

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



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 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 49

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
		5:00PM		
WERRIMULL		11:00AM (LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)		

MILDURA

Recent Deaths: Peter Dichiera, Tony Carazza

ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am: Giuseppe Dichiera

Sunday 5pm:

Tuesday 6pm:

RED CLIFFS

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

MERBEIN

Recent Death: Peter Dichiera, Laurence Smith

Anniversaries: Dec. 14th Tony Dimasi, Nick Mazza; 15th Jacob Nemsas, Regina Doleneć

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

2nd Sunday of Advent / Year C 8th & 9th December 2018

Pope Francis has called us to look into our hearts, to let go of all that is harsh or cruel and to bring the compassion and mercy of God to our troubled planetary home. At the International Conference marking the third anniversary of *Laudato Si'* (July 2018), he thanked the participants for coming together to hear "with their hearts the increasingly desperate cries of the earth and its poor." The Conference title, "Saving our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth" underscores the urgency of the call. Our courageous pope is giving extraordinary leadership to the global community.

Like Luke, author of the third gospel, Pope Francis recognises that this message is for the whole world and not simply for the Church community. Luke situates his gospel drama on a national and international stage and in relation to global events. He wants to insist that religion is no private affair and that the story of the movement around Jesus of Nazareth is no ordinary, everyday story. It is rather a story with momentous political and religious significance. Luke is strong on dramatic impact and less concerned about the facts. He situates events in the "pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas", implying that there were two high priests at the same time. In fact, Caiaphas succeeded his father-in-law Annas as high priest, even if the influence of the latter persisted into Caiaphas' pontificate.

Luke presents John the son of Zechariah as a prophet in the long line of prophets that culminates in the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the global stage. Jesus is the one who truly brings the salvation of our God. It is worth noting that prophecy in Luke is not reserved to the male characters. With the shift from private to public space in Luke 3, however, women prophets who featured prominently in the earlier chapters (Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna) now disappear from the narrative.

Luke 3:1-6 contains some of Luke's favourite themes: prophecy and its fulfilment; the word of God; reversal of expectations; conversion or repentance; proclaiming the good news; forgiveness of sins; salvation. As in Israel's past, the wilderness or desert is the locus of God's revelation. The prophet John calls on the people of the region around the Jordan River to turn their hearts and their lives around, to accept "a baptism of *metanoia* or conversion for the forgiveness of sins".

We might listen to the Isaiah citation that follows ("Prepare the way...") against the backdrop of the first reading from the prophet Baruch. God's way involves putting on the "cloak of integrity" or "robe of righteousness" and allowing God to provide an escort of mercy/works of mercy (*eleēmosunē*) and integrity/right relationship (*dikaiosunē*). If we take seriously the call to live the gospel, we shall surely search for ways to heal the broken relationships within our ailing planet.

Veronica Lawson rsm

PLEASE NOTE

THERE WILL BE NO THURSDAY 9.15AM MASS DUE TO THE FUNERAL MASS OF TONY CARRAZZA AT 11AM.

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 Alicastro, Fr Denis Dennehy, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

Sacramental Life & Liturgy



BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community Mischa Byra, Giuliana Mazza, Kelly Waters, & Sophie Knispel whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

RCIA 2018 –2019

Mary

Thursday 13th 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 20th at 6pm, both in the Sacred Heart Church. Please contact Lisa Caminiti 0413990288 or Kathy Venneri 0428774449 for more details.

Community Life & Outreach

PRINCES COURT AGED CARE MASS

Tuesday 11 December 10am. All welcome

OASIS AGED CARE MASS

Wednesday 12 December 10.30am. All welcome

REGIS ONTARIO AGED CARE MASS

Thursday 13 December 2pm. All welcome

SHARED TABLE STALL & CUPPA after the 9am Mass this 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.

REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am Mildura

DECEMBER 9: VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE DAY

DECEMBER 10: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human rights are often treated as a list. We have a right to food, shelter, work, education, freedom from discrimination and so on. The bundle of human rights then forms a checklist against we can rate our society. Sometimes the connection between rights can be lost, and we find it particularly difficult to balance one right against another.

It can be more helpful to see rights, not as a list but as different ways of showing the respect we owe to people because they are human. Human rights spell out for us the conviction that all human beings, regardless of race, wealth, religion or power, are equally precious.

Religious people say that our unique value comes from the fact that each of us is deeply and personally loved by God. People who have other philosophies may agree that each of us has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect others, but will find other grounds for the claim that we are entitled to respect simply because we are human. We don't need to earn respect, nor does it depend on the colour of our skin, our money or of our flag. Criminals and kings, paediatricians and paedophiles, have an equal right to respect for their basic humanity.

