

# 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 48

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas  
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*

## 1st Sunday of Advent / Year B 28th & 29th November 2020

### MILDURA

Recent Death: Antonino Lenzi  
Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm: Kevin Curran  
Sunday 5pm: Giuseppe Ficarra, Annunziata Demaria  
Tuesday 6pm: Rocco Mammone

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Alf Cricitelli (SA)  
Anniversaries: Domenico & Giuseppe Mammone

### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Santo Rulo, Nancy McCarthy, Harry Farrell, Elena Bradie, Barry Rowe, John Olden, Laurie Smith, Frank Callahan, Angela Gentile

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

## Message from our Parish Priest

*This weekend we commence Advent, this is a great time for preparation for Christmas. In the business of the year and with so many things changing we are asked to find some time to prepare ourselves for Christmas.*

*What am I grateful for, what am I hoping for, who are those to whom are important to me?*

*We welcome Fr Shaiju to the Sunraysia Community. As he commences his ministry here with us we pray that this time will be fruitful for all of us.*



*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: Helen ter Bogt

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Barry Crosbie, Maurice O'Connor, Lou Grivec, Kaye Grivec, Faye Rhook

## 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

*Be prepared.  
For you  
know neither  
the day nor  
the hour.*



# LOCAL NEWS

## ADVENT—ADORE

Advent and Christmas reflection Adore booklets have arrived.

**Session 1:** Tuesday evening after the 6pm Mass in the Sacred Heart Church.



**Session 2:** Wednesday morning after the 9.30am Mass—Sacred Heart Church.

We are currently working on an online (Zoom) sessions with Ouyen and Robinvale. If you would like to be part of the zoom session please contact the Parish office. Advent books still available at \$4 each.

## BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Sacred Heart Parish Community—Bjorn Garreffa who was Baptised 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.

## UPDATED ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

As we are slowly going back to a COVID normal, all of our churches roster need updating so if there are any changes that are needed to be made please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office to make any necessary changes—whether to add your name, take it off or change Mass time, please do so by Friday 4 December.

## VINNIES—SACRED HEART CHURCH

Because of COVID-19 we will not be having a Giving Tree? for Christmas toys. This year we will give a voucher to those seeking assistance. Christmas Appeal envelopes have been left at the church doors for anyone able to give a donation towards the purchase of these vouchers. The envelopes may be



left at the Parish Office or posted to Box 10125, Mildura 3502. Thanking you in anticipation.

*Members of the Sacred Heart Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society.*

## RED CLIFFS CEILING

The removal of the old ceiling in the gathering area of the church has now been removed and audio and electrical work completed. The new ceiling will be installed from Monday. The area is still a worksite so to keep everyone safe could all parishioners refrain from entering the church or being on church grounds during the refurbishment.

Parishioners can attend Mass at Irymple or Mildura while works are in progress. Please contact the Parish Office on 50212872 to make a booking keeping in mind our COVID safe rules.



**Bulletins available by the front door of Fr Pats unit.**

## VINNIES' CHRISTMAS TREE—Red Cliffs

Each year just before the beginning of Advent, The St Vincent de Paul Society of St Joseph's Parish put up a Christmas Tree holding gift tags that provide the age and gender of a child belonging to the parish community from a family where the parents are unable to buy presents due to financial hardship. The aim is for all of the tags to be taken and a quality gift purchased, wrapped, and returned with the tag attached by the second Sunday of Advent.

This year the Christmas Giving Tree cannot be placed in the Church for tags to be collected due to the renovations, instead it will be placed on display in the front foyer of the school.

Parishioners are encouraged to come and collect a tag from a plastic tub on a table outside the foyer (e.g. boy - 6 years, girl - 8 years) then go and buy a gift to match the tag, wrap and return it on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 13. We are hopeful that the church will have reopened by that date, if not arrangements will be made for how to drop off the gifts for distribution.



## FR PAT'S FAREWELL MASS

Will be held 10.30am on Sunday, January 24, 2021, when we celebrate our Mass for Australia Day.

*Thank You*

**Message from Helen ter Bogt**

I am recovering really well and would like to take this opportunity in thanking you all for your prayers.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Sunraysia Parishes Mass Times for November

### Weekdays

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Monday    | No Mass        |
| Tuesday   | 6pm Mildura    |
| Wednesday | 9.30am Mildura |
| Thursday  | 9.30am Merbein |
| Friday    | 6pm Mildura    |
| Saturday  | 9.30am Mildura |

*Please note there are no Masses at St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs due to ceiling works.*

### Sunday Masses from 29th November

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Saturday | 6pm—Mildura   |
| Sunday   | 8.30am—Irymple  |
|          | 9am—Mildura   |
|          | 10.30am—Irymple (Red Cliffs Community until further notice) |
|          | 10.30am Merbein   |
|          | 5pm Mildura   |

**All parishioners from Red Cliffs, Merbein and Mildura are reminded to ring the office and book in for mass.**

### COVID safe Rules Update from 23rd November

**Masses**—Cap of 150 people plus one faith leader—Sacred Heart Church only—(50 Red Cliffs & Merbein, 30 Irymple)

**Funerals**—Cap of 150 people gathered plus those required to conduct the funeral (the celebrant and funeral directors)

**Weddings**—Cap of 150 people plus faith leader.

**Baptisms**—will be celebrated. Call the parish office.

COVIDSafe requirements continue to apply: please use hand sanitiser provided, keep your distance and wear face masks only to be removed when necessary—reading and receiving communion.

### Reminder

**Reminder if you are sick or unwell please do not attend and get tested.**

### Meetings this week

**Bereavement Team meeting:** Tuesday, December 1st, 9am, Parish Office.

### SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

| Last week's collections   | Mildura   | Merbein  | Red Cliffs |
|---|-----------|----------|------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b><br>(supporting Priests & Presbytery) | \$ 434.05 | \$ 43.00 | \$ 90.50   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection</b><br>(includes all EFT, DD & CC)       | \$1751.00 | \$210.00 | \$554.00   |
| <b>Loose Plate</b>  | \$ 137.25 | \$ 90.00 | \$ 23.85   |

## ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

### This weekend — 28th & 29th November 2020

#### MILDURA

**Readers:** Saturday 6pm: Anita Naray  
Sunday 9am: Cathy / Paul McErvale  
Sunday 5pm: Barb Bunting

**Eucharistic Ministers 2 required at each Mass.**

**Counting Team:** Team 6 - Jim O'Donnell 5021 4939

**Irymple Reader:** K Modoo

#### MERBEIN

Reader: Bernadette Wells

#### RED CLIFFS (Irymple Church 10.30am)

**Readers:** T Hawkes, A Higham, P Hunt

**Counting Team:**

(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

### Next weekend — 5th & 6th December 2020

#### MILDURA

**Readers:** Saturday 6pm: Christine Carmichael  
Sunday 9am: Jill Joslyn  
Sunday 5pm: Inez Sullivan

**Eucharistic Ministers 2 required at each Mass.**

**Counting Team:** Team 7 - Helen Kay 0429 135 053

**Irymple Reader:** D Knight

#### MERBEIN

Reader: Kay Wagner

#### RED CLIFFS (Irymple Church 10.30am)

**Readers:** M Bell, M Lee & J Lewis

**Counting Team:** D Eagle & C Russo

(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)



## 1st Sunday Of Advent

As we begin Advent, we light one candle in the midst of all the darkness in our lives and in the world. It symbolizes our longing, our desire, our hope. Three "advents" or "comings" shape our desire. We want to be renewed in a sense that Jesus came to save us from our sin and death. We want to experience his coming to us now, in our everyday lives, to help us live our lives with meaning and purpose. And we want to prepare for his coming to meet us at the end of our lives on this earth.

So, we begin with our longing, our desire and our hope.

**When we wake up, each day this week, we could light that candle, just by taking a few moments to focus.** We could pause for a minute at the side of our bed, or while putting on our slippers or our robe, and light an *inner* candle. Who among us doesn't have time to pause for a moment? We could each find our own way to pray something like this:

*"Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today is based on my trust in you. It is a weak flame, but I so much desire that it dispel a bit more darkness today. Today, I just want to taste the longing I have for you as I go to the meeting this morning, carry out the responsibilities of my work, face the frustration of some difficult relationships. Let this candle be my reminder today of my hope in your coming."*

**Each morning this week,** that momentary prayer might get more specific, as it prepares us for the day we will face. And as we head to work, walk to a meeting, rush through lunch, take care of errands, meet with people, pick up the phone to return some calls, answer e-mail, return home to prepare a meal, listen to the ups and downs of our loved ones' day, we can take brief moments to relate our desire for the three comings of the Lord to our life.

**And every night this week,** we can pause briefly, perhaps as we sit for a minute at the edge of the bed. We can be aware of how that one, small candle's worth of desire brought light into this day. And we can give thanks. Going to bed each night this week with some gratitude is part of the preparation for growing anticipation and desire.

***Come, Lord Jesus! Come and visit your people.  
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.***

## First Reading

Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come  
down  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face  
and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## Second Reading

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send  
you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have  
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you

have been enriched in so many ways, especially in  
your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ  
has indeed been strong among you so that you will  
not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you  
are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed;  
and he will keep you steady and without blame until  
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, be-  
cause God by calling you has joined you to his Son,  
Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

## Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay  
awake, because you never know when the time will  
come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone  
from home, and left his servants in charge, each with  
his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay  
awake. So stay awake, because you do not know  
when the master of the house is coming, evening,  
midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly,  
he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I  
say to all: Stay awake!'

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes  
away on a journey. It is certain that he will return,  
even if no-one in his household knows exactly when.  
That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice.  
We can close our eyes and enter into the world of  
dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or  
we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord  
wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving  
to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or  
work in and for this phase of human history. A deep  
down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates  
what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord  
returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* serv-  
ant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the  
foundation of the world.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

