

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 49

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*

2nd Sunday of Advent / Year B 5th & 6th December 2020

MILDURA

Recent Death: Ilario Simonetta, Valda Kerr (nee Curran) sister of Muriel Hooper & Kevin Curran, Tamsyn Botha (Melbourne), Eli Villagrancia (Philippines), Ilario Pileggi (Italy)

Anniversaries:

Sunday 9am: Eugenio Morello

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna, Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Nancy McCarthy (10 yr anniversary), Robert McCarthy (5 yr anniversary), Giuseppe Gentile, Ilario Cavallo, Joe Piscioneri, Joe Hunyadi

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

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:

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

Message from our Parish Priest

We have now commenced the second week of Advent with Faith as the theme. Being people of faith engages us into the richness and beauty of faith and traditions and practices which come with it.

When we place our faith in someone we are trusting them that they will either do something or they will provide for us, John the Baptist did this when he went into the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. We could ask ourselves who have we placed our faith and trust in and who has asked this to us? What happened and how did it change our relationship?

We are only a couple of weeks away from Christmas and the masses will be very different this year, we are waiting on clarification on numbers. We are unsure if the children's Christmas play will happen, more details after the 14th Dec.

Fr Matthew

Christmas Mass Times 2020

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

6pm	Sacred Heart Mildura
6pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Werrimull
7.30pm	Our Lady's Merbein
8pm	St Joseph's Red Cliffs
9.30pm	Sacred Heart Mildura
12pm Midnight	Sacred Heart Mildura

Christmas Day Friday 25th December

8.30am	St Francis Xavier Irymple
9am	Sacred Heart Mildura
10.30am	St Joseph's Red Cliffs
10.30am	Our Lady's Merbein

New Years Day

Friday 1st January 2021 9.30am Sacred Heart Mildura

LOCAL NEWS



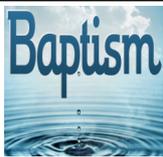
ADVENT—ADORE

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.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Sacred Heart Parish Community—Dante Panuccio 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.

Communal Celebration of Reconciliation

Mildura: Wednesday 9th December 6pm

Merbein: Thursday 17th December 9.30am

Red Cliffs: Thursday 17th December 6pm



Reconciliation

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

MASS COLLECTIONS

Mildura: Two collection baskets clearly labelled 1st Collection and 2nd Collection are available for your use on either side of the altar. Opportunity will be given before, during and after Mass for you to contribute.

Irymple (Red Cliffs): Baskets left inside main church door.

Merbein: Baskets left on altar

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

Work is progressing nicely with the new ceiling being installed in the Gathering Area. 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

Because St Joseph's church is at the moment out of bounds, Vinnies' Christmas Tree is in the front foyer of St Joseph's School. But that's out of bounds, too. So at the entrance, on a table is a plastic box with the tags you are familiar with. Many tags have been taken already, but there are many more still waiting to be taken. Please take one. Covid-19 does not mean that there will be no needy this Christmas.

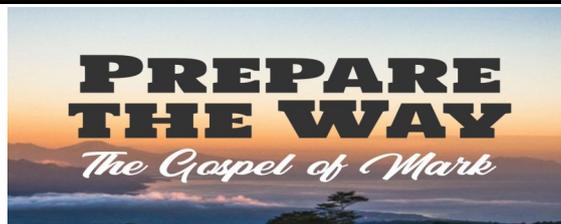


FR PAT'S FAREWELL MASS

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

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 —whether to add your name, take it off or change Mass time, please do so by **Friday 11th December.**



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 until 22nd of January the Parish Office will be opened from 9am till 12noon only.

LOCAL NEWS

Sunraysia Parishes Mass Times for December

Weekdays

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	6pm Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am Mildura
Thursday	9.30am Mildura 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 5th & 6th December

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 to call the office and book in for the weekend mass only—until further notice.

COVID safe Rules Update from 23rd November

Masses—Cap of 150 people plus one faith leader—Sacred Heart Church only—(50 Red Cliffs & Merbein, 25 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 a face mask which is only to be removed when necessary—reading and receiving communion.

Reminder

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

Meetings this week

SH Finance Meeting: Tuesday, December 8th, 7am.

SH Parish Council: Tuesday, December 8th, after 6pm Mass, Monaghan Centre.

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 651.95	\$ 43.00	\$ 76.00
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$1320.00	\$275.00	\$205.10
Loose Plate	\$ 188.60	\$ 84.10	\$ 20.40

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend — 5th & 6th December 2020

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Christine Carmichael

Sunday 9am: Jill Joslyn

Sunday 5pm: Inez Sullivan

Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.

Music: Sat 6pm: Mary Issanchon

Sun 9am: Italian Choir

Sun 5pm: Soane Fatai, Khadeja Mapapalangi

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:

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

Next weekend —12th & 13th December 2020

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Gary Huxtable

Sunday 9am: Jim O'Brien

Sunday 5pm: Jancy Thomas

Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.

Music: Sat 6pm: M Sullivan, J Ljubic

Sun 9am: Mary Issanchon

Sun 5pm: S Fatai, K Mapapalangi, L Duy

Counting Team: Team 8 - Trevor Aust 5023 6597

Irymple Reader: J Kearney

MERBEIN

Reader: Bernadette Wells

RED CLIFFS (Irymple Church 10.30am)

Readers: J Cameron, M Monteleone

Counting Team: D Eagle, C Russo

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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope. © Dianne Bergant CSA

First Reading

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

2nd Sunday Of Advent



Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

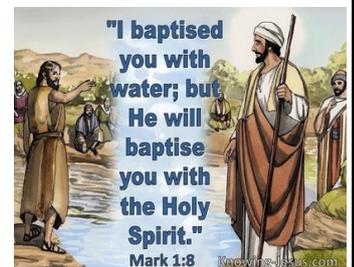
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Mark

*Make straight the paths
of the Lord.*



The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'