Human rights spell out what respect means in different dimensions of our lives. Respect means giving to others the freedom to practice their religion, to take responsibility for their society, to care for their families, to receive an education, to work, to be fed and cared for if they lack the necessities of life, and so on.

In most societies people are not equally respected. Those who are severely disadvantaged do not have equal access to law, to income support, to education or to childcare. People who seek protection from persecution and Indigenous people may be systematically discriminated against.

Lack of respect for human rights is always dangerous in any society. In times of frustration, inequality and rapid change, people who are different can be targeted and become scapegoats. If they are not defended by law and by a culture of courtesy and respect in society, even people who otherwise behave decently can lash out in violence against them. We need to think only of the genocide in Nazi Germany, Burundi and Myanmar to see how hatred and violence can dominate previously peaceful societies. Ordinary and respected people there took part in or applauded the massacre of people whose only crime was to be different. It is said that in the Nazi extermination camps officers could listen to Mozart, read the poetry of Goethe and go about their murderous business.

Genocide lies at the end of a long line that begins in disrespect for the dignity and rights of vulnerable human beings.

MILDURA PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1208.15
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$2886.80
Loose Plate	\$ 495.15
Monaghan Centre	\$ 520.00

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 9: 2nd Sunday of Advent— Year C
Sunday Dec 9: St Joseph's Primary School—End of Year Mass

ANointing MASS FOR THE SICK & ELDERLY
 Thursday 10am. Cuppa afterwards. All welcome.



BARCLAY SQUARE—RED CLIFFS
 Friday 14th December, from 8.00pm.
 All welcome

LAY MINISTERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASS.
 We need 11. So, far, 6 have signed up. We need 5 more.

CHRISTMAS IN RED CLIFFS
 Carols 7.30 pm Christmas Eve. Mass at 8.00 pm.
 Christmas morning mass at Irymple at 8.30 am.



CHRISTMAS SINGING PRACTICE
 Straight after Mass on Sunday December 23rd.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RED CLIFFS 2019
 We need to start organising soon for next year's preparation for Confirmation, First Confession & First Communion. If you know of any Catholic children in State Schools who are in grade 4 or above, and have not yet received these Sacraments, please ask them to get in touch with Fr Pat Flanagan Ph. 5024-1966.

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.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

RED CLIFFS PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections	
1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$238.45
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$356.90
Loose Plate	\$ 65.65

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held last Sunday but the end of year 'thank you' lunch will be held on Sunday 16th December at the Merbein Club. Parish Council members are warmly invited to attend.

PLENARY COUNCIL – Parish/School Gathering

Please keep February 14th 2019 free to attend this important event. 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 6 Graduation: Congratulation to the Grade 6 students who celebrating their Graduation last Thursday morning during the 9.15am Mass. This was followed by morning tea to which family, friend and parishioners were invited. We wish them all the best as they move on to secondary school and new opportunities in their education.

School Choir: Last week at assembly the choir treated us to two Christmas songs that they had been learning over the past term. They sang beautifully and obviously enjoyed themselves! Well done to the choir and Mrs. Gunn, who has been guiding their progress. Sr. Carmel was present and is looking for some children (from the choir or other OLSH students) to sing at Mass on **Christmas Eve**. The Mass will be held in the church at **7.30pm**. If you are able to come along and your child would like to be a part of the choir on Christmas Eve, please let the school or Sr. Carmel know.

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
The major school Christmas raffle will be drawn at the concert.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

There are over 1 million plastic bags used every minute worldwide and a lot of these are being disposed of incorrectly and end up destroying our oceans. Soft plastics can be collected and recycled at Woolworths and Coles stores, which stops it going to landfill and into our oceans. Where possible try and bring your own bags to collect your fruit and vegies and avoid buying pre-packaged food to reduce waste. Why not try do your Christmas shopping at our very good OP shops or the 'Round Again' shop which, by the way, made the ABC News last Tuesday night. Why not make bags out of scrap material instead of using Christmas paper to wrap your gifts. They could be used again next

MERBEIN PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections	
1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 90.75
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$214.70
Loose Plate	\$ 40.80

This Weekend's Responsorial Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO REDEEM THE BANKS

Now that the royal commission hearings into the banks and financial institutions have finished, people are asking whether things will change. There are grounds for both cautious hope and pessimism. Hope is based on the expectation that the exposure of greed, complacency and lassitude in institutions, boards and regulators will lead them to hunger for a better reputation.

