

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 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 | |
| SATURDAY | 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: Lucy Reale, Eileen Punch
 (Mother of Rodger – former priest of our Diocese)
 Angela Gilardi –1st anniversary will be held on Sunday 15th
 December 9am

Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm: Lucia Fenu, Wally Kedmenec
 Sunday 9am: Carmine Padula & Pasquale & Anne-Maria Gerardis
 Friday 5.40pm: Angelina Okechukwu

RED CLIFFS

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

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: 8th Dec Joseph Hunyadi, 14th Tony Dimasi, Nick
 Mazza. 15th Jacob Nemtsas, Regina Doleneec.

(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 A 7th & 8th December 2019

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of ours and wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing *metanoia* or reevaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kin-dom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kin-dom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used here, *engiken*, allows for this ambiguity.

The first reading from Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of kin-dom or *basileia*: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (*metanoia*). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for *metanoia* (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century *Manual of Discipline* from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

PREPARING THE WAY

MATTHEW 3:1-12

SACRED HEART CHURCH

9.15am Mass Thursday 12 December is cancelled due
 to the school Mass at 11.30am.

Sacred Heart Mildura

Sacramental Life & Liturgy



BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Estelle Argiro, Willow Peebles, Domenico Cavallo, Liana Cirillo, Kaitlyn Corral & Hamish Lynch** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

RCIA

This Sunday we welcome Simon Davies into the Catechumenate. Let us continue to hold Simon, Brooke, Marucs & Ellie in our prayers as we accompany them from this time on until they are fully initiated into the Catholic Faith Community next Easter.

Mary

Thursday December 12th 7pm, Hillman Room.



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

Community Life & Outreach

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 10th December 7am.

PRINCES COURT AGED CARE MASS

Tuesday 10th December 10am. All welcome

OASIS AGED CARE MASS

Wednesday 11th December 10.30am. All welcome.

REGIS ONTARIO AGED CARE MASS

Thursday 12th December 2pm. All welcome.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

Meet weekly every Thursday at 10am in the Hillman room, Sacred Heart Presbytery. All welcome.

WORKING BEE SACRED HEART CHURCH

21st December from 8am—12 noon
Many hands will make for light work.

Sausage sizzle provided.



If you can help out please contact Parish Office 5021 2872.



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

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

This is the final weekend for the acceptance of gifts for the "Giving Tree". The members of the Sacred Heart Conference of St Vincent de Paul are very grateful for the many gifts received. They will be greatly appreciated by the children.



SHARED TABLE STALL & CUPPA this Sunday after 9am Mass

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



NATIVITY PLAY—CHRISTMAS EVE 2019

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. Practice sessions and dress rehearsals times will be advertised next weekend. For further information please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.

PLANNED GIVING

If you have Planned Giving envelope number 140 please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.

REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

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: Fr Denis Dennehy, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuionisio, Lily Chung, Lorna Kearney, Dien Brown, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Vince Alicastro, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy,

Merbein: Martin Rogers, Maria Pyatt, Ted Verryt, Frank Chandler, Fr Frank Smith CSSR

Red Cliffs: Maureen Lee, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Reynaldo Chan, Albis Dy, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Joe Cufari, Maurice O'Connor, Joe Mammone

COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 6PM

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



CAROLS IN SUNRAYSA

Mildura Carols—Nowingi Place
Saturday 14th December from 5pm

Red Cliffs Carols—Barclay Square
Friday 20th December from 8pm



This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**MILDURA & REGION
CHRISTMAS MASSES 2019**

Christmas Eve

Mildura 6:00pm; 8:00pm; 12:00 Midnight

Werrimull 6:00pm

Merbein 7:30pm

Red Cliffs 7:30pm Carols; 8:00pm Mass

Christmas Day

Mildura 9:00am

Irymple 8:30am

Merbein 10:30am

Ouyen 9:00am

New Year's Day

Mildura 9:00am

LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER—OLSH MERBEIN

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Merbein is seeking applications from those interested in joining our school as a Learning Support Officer in the 2020 school year. The successful applicant will have experience working with students of all ages and particularly those with learning needs.

This position is 27.5 hours per week spread over five days. Pay and conditions will be as per the Victorian Catholic Education Multi-Enterprise Agreement.

The successful applicant will:

- Have a calm, consistent approach
- Enjoy working in a cohesive team
- Embrace the Catholic ethos of the school
- Be undertaking or have completed studies in this area
- Hold a current Working With Children Check
- Be an active part of our Child Safe environment

Letters of application, including a current resume and contact details of two referees can be emailed to ngal-lagher@olshmerbein.catholic.edu.au by 4pm Wednesday, 18th of December.

**SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE
WILL CLOSE AT 4PM ON
TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER 2019 AND
REOPEN ON THURSDAY
2ND JANUARY 2020
ALL CALLS & ENQUIRIES TO
PRESBYTERY 5022 9959**

REFLECTION

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" Heb 13:16

We tend to have our Sunday Mass routine down pat. But what about changing things up a bit to give someone else the gift of attending Sunday Mass?

Bringing an elderly parent, friend or neighbour to Mass and even for coffee afterwards is another simple way for us to live the beatitudes.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help me to see the opportunities for charity that are all around me.

Source: "Daily Companion for Women" Catholic Book Publishing Corp



**SUNRAYSIA PRIMARY
SCHOOLS
END OF YEAR
GRADUATION
MASSES**

St Joseph's Primary School, Red Cliffs:
Sunday 8th December 10.30am

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Merbein:
Thursday 12th December 9.15am

Sacred Heart Primary School, Mildura:
Thursday 12th December 11.30am

St Paul's Primary school, Mildura:
End of Year Thanksgiving Mass— School Hall
Friday 13th December 9.15am
Grade 6 Graduation Sunday 15th December 5pm

MERBEIN SOUTH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the Community Hall Recreation Ground on Sunday December 15th at 6.30 onwards. BYO chairs. It is the community's effort to endeavour to lift the people's spirits after such a devastating year of drought. All Welcome! If possible it would be good to support this event.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS: Did you know?

A used aluminium can takes only six to eight weeks to be recycled and appear back on the shelves. In Australia over Two Billion cans are recycled every year with huge benefits to the environment. Aluminium doesn't degrade so it can be recycled indefinitely. Recycling decreases the amount of waste in landfill, reduces the demand for raw materials and reduces water use.

DROUGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The Australian Government have awarded the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia \$15 million dollars in drought relief funding under the Drought Community Support Initiative – Round 2 (DCSI) The project ends on 30 June 2020. Eligible applicants to the DCSI can receive a one-off cash payment of \$3,000. Farming community members can apply by going to the online application form, which can be found at www.vinnies.org.au/droughtrelief Assistance with the application form can be obtained by phoning 1300 846 643.

Or direct donations to:

Millewa-Carwarp Farmers Fund.

Funds that go direct to the farmer - BSB – 063520 Account – 10078126. Please put FD at the start of the reference.

ADVANCE NOTICE 2020

REGIONAL MISSION

- March 8th to March 13—Fr Ray Sanchez will again visit our Parish for a Mission.

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

- April 20—May 16 CLC/Jesuit Tertian First Spiritual Exercises Retreat are organising an online/home Retreat for Mildura.

They will be offering the first retreat Inner Peace in Divine Love. The retreats are usually co-guided with a CLC member.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Fr Elio Capra will once again visit us in May/June for our Sacramental Program.

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

| Last week's collections | Mildura | