

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
 Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966
 Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
 parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 48

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP Fr. James Kerr Fr. Pat Flanagan

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo
 Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

Sacred Heart
Mildura

Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull

St. Francis Xavier
Irymple

St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein

*The Sunraysia Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care.
 Child Safety Officers:- Mildura—Christine Slattery, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed under Parish Heading

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY		9:30AM	
TUESDAY	6:00PM	5:30PM	
WEDNESDAY	9:15AM	9:30AM	
THURSDAY	9:15AM	5:30PM	AS ADVISED
FRIDAY	5:40PM	9:30AM	
SATURAY	9:30AM	9:30AM	

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6:00PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9:00AM	10:00AM	10:30AM

WERRIMULL 11:00AM (LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

MILDURA

Recent Deaths:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm: Rocco Mammone, Kevin Curran
 Sunday 9am: Tony, Rosa & Francesco Modica
 Sunday 5pm: Giuseppe Ficarra, Annunziata De Maria
 Tuesday 6pm: KSC Deceased Members Mass

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries:

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Dec. 1st Barry Rowe, 5th Frank Callahan, Angela Gentile, 6th Guiseppe Gentile, 7th Ilario Cavallo, Guiseppe Piscioneri.

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

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

1st Sunday of Advent / Year C 1st & 2nd December 2018

Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. Its depiction of global devastation has a particular resonance in a post-industrial world faced with the effects of climate change. Some may be tempted to interpret "apocalyptic" events of today as the judgement of an interventionist God. This is far from the truth. Our mindless exploitation of planetary resources has brought its own judgement and we must struggle together to save our planet from further destruction.

Advent and Christmas are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would soon return and bring everything to completion. Some decades after Jesus' death, Luke's community had come to realize that the "final" coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that desensitize the heart or the human spirit.

For Luke, an attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes is the proper stance for the Christian believer. An attentive heart will be attuned to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court are located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event, not just a once-off event limited to one place and one time.

We might do well to read this gospel passage against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship". Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation. Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the plight of the earth itself and the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression. We might remember those seeking asylum among us and those who have been granted refugee status yet still await the justice of resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas.

Veronica Lawson rsm



Sacred Heart Mildura



Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

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.

Wally Kedmenec, Sandra McCarthy, Jean Lanigan, Mick Joslyn, Albis Dy, Jill Antonie, Brian Ramsey, Graeme Lewis, Vince Alicaastro, Fr Denis Dennehy, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

Sacramental Life & Liturgy

RCIA 2018 –2019

Jesus

Thursday 6th December 7pm, Hillman Room.



Communal Celebration of Reconciliation TUESDAY 18th December at 6pm

Let us prepare to celebrate the gift of Christ's Peace at Christmas by acknowledging our need for healing and forgiveness.

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



NATIVITY PLAY—CHRISTMAS EVE 2018

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 Friday, December 14th at 4pm and the second will be a dress rehearsal on Thursday, December 22nd at 6pm, both in the Sacred Heart Church. Please contact Lisa Caminiti 0413990288 or Kathy Venneri 0428774449 for more details.

Community Life & Outreach

BEREAVEMENT TEAM MEETING

Tuesday 4th December, 9.15am

REGIS TENTH

Tuesday 4th December 2pm—Prayers & Anointing. All welcome.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Deceased Members Mass, Tuesday 4th December, 6pm.

ANOINTING MASS

Thursday 6th December 9.15am. All welcome

SHARED TABLE STALL & CUPPA after the 9am Mass next Sunday

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

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

All are most welcome.



Weekly Prayer Opportunities Mildura

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

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6:30pm

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 3:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Prayer Room

Community Life & Outreach



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

The St Vincent de Paul "Giving Tree" will be in the gathering space until the weekend 8th/9th December. Gifts to the value of about \$10.00 for children up to 12 years of age will be appreciated. Gift tags will be available on the tree. Many thanks in anticipation from the members of the Sacred Heart Conference.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Irymple: Henshilwood Oval, Sunday 2nd December 5.30pm

Mildura: Nowingi Place, Sunday 9th December from 6.30pm

WANTED: COLES MINI SHOP COLLECTABLES

If you have any Coles Mini shop collectables and you no longer want them I am looking for as many as I can get to use with my VCE Accounting students in 2019. Please drop them in at the College front office. They do not need to be completed sets. I will take as many as you have. So if your children have lost interest in them, I will put them to good use. Thanks Paula Cox



REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

FEAST DAYS

Thursday, December 6 is the Feast of St Nicholas (Santa Claus). Saturday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

MILDURA & REGION CHRISTMAS MASSES 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00pm Werrimull
6:00pm Mildura
7:30pm Merbein
7:30pm Carols Red Cliffs
8:00pm Mass Red Cliffs
8:00pm Mildura
12 Midnight Mildura

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am Irymple
9:00am Ouyen
9:00am Mildura
10:30am Merbein

Listening and Dialogue Encounters

All are invited to participate in the *Listening and Dialogue* process to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda. Information flyer available on the Ballarat diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

All of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

Questions for individuals or groups:

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?