The grounds for pessimism are the reappearance of the claim that the royal commission has hurt Australia by destroying trust in the financial system, the well-coached defensive strokes of those bank representatives who most recently appeared before it, and the fashionable criticism of 'virtue signalling'. This phrase implies that ethical behaviour is irrelevant to the real duty of banks to benefit their shareholders. The questions these defensive moves raise are whether changes in behaviour will be more than cosmetic and short lived, and whether those responsible within and for financial institutions have accepted that there is a problem that needs fixing. The appearance of Dr Ken Henry, the chair of the Commonwealth Bank and former governor of the Reserve Bank, at the commission sharpened this question. He was consistently terse and rebarbative in his answers to questions about bad behaviour, as if to ask, 'What else would you expect?' In his response, however, he also mused with surprising impunity about larger questions, including the accountability of banks. He went beyond the dogma of sole accountability to shareholders to include customers, staff and, with a sense of daring, the national good.

This idea, standard in Catholic thinking, is inimical to the economic ideology of Treasury and economic commentators who see the public good secured by the contractual arrangements between individuals and businesses seeking profit in a free market. They have seen the imposition of ethical and cultural obligations that are not subject to statistical measurement as dangerous nonsense. Displays of compliance with these values is simply virtue signalling, equivalent to the flag waving at football matches by spectators who want to make their team look good. They have no effect.

This view ignores the reality that banks, like all human organisations, are networks of interlocking relationships that need to be harmonised if they are to work effectively. Organisations do things, and most produce things, but their reason for existence is not defined by what they produce or by the profit they make. Nor do they consist of disconnected individuals who work in isolation. A good bank is one in which money is received and lent fairly and sustainably in a way that respects the relationships with customers, shareholders, employees and the citizens as a whole. In financial organisations the relationships extend to the whole nation and indeed beyond it because finance is based on trust between people in their economic relationships. A condition of that trust is appropriate regulation and accountability in those relationships. That trust needs to be built internationally by good conduct in the institutions.

From this perspective it is self-serving to say that the primary purpose of any business is to make a profit. It is also inadequate to say that the bank's sole responsibility is to its shareholders. That relationship is important because shareholders are essential to the banks' other relationships to clients, staff and society, which must also be fair, sustainable and transparent. Irresponsible and self-interested lending can be highly profitable for shareholders in the short term, but in the longer term it threatens both the banks and the society of which they are part. If this is so, the royal commission will be successful if it leads to change within all the relationships that constitute financial institutions. They must create a culture of awareness and responsibility in all their relationships, with the result that decisions taken at all levels in the bank respect all the relationships. In some banks there are signs of progress. At small group meetings staff are encouraged to speak of the satisfaction of people who deal with the bank instead of the profit they have made. This kind of conversation is not virtue signalling in the sense of cosmetic and incidental PR, but is essential at all levels to ensure that the trains of transactions stay safely on the rails of respect and avoid derailment.

This can happen only if executives and boards get it. Their behaviour at the earlier and later hearings of the royal commission did not inspire full confidence. The signs of hope come from lower levels in the bank. For example, in the NAB internship programs that have placed selected African immigrants in the bank, many staff members caught up in the relationships shaped by this program came to see their work in a much broader ethical context. That kind of conversion is the seed bed of hope.

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 3rd Sunday in Advent Year C / 15th & 16th December 2018

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18
Responsorial: Isaiah 12:2-6
Response: Cry out with joy and gladness for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.
Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



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	Mary Jackson	Lyn Welsh	Barbara Bunting	K Modoo	D Eagle M Cavallaro / M Duck	Kay Wagner	December 30th
Music	M Hammond J Macri	Tongan Choir M Guthrie	St Paul's Graduation Mass		Guitar		Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
Offertory		Joy Morvell			N Orr	Knight Family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Ella Briggs	Volunteer please	
Eucharist Ministers	Maria Cirillo	Louise Belej	Christine Slattery	Malcolm Hoy	Katie Hawkes	Janine Dannatt	
	Christine Carmichael	Nancy Leonardis	Jacinta Macri		Christian Marcuzzo	Volunteer please	
	Ellen Frauenfelder	Elena Garreffa	Paula Cox		Rustyn McCarthy		
	Jacinda Deacon	Maryanne Modica	Jennifer Boord		C Markham		
	Katy Quinlan	Lyn Welsh	Reni Cheriyan		M Matotek	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Vince Pileggi	Loretta Thomspson	Wendy Finn		M Monteleone	Pat Sylvia Annette Lemon	
	Giuseppe Scopacasa				FLOWERS Janine Cameron		
Counting Team	TEAM 4	KEVIN SCHULTZ 5023 8778			G Brizzi / C Russo		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	