



Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337

Presbytery: 5022 9959

P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502

parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

Fr James Kerr—Assistant Priest

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues—Fri 9am—4pm

Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull

St. Francis Xavier
Elms Street, Irymple

2nd Sunday Advent / Year B -
9th & 10th December 2017

Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 6:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 am, 5:00 pm

Irymple: 8:30 am

Werrimull 11:00 am (last Sunday of each month)

Weekday Masses

If there is a Funeral Mass on **Wednesday** or **Thursday**, the advertised Mass will be cancelled.

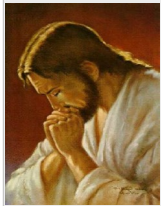
Tues: 6:00 pm

Wed: 9:15 am

Thurs: 9:15 am

Fri: 5:40 pm

Sat: 9:30 am



Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Rosary: Monday 5:00pm

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri. 8:40 am

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6.30pm

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Parish Prayer Room

Devotion Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3:00pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am

RECENT DEATH: Kevin Curran, John Devilee

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sunday 8.30am: Timothy Farrelly

Sunday 9am: Giovanni Iamarino, Gaetano & Rosalia Valvo, Mario Toscano

Sunday 5pm: Sebastiana Mosello

Tuesday 6pm: KSC—deceased members Mass

Friday 5.40pm:

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you want a sick person prayed for, ask for their permission. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.

Albis Dy, Jill Antonie, Ron Russell, Nada Zudetich, Yvonne Ash, Brian Ramsay, Graeme Lewis, Joan Appleby, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Veronica Lawson rsm

The first verse of Mark's gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus in relation to the creation of earth and of all earth beings. The whole of Mark's story of Jesus is presented as a beginning. It is the beginning of a faith journey into which the listener/reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are only five words in this verse, seven in other manuscripts, and twelve in our English translation. The term gospel (*euangelion*) means good news. It referred originally to the news of victory delivered by a messenger, usually in time of war. The good news in this context is about Jesus, a name meaning "Yahweh saves". The reader learns that this Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel's longed for Messiah. The actors within the story have to discover this truth as the drama unfolds. The two additional words present Jesus as "son of God", or as one having the characteristics of God.

John the Baptizer is identified as the messenger who proclaims the need to prepare the way for the arrival of a new Presence in our world. Mark creates the impression that something big is happening here. John draws massive crowds from city and country alike. They come to him in the wilderness, the home of the other-than-human, of diverse forms of life. At a metaphorical level, wilderness recalls Israel's experience in the Sinai desert. It is the place of testing and of new beginnings for God's people, the place of God's coming or God's "advent" to Israel. Jesus will be impelled by the Spirit into the wilderness where he will pass the tests that Israel failed.

This reading invites us to prepare for God's advent by ritualising *metanoia* (usually translated as "repentance"), and thus being ready for the one who comes. The translation "repentance" does not convey the nuances of the Greek term *metanoia* which literally means a "change of mind" and suggests an "expansion of horizons". God's advent demands a new mind-set that will predispose us to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and be open to feel the pain of earth as well as the pain of those rendered poor.

Mark's depiction of John evokes the image of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 8 and the "hairy mantle" of the prophet in Zechariah 13:4. John is a prophet who, like the prophets of old, calls God's people to reconsider where they stand in relation to God. He is also the one who heralds the advent of the "stronger" one who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit". And yet there is nothing in the subsequent narrative about Jesus baptizing. As we reflect attentively on Mark's gospel this liturgical year, we might discover for ourselves the meaning of that reference.

Veronica Lawson RSM

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER FROM 2PM AND REOPEN ON TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY AT 9AM.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community, Ella Corrie, Harrison Jones, Oliver Tallent and Rilee Sherwell whose Baptism occurs this weekend.



RCIA— Trinity—Fr James



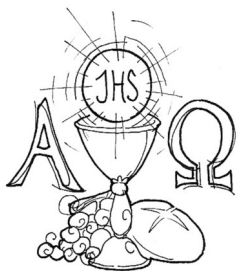
Thursday, 14th December, 7pm in the Hillman Room. Any interested parishioners are welcome to attend also.

COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER at 6pm



FIRST EUCHARIST 2018

All information pertaining to preparation for the reception of Reconciliation & First Eucharist in 2018 is now available at the Parish Office. Parents of our children in Catholic Schools should receive information from there School.



Parent must attend the Parent Information evenings to enrol your child:-

Reconciliation Wednesday 7th February
First Eucharist Wednesday 23rd April

Please make a note of these dates now.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES. ROSTER SHEETS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.



