

# 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 1

**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 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
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 667.50	\$ 62.50	\$ 128.25
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$ 930.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 585.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 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.



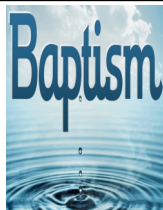
## Our Parish Schools

**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

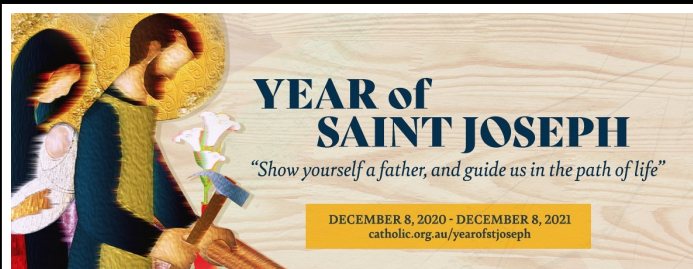
### Parish Office Hours Christmas through to end of January 2021

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.

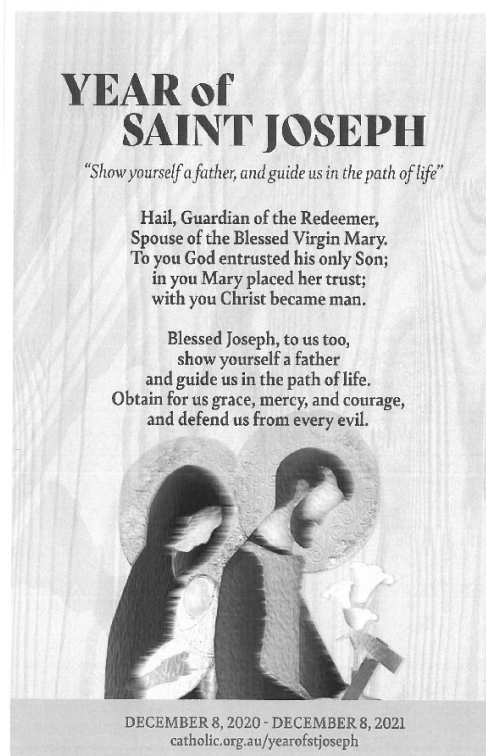
## FR PAT'S FAREWELL MASS

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.