Please submit your responses by Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2019 at www.plenarycouncil.org.au



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

LDURA PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1355.55
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$2659.75
Loose Plate	\$ 607.60
Monaghan Centre	\$ 127.00

St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart Merbein



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.

Jean Lanigan, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Raymondo Chan, Albis, Roman & Joe Dy, Graeme Lewis, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Joe Cufari, Maurice O' Connor, Joe Mammone



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.

Martin Rogers, Anne-Maree Whitechurch, Kit Coogan, Maria Pyatt, Ted Verryt, Frank Chandler, Fr Frank Smith CSSR

NO CHANGES TO THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES

Sunday Dec 2: 1st Sunday of Advent—Year C
Monday Dec 3: Jacaranda Village Aged Care Service 2pm. All welcome.
Sunday Dec 9: St Joseph's Primary School—End of Year Mass

FR GREEN SCHOLARSHIP

Any baptised member of our Parish in year 6 who is going into a Catholic secondary school in 2019 is entitled to sit for the Fr. Green scholarship, which is a small contribution towards the costs of Year 7. For those students from our parish that don't attend St Joseph's PS and wish to sit for the standardised test that takes about 45 minutes it will be held on Monday 3rd December at 9am here at St Joseph's school. Please contact the school directly if you wish your child to take part.



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candles" remind us that Jesus is coming



Christmas Concert

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL END-OF-YEAR CONCERT

Will be held at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday, December 5, commencing at 6.00 pm.

Barbecue to follow.

VINNIES' CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Don't forget to get a tag from the Vinnies Christmas tree and bring the gift with you to Mass on Sunday 9th December.

This will also be our Forgiveness Mass where you are asked to write out your sins and bring them with you to be burnt.



ROSTER LIST FOR 2019

If you would like to help out in any of our volunteer duties, reading, Eucharistic Minister, Church Cleaning, Offertory, Music, helping with our monthly Cuppa & Trading Table, flowers, counting money etc, please update the list in the foyer of the Gathering Area or contact Carmel Russo on 5021 2872.



BARCLAY SQUARE—RED CLIFFS

Friday 14th December, from 8.00pm. All welcome

RED CLIFFS PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections	
1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$241.50
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$972.00
Loose Plate	\$ 46.40
Trading Table / Vinnies Christmas Appeal	\$315.50

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be the final meeting for 2018 and will take place immediately after Mass today. This will be followed by lunch at the Merbein Club.

PLENARY COUNCIL/GET-TOGETHER

Due to many non-negotiable factors we are unable to hold the previously advertised discussion and BBQ on Saturday 1st December. This event has not been cancelled but postponed until Thursday **February 14th 2019**. This date was chosen purposely to coincide with the annual school Information, Evening on which new families are welcomed and introduced to the school community which next year will include the whole parish community. Our school is a **Parish Primary School** and many of our parishioners attended that school but over the years have lost touch with the school community. This evening will be an opportunity to re-establish connections with our school and to meet the teachers, parents and students and enjoy a meal together and so help to build our Parish Family.

SCHOOL NEWS

Grade Six Graduation Mass: will be held on Thursday December 6th at 9:15 am. **Everyone** is welcome to attend and celebrate our current Grade Sixes Graduating from OLSH. The Grade Preps will also play a part in this mass in support of their buddies. After Mass we will be having a morning tea in the Multi-Purpose room for family and friends to attend.

School Concert 2018 – Thursday 13th December

All families and friends are invited to join us for our family night and entertainment on the school oval. Families are welcome to have tea on the oval prior to the 'official' start time. Families and friends are required to BYO dinner, drinks (NO alcohol) mosquito repellent, chairs etc. Concert starting time: 6.00pm till approx. 8.30pm

Tickets for the major school Christmas raffle are on sale after Mass today. Please support our school by buying a ticket. Raffle will be drawn at school concert.

MERBEIN ROTARY COMMUNITY CAROLS

will be held at Kenny Park on Friday December 7th. Food and entertainment will commence from 6.30pm. Main Program of Carol singing with local schools and community choirs begins at 7.30pm. BYO chairs. Further information: Kay Wagner 50252585

ANNIVERSARY LIST

A renewal of the Anniversary List, names of which are placed on the Notice Sheet each week, is in need of an update. Would you please fill in names and date of death of those whom you wish to be remembered each year at the time of their anniversary. Book on table at side entrance.

MERBEIN PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections	
1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 71.35
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$214.00
Loose Plate	\$ 10.00

This Weekend's Responsorial Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL

In the aftermath of the Victorian State election, it seems progressive politics was able to claim a victory. Daniel Andrews won in a 'bloodbath' in what is being called a repudiation of Coalition fear politics regarding African 'gangs' and outdated 'tough on crime' policies.

