enormously. The mission of church agencies continues unabated in education, health, social services and aged care. But by any measure 2018 has been a big year.

The bishops have responded to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and released the report of their own Truth Justice and Healing Council. The Archbishop of Adelaide has stood down. The historic first year of the listening process for the Plenary Council 2020/2021 has been underway across the country.

The bishops have participated actively in the lingering public debate about freedom of religion following the introduction of same sex marriage late last year. Education authorities and bishops have plunged into political action over Commonwealth education funding and emerged successful.

The official church is a wounded bull still with some energy and clout to influence the public square. That is despite damaging revelations from the royal commission continuing to become public. Catholic communities continue to be hurt and torn apart by such past actions in church settings.

The efforts to enforce new child safety protocols in individual dioceses and national responses like the National Day of Sorrow and Promise called by Catholic Religious Australia are promising steps forward, but, as the anger and demands of survivors at the national parliamentary apology showed, reconciliation will take decades if not the lifetimes of all survivors.

The official church response to the royal commission was derailed by both the media and church leaders concentrating on the issues of confession and celibacy. The church governance reforms recommended by the royal commission are proceeding at a snail's pace if at all.

Lack of transparency remains a big problem at the highest levels in the church. Just as the government leader in the House of Representatives, Christopher Pyne, can confidently proclaim, after announcing serious restrictions on parliamentary sittings from now until the May federal election, that few Australians are interested in what goes on in 'the Canberra bubble', it doesn't cross the minds of many church leaders that knowing about and demanding change in church governance is any business of lay Catholics.

The disconnect is clear. The task of running the church is increasingly borne by the laity. At the local level this was starkly recognised by Fr Tony Percy, Canberra Goulburn Vicar-General, even while he was hosing down any concerns about church governance and inclusion.

He painted a picture which would be true of other dioceses: women head diocesan Financial Administration, Communications, Marriage, Family and Relationships, the Catholic Development Fund, Parish Pastoral Support, Fundraising, the Tribunal, two of the three service agencies, 61 per cent of Catholic schools and so on.

At the same time the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), after a consultant's report by a former federal departmental head, restructured the administration of national church commissions and councils to allow for lay heads

departmental head, restructured the administration of national church commissions and councils to allow for lay heads instead of bishops. This was given little publicity because it was undertaken to free up bishops to concentrate on their pastoral activities rather than in recognition of equal participation by the laity in church governance. Reformers want lay participation in governance recognised as a matter of principle, not just to keep the ship afloat.

For leaders and church reformers the public face of a synodal, listening church lies in the Plenary Council process. Few could doubt the sterling efforts of the facilitation team, led by Lana Turvey-Collins and Fr Noel Connolly. They report on the thousands who have made submissions or participated in listening sessions. They also talk in encouraging tones of the opportunities available to lay Catholics to make a difference. But scepticism about the intentions of church leaders remains justified.

Many reformers are hanging in there and giving consultation their best shot at local and national level. Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn has just held its own successful session, based on a

necessary balance between the provision of meaningful context and perceptive discernment. The context included papers on the demography of the Australian Catholic community, Canon Law, Vatican 2, the recommendations of the royal commission, the vision of Pope Francis, and women, leadership and the church.

The Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) has been labouring hard to have the concerns of the reform community heard by the ACBC. Our concerns mirror the weaknesses of the Plenary Council. Getting a good hearing from the ACBC President may not mean that the leadership is really listening.

The voice of reformers through ACCCR remains unheard. Issues like inadequate lay representation at the Plenary Council, a woman as co-chair, lay involvement in the meetings of ACBC, a commitment to governance reform and women's participation in decision-making still lie on the table without any action.

*John Warhurst is an Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University.*



SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE			
Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1303.85	\$113.55	\$312.95
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (includes all EFT)	\$1307.05	\$239.00	\$255.00
Loose Plate	\$ 778.05	\$ 43.50	\$ 26.70
Monaghan Centre	\$ 230.00		

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

There will be no week-day Mass during the month of January. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month Lay Led Liturgy will be replaced by Mass for January.

**MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**  
**Monday, Friday, Saturday—9:30am**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday scriptures 9:30am**  
**Thursday 5:30pm**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February. This is an important Meeting as final preparations for our Parish/School Gathering on February 14<sup>th</sup> will need to be finalised. Full attendance would be appreciated.

## Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

Today's Feast completes the Season of Christmas. After Mass this morning help is needed with putting away the Christmas decorations.

## LAUDATO SI'REFLECTION – JANUARY 2019

Monthly Prayer Intention: 'Peace, Salaam, Shalom' - For peace with all creation, rediscover the grandeur of God's gift and our individual and shared responsibility as inhabitants of this world, citizens and builders of the future. This year marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Church's World Day of Peace Message on January 1. This year, Pope Francis' theme is "Good Politics is at the Service of Peace" In it he speaks of caring for our common home and rejecting the exploitation of the earth for quick profit. He reminds us that, *Everyone can contribute his or her stone to help build the common home.*

## CUPPA & TRADING TABLE

Ever since the Trading Table & Cuppa started, Hilda & Sylvia have been setting up for it the day before, for which we must be grateful. Now they have retired from this duty. If the Trading Table is to continue, we need volunteers to do this. It needs 2 people to set up. It doesn't have to be the same 2 parishioners every month. I have typed out a list of what needs to be done. We need volunteers to set up for Australia weekend, Sunday, January 27.

## PLENARY COUNCIL

The more astute among you will have noticed that my report in the annual newsletter was actually last year's repeated. That's because what I did out for this year was too long to fit. It was about the Plenary Council. I have done out some copies of this. More importantly, on the back is the three-part questionnaire put out by the Plenary Council. Ash Wednesday, March 6, is the cut-off point for receiving submissions for the Council's Agenda. Straight after Mass on Sunday, February 3, those who wish to give of their wisdom can sit down with us to a cuppa and a simple biscuit (top quality, supplied by me) and we'll talk and listen to one another and see what we come up with. I will send any resulting submissions to the Council on our behalf. Flags the Priest



**"You are my Son."**

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C / 19th & 20th January 2019

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5  
 Responsorial: Ps 95:1-3, 7-10  
 Response: Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.  
 Second Reading: St Paul to the Corinthians 12:4-11  
 Gospel: John 2:1-11



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	Nicholas Mataele	Melanie Ransome	D Knight	J Divola J Vines / Volunteer	Frances Sabo	
Music	M Hammond J Macri	Tongan Choir M Guthrie	NO MUSIC		Guitar		
Offertory		Jim O'Donnell			M Bell	Ellis Family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Douglas Mapapalangi	Volunteer please	
Eucharist Ministers	Anne-Maree Greville	Sara Visona	Wendy Finn	J Kearney	Setefano Mapapalangi	Natalie Besgrove	
	Taiana Fatai	Juliet Cresp	Tony Finn		Grace Mapapalangi	Volunteer	
	Margaret McDonald	Louise Belej	Melanie Ransome		Reba Hynam		
	Paul Kerr	Mancy Leonardis	Bill Dolence		M Dominelli		
	Anita Naray	Elina Garreffa	Jacqui Willis		D Eagle	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Maryanne Modica	Barbara Bunting		T Gardiner	Pat Sylvia Annette Lemon	
	Lyn Welsh				FLOWERS Volunteers		
Counting Team	TEAM 9	GEORGE DOLENCE 5023 7993			G & S Warman		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	