

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*

The Epiphany of the Lord / Year C 1st & 2nd January 2022

RECENT DEATHS

Mildura

Anniversaries:

Sunday 8.30am: Maria Alligritti

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries:

Merbein

Anniversaries: Robert & Nancy McCarthy

(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 him know you are there.

Please note that with Fr Shaiju away this week, weekday Masses will be as follows:
Tuesday, 9.30am Red Cliffs
Wednesday No Mass—Funeral
Thursday, 9.30am Merbein
Friday, 9.30am Mildura
Saturday, 9.30am Mildura

Sacramental Dates 2022

Reconciliation (Grade 3)
(TBC)

First Eucharist (Grade 4)
Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd Sunday 23rd October

Confirmation (Grade 3)
Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th June

Reconciliation (Grade 2)
Wednesday 23rd November

Message from our Parish Priest

As a new year begins we have a look at what is important to us and how we can celebrate these things and especially the people who are important.

This weekend is the Epiphany the arrival of the Kings bringing gifts to Jesus. What are the gifts I have and how do I share them with others. This list could be long or short but it is something to share and talk about with those around us.

The new year will see a couple of changes for us as parishes working more closely together and including Robinvale and Ouyen as we work towards the Diocese document on Looking Forward 2022-2025. One thing that you will notice as from February Fr Shaiju, Fr Anthony and I will be changing the mass roster, this will see that the three of us will celebrate mass in different mass centres over the month.

I hope and pray that 2022 is a good year for all of us. We pray together and ask for God's Blessing to come upon each of us.

God bless you all.
Fr Matthew Thomas

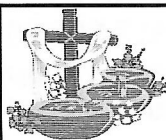
Notices for the Bulletin

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.

Please abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- . Masks to be worn in church from 8 years old & up
- . Use the QR Check in App when entering church
- . Use the hand sanitizer
- . If you are feeling unwell please stay home

LOCAL NEWS



Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community — Sam Cirillo whose baptism occurs this weekend.

RCIY

If you are between the **ages of 12 and 18** and are yet to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist and /or Confirmation. We are looking at commencing a program when school returns in 2022. For further details please contact the Sacred Heart Parish office on 5021 2872.

Communion to the Sick—All Parishes

If you have a family member who is house bound or aged care (because of COVID hospital visits are not allowed at the moment) 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 2022. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

Advance Notice Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours for January 2022

The Parish Office will be **closed** and reopened on Tuesday 16th January.

Please note that from **16th to 25th January** the Parish Office will be opened from **9am till 12noon only**. Normal operating hours from Thursday 27th January.

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 PP

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

Weekly Prayer Opportunities Sacred Heart Mildura

Scripture Group: Thursday 3:00pm – Monaghan Centre

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 4:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Monaghan Centre

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

*'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.*

I should be glad of another death.'

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

© Richard Leonard SJ

LOCAL NEWS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	NO MASS	9.30AM	
WEDNESDAY	NO MASS (PRIVATE FUNERAL)		
THURSDAY	NO MASS	NO MASS	9.30AM
FRIDAY	9.30AM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

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: Rosemary Byrne, Nancy Panuccio,

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Barry Crosbie

SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$4376.55	\$288.60	\$411.45
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$2564.25	\$227.50	\$ 143.00
Loose Plate	\$ 51.85	\$ 35.85	\$ 5.00



ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 1st & 2nd January 2022

Next weekend - 8th & 9th January 2022

Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Sat 6pm: R Barnes

Sun 9am: R Op't Hoog

Sun 5pm: J Joslyn

Eucharistic Ministers: 3

Sat 6pm: A Greville, A Naray, M McDonald

Sun 9am: S Opie, P Opie, E Mazza

Sun 5pm: W Finn, T Finn, B Dolence

Music: Sat 6pm: M Guthrie, All welcome

Sun 9am: Italian Choir, M Sullivan

Sun 5pm: M Hammond, J Ljubic

Counting Team: Group 3—P McDonald

Irymple

Reader: M Hill

Merbein

Reader: J Ellis

Offertory: Knight family

Red Cliffs

Readers: M Slater, T Hawkes

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: Lewis family

Altar Servers: School Holidays

Eucharistic Minister: J Vines

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Flowers: J Cameron



Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Sat 6pm: R Tongue

Sun 9am: Soane Fatai

Sun 5pm: Sue Hermans

Eucharistic Ministers: 3

Sat 6pm: M Cirillo, C Carmichael, P Kerr

Sun 9am: B Castillo, T & M Faingaanuku

Sun 5pm: K Groves, J Willis, B Buntinig

Music: Sat 6pm: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon

Sun 9am: M Guthrie, B Prescott, B Lewis

Sun 5pm: No Music

Counting Team: Group 4—M Roper

Irymple

Reader: P Riordan

Merbein

Reader:

Offertory:

Red Cliffs

Readers: M Bell, A Higham

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: N Orr

Altar Servers: School Holidays

Eucharistic Minister: G Brizzi

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Flowers: J Cameron



Next Weekends Readings: The Baptism of the Lord - Year C — 8th & 9th January 2022

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

Response: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

2nd Reading: St Paul to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



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.

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 revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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 Herod 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 privately. 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 forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going 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 returned to their own country by a different way.