PRAYING THE ROSARY

Every Friday until 15th December, the Tongan Community will be saying the Rosary in the Monaghan Centre from 7pm, all most welcome to attend.

NATIVITY PLAY CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

All children are invited to attend and be part of our annual and traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The first practice session is on Wednesday the 13th of December at 4pm and the second will be a dress rehearsal on Friday the 22nd of December at 4pm both in the Sacred Heart Church.

Please contact Rebecca Siale 0427300878 or Megan Wilkes 0418374873 with any questions.



MILDURA CHRISTMAS MASSES 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE		CHRISTMAS DAY	
6:00pm	Mildura	9:00am	Mildura
8:00pm	Mildura		
12 Midnight	Mildura		

COMMUNITY LIFE & OUTREACH

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS MEETING

Monday December 11th 2017- KSC Monthly meeting has been cancelled.

Tuesday December 12th, 2017- 6pm, KSC Deceased Members Mass at Sacred Heart Church and at the conclusion of Mass a Social evening to be held at the Club Rooms.

PRINCES COURT AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 12th December 10am. All welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be held on Tuesday 12th December after the 6pm Mass in the Hillman Room.

OASIS AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 10.30am. All welcome.



REGIS ONTARIO AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Thursday 14th December at 2pm. All welcome.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The St Vincent de Paul Society will appreciate toys being left at the Giving Tree at the back of the Church for children up to 12 years to the value of \$10.00. Sunday 10th December will be the final date for this appeal. Many thanks.



PARISH WELCOMERS

Eucharistic Ministers and Parish Council members—from the table in the nave, please collect your name badge and explanatory note.

If you would like to be a Parish Welcomer please contact the Parish Office and a name badge will be provided. If you would prefer your first name only on the badge, please call the Parish Office to arrange a replacement badge.

PRIVATE LEASE—HOME MILIA CRT MILDURA

If you are interested in leasing a 3 bedroom/2 bathroom/Double Garage, semi furnished home for at least 12 months please contact Cathy Hardinge @ gmail.com. References required. Possible move in date early January 2018.



PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1324.00
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$1452.05
Loose Plate	\$ 595.70

RESPECT

LEGISLATION IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR RESPECT

Support for human rights often depends on the issue under discussion. When the Human Rights Commission defended the human rights of asylum seekers, government supporters vilified the commissioner.

Many of these supporters defended the right of bakers to deny cake-service at gay marriages. At the same time many defenders of the rights of asylum seekers denied the rights of the bakers to act according to their conscience. The right to freedom from discrimination has been set in opposition to the right to religious freedom.

The government has appointed a panel to report whether and what legislation may be necessary to safeguard religious rights in the light of the redefinition of marriage. Given the conflictual nature of much public conversation about human rights, it may be helpful to step back from this particular issue and to reflect on human rights more generally.

Human rights are often seen as a list of individual rights that are self-contained and unconditional. In this view rights are individual entitlements that you have fully or not at all. So you must defend your rights tooth and nail against people who wish to excise part of them on the grounds that you are contravening their rights.

From this perspective the claim to rights is always competitive because other individuals will make conflicting claims. The conflict must be resolved by the assertion of power, either the power of government or the power of the majority. The corollary of this view is that you do not have a right until someone concedes it to you. Perhaps that is why governments behave so vituperatively when any critic accuses them of abusing human rights. The criticism supposes that rights are not the government's to give and to remove.

It is better to see human rights as expressions of what it means to flourish as human beings. Like health, flourishing can be named in various dimensions. We do not flourish unless we have sufficient food, sleep, shelter, access to medical care, education and work, the freedom to associate with others, to marry and form a family, to publicly state our political and religious opinions, to express our thoughts freely and to associate in groups of like-minded people.

We can then name these dimensions of flourishing rights. We shall not thereby offer a complete listing of the things on which our flourishing as human beings depends. This analysis, however, does show that we have rights because we are human beings, not because of our religion, nationality, productivity etc. We cannot flourish as human beings unaided. We do so through our relationships to other people and to our world. So we do not enjoy human rights as isolated individuals but through our relationships. In fact our rights give expression to the respect that we owe to one another by virtue of being human. So the implications of each right and of their intersection need constantly to be negotiated in the business of daily life from childhood onwards. In this understanding, human rights cannot be given or taken away by government action or majority opinion. We have rights because we are human beings. Nor are they given to us as individuals. They are possessed and negotiated in our relationships to one another, relationships that are naturally cooperative rather than conflictual.

Nor do rights disappear when we cannot access them because of tyranny, poverty or discrimination. People starving in Yemen because of war have a right to food even if they cannot force it to be met. Asylum seekers on Nauru have a right to security and the protection of the law, even if these things are denied them. Laws do not give citizens rights, but they do recognise them and can protect them and regulate relationships when different aspects of human flourishing intersect.

From this perspective the relationship between the right of people in same sex marriages to freedom from discriminations and the right of people to religious freedom is not conflictual but complementary. The rights of both flow from the demands of human flourishing. Balancing these rights demands first of all mutual respect. Legislation may also be necessary to safeguard disputed rights and to mark the limits of their claims. But legislation is a blunt instrument and is no substitute for respect.

Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.

THE SHARED TABLE STALL

Our next Shared Table Stall will be held this **Sunday, 10 December after the 9am Mass.**

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

Items that are not purchased need to be taken home as we cannot provide storage facilities.

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



ADVENT



Advent is the "sacrament" of the PRESENCE of God in His world, in the Mystery of Christ at work in History...

This mystery is the revelation of God Himself in His Incarnate Son. But it is not merely a manifestation of the Divine Perfections, it is the concrete plan of God for the salvation of men and the restoration of the whole world in Christ.

This plan is envisaged not as a future prospect but as a present fact. The "last things" are already present and realized in a hidden manner. The Kingdom of God is thus already "in the midst of us." But, the mystery can only be known by those who enter into it, who find their place in the Mystical Christ, and therefore find the mystery of Christ realized and fulfilled *in themselves*."

~ Thomas Merton



SOME SIMPLE THINGS TO PRAY FOR DURING ADVENT

5. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.
6. Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
7. Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
8. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
9. Pray for joy and a sense of humor.

Our Parish Vision
“Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community
united by our faith in Jesus Christ.
We work together in the power of the Holy
Spirit to spread the good news of God’s
Kingdom.”

**The Parish of
Sacred Heart is
committed to
the obligation to
ensure the
safety of all
children in our
care.**

Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Primary School
Principal: *Des Lowry* 5023 1204

St Paul’s Primary School
Principal: *Vince Muscatello* 5023 4567

St Joseph’s Secondary College
Principal: *Marg Blythman* 5018 8000

9th & 10th December 2017			16th & 17th December 2017		
THIS WEEK’S READINGS			NEXT WEEK’S READINGS		
First Reading: Isa 40:1-5, 9-11 Resp Psalm: 84:9-14. R. v. 8 Response: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. Second Reading: 2 Pet 3:8-14 Gospel: Mk 1:1-8			First Reading: Isa 61:1-2, 10-11 Resp Psalm: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. R. Isa 61:10 Response: My soul rejoices in my God. Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24 Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28		
EUCCHARIST MINISTERS			EUCCHARIST MINISTERS		
SATURDAY	SUNDAY		SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
6PM	9AM	5PM	6PM	9AM	5PM
6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required	6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required
Maria Cirillo	Giuseppe Scopacasa	Maree Irvin	Anne-Maree Greville	Narie lewis	Trish Cirillo
Christine Carmichael	Maria Scopacasa	Sue Hermans	Taiana Fatai	Renata Byra	Jeena Jose
Ellen Frauenfelder	Susan lewis	Danielle Mazzini	Margaret McDonald	Kapeli Mapapalangi	Joyce Ribarits
Jacinda Deacon	Minda Wright	Naomi Kennedy	Trish McNamara	Sonia Opie	Clem Carlucci
Katy Quinlan	Rose Op’t Hoog	Mario Zema	Paul Kerr	Philip Opie	Vittorio Carlucci
Katelin Anesbury	Rini Op’t Hoog	Josie Zema	Anita Naray	Catherine McErvale	Christine Slattery
	Cora Howell			Elvira Mazza	
MUSIC			MUSIC		
Filipino Choir	Singing Group	No Music	NO Music	Tongan Choir	St Pauls
N Armsden	M Sullivan				Graduation Mass
ALTAR SERV ERS			ALTAR SERV ERS		
Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer
OFFERTORY PROCESSION			OFFERTORY PROCESSION		
2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
Baptism	Baptism			L & C Welsh	
READERS			READERS		
Gary Huxtable	Peter Maloney	Jancy Thomas	Jen Ditchfield	Philip Opie	St Pauls School
COUNTING TEAM 1			COUNTING TEAM 2		
GERRY LAVERY 5021 1918			JOE DE JONG 5023 7802		
IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM			IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM		
READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER		READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER	
D Knight	R Hill		M Hoy	M Hill	