

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas Newsheet: Week 1

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

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

*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 Epiphany / Year B 2nd & 3rd January 2021

MILDURA

Recent Death: Andrea Pasquale
Anniversaries:
Saturday 6pm: Guiseppina Caia
Sunday 9am:
Sunday 5pm:

RED CLIFFS

Recent Death:
Anniversaries:

MERBEIN

Anniversaries:

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

Message from our Parish Priest

We welcome everyone here to the parish masses, to visitors I hope you all enjoy your stay while here in the Sunraysia.

As the New Year begins let us pray for the blessing of God to be with us all. This year being under the patronage of St Joseph we ask that he will intercedes for all our needs.

I would like to extend my thanks for all those people who helped with the Christmas Masses last weekend.

As from the 1st January the Vic Govt. has made wearing masks compulsory inside again, I ask that you please follow this instruction while in the church.

*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, Lou Grivec, Kaye Grivec, Faye Rhook,
Frank Mammone

Christmas Eve / Day Collections

Thanks for you generosity and donations of \$3,515.50
this is from all mass centres combined.

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 667.50	\$ 62.50	\$ 128.25
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$ 930.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 585.00
Loose Plate	\$ 39.90	\$ 15.50	\$ 22.50

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.



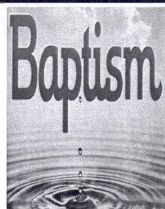
Our Parish Schools

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

LOCAL NEWS

Baptisms

We welcome to our Parish family—George McAullay and Claire Hardy 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.

BISHOPS SPECIAL COLLECTION

A reminder that this weekend we will have a Special collection for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal.

This appeal supports organisations and groups in and connected to the Diocese.

This collection will be a leaving collection.

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.

Accommodation WANTED

Small house or unit to rent—2 people.

Please contact Claudine on 0455 369 219

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING MASS

Approximate people to church size:

Mildura: 450 people

Merbein: 150 people

Irymple: 50 people

Red Cliffs: 250 people

ADVANCE NOTICE

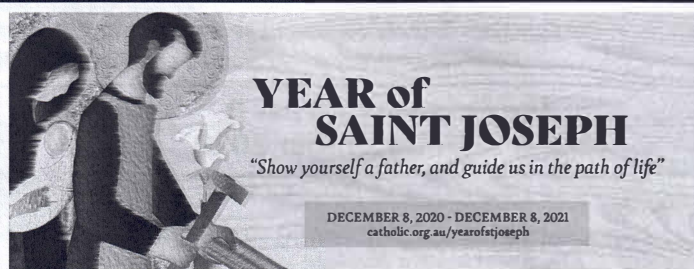
Parish Office Hours Christmas through to end of January 2021

Please note the Parish Office will be **closed** from Christmas Eve Thursday **24th December 12noon** until **Tuesday 5th January at 9am.**

Please note that from **5th to 22nd of January** the Parish Office will be opened from **9am till 12noon only.**

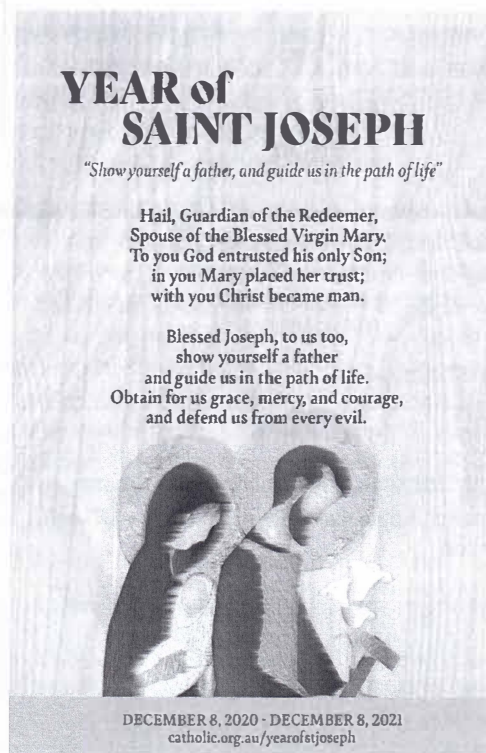
FR PAT'S FAREWELL MASS

Will be held 10.30am on Sunday, January 24, 2021, when we celebrate our Mass for Australia Day. A luncheon will follow. Further details in coming weeks.



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.

Please note there will be no MASSES from Tuesday 29th December to Thursday 31st

2021

What does 2021 bring?
What can I do differently in 2021?
What area of my faith journey can I improve on?
How can I encourage others?
How can I be a supportive person during 2021?
What new adventure is planned?
Where is God in my plan?

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend — 2nd and 3rd January 2021

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Rosemary Barnes
Sunday 9am: Cathy or Paul McErvale
Sunday 5pm: Sue Hermans
Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.
Music: Sat 6pm: M Hammond, B Lewis
Sun 9am: Italian Choir
Sun 5pm: NO MUSIC
Counting Team: G Lavery 5021 1918
Irymple Reader: M Hill

MERBEIN

Reader: Elvira Piscioneri

RED CLIFFS

Readers: To be notified
Music: Guitar
Counting Team: To be notified
Eucharistic Minister: 1 volunteer
Flowers: Volunteers
(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

Next weekend - 9th and 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, Prescott, J Ljubic
Sun 5pm: No Music
Counting Team: Ross Tongue and Jim O'Brien Team
Irymple Reader: Pat Riordan

MERBEIN

Reader: Elena Nemtsas

RED CLIFFS

Readers:
Music:
Counting Team:
Eucharistic Minister: 1 volunteer
Flowers: Volunteers
(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

First Reading Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)



Second Reading Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted
by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it
was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of
the mystery. This mystery that has now been re-
vealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and
prophets was unknown to any men in past genera-
tions; it means that pagans now share the same in-
heritance, that they are parts of the same body, and
that the same promise has been made to them, in
Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea
during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came
to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king
of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do him homage.' When King Her-
od heard this he was perturbed, and so was the
whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief
priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of
them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem
in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet
wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of
Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him pri-
vately. He asked them the exact date on which the
star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem.
'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and
when you have found him, let me know, so that I too
may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what
the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of
them was the star they had seen rising; it went for-
ward and halted over the place where the child was.
The sight of the star filled them with delight, and go-
ing into the house they saw the child with his mother
Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.
Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts
of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were
warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and re-
turned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.