On social media there was a palpable sense of relief from Australian-African activists. I started reading and liking the posts, not sure why I had a sense of déjà vu. Then I realised this collective exhale from the African-Australian community reminded me vividly of the sentiment from the LGBTQ community after the marriage equality survey results were announced. Relief, thankfulness.

I even recognised the same phrase from the postal survey, that the Victorian vote and the campaigning surrounding it had become a 'referendum' on African people living in Australia.

While these two instances aren't exactly the same and they hinge on different types of discrimination, it still feels eerily familiar. The cries from advocates saying how you're just ordinary Australians. The constant damaging media attention and news cycle giving voice to what seems like anyone with a bigoted take.

Feeling like you're representing the group at all times, because maybe you're the only person from that minority group a person knows or has actually ever met. The demand to distance yourself from the others in your minority group as though you are a monolith, while the most marginalised within those communities are pushed to the side.

Your bodies and experiences are politicised. The worth of your families and relationships are up for public consumption. Any time you point out how belittling this whole process is, you're told that you don't know how 'the game is played' and it's just politics. And when the vote is over, unaffected Australians get to pat themselves on the back for being so progressive this whole time without much consideration for the damage already done.

The effects of these types of fear campaigns linger well after the news frenzy has gone. In the essay, 'Dear postal survey: I hope you will turn out to be worth it one day', Felicity Marlowe writes to the marriage survey, 'You stormed across the calm and broke us. You exposed us to the elements — to the no voting neighbours we never would have known about ... What happens to everyone in your path you damaged along the way?'

This idea is echoed in the recent article in the *Saturday Paper* by writer and lawyer Nyadol Nyuon about the treatment of African-Australians in the Victorian elections: 'When the voting is done, and political careers are secured or lost, when the journalists put down their "pens" and head to their families or bed, and when the publishers are onto the next story, the resultant scars from this episode of moral panic will still be carved into our lives'.

It is important to remind ourselves that these fear tactics are not really debates. They are traumas endured, even when we get the 'win'.

This feels like a familiar story because it is; it has played out over and over again in Australian politics. Targeted minority groups in Australia are only ever as safe as the next news item or election cycle. Each time there is a win there is hope, but there is also a death. A death of our innocence, a death of feeling like you're entirely safe in this country. Sometimes it's a very literal death. Some don't make it out alive.

I know I live in a political body and sometimes it is exhausting. I am reminded each time Safe Schools or religious freedom comes back onto the political agenda. Bla(c)k people are reminded every time they are hypersurveilled in public or try to get a job. Muslim people are reminded when they are called on to condemn violence after every terror attack involving a Muslim, as though that condemnation is not already implied. And in offshore detention centres, refugees are one of the most literal expressions of the government's control of minority bodies for political point scoring.

Over the course of 2017, I came to hate the phrase 'political football', but it's apt. In the article that I wrote on the day of the postal survey announcement I said that I thought we were better than this, better than treating our minority citizens like political objects. I really hope someday that's true. *Neve Mahoney is a student at RMIT university. She has also contributed to Australian Catholics and The Big Issue.*

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 2nd Sunday in Advent Year C / 8th & 9th December 2018

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial: Ps 125

Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 11:00am	Sacred Heart Saturday 6.00pm	Sacred Heart Sunday 9:00am	Sacred Heart Sunday 5.00pm	Irymple Sunday 8:30am	Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am	Merbein Sunday 10:30am	Merbein Lay Led Assembly Last Sunday of the month
Leader / Reader	Katy Quinlan	Luke Guthrie	Bill Dolence	M Duck	M Bell M Bell / J Cameron	Sr Carmel Setford	December 30th
Music	Filipino Community	M Sullivan, P Prescott J O'Bryan, B Lewis	No Music		Guitar		Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
Offertory	Baptism	Baptism			Lewis Family	Lemon Family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Douglas Mapapalangi	Volunteer please	
Eucharist Ministers	Anne-Maree Greville	Nancy Fatai	Bernadette Avery	M Hill	Setefano Mapapalangi	Kay Wagner	
	Taiana Fatai	Peter O'Donnell	Andrea Welsh		Grace Mapapalangi	Leon Wagner	
	Margaret McDonald	Greg Johnston	Trish Cirillo		Reba Hynam		
	Paul Kerr	Gina Raiti	Jeena Jose		P Hill		
	Anita Naray	Anna Vartuli	Clem Carlucci		P Hunt	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Sara Visona	Vittorio Carlucci		Volunteer		
		Juliet Cresp			FLOWERS Janine Cameron		
Counting Team	TEAM 3	PETER MCDONALD 5022 1531			C Markham/D Eagle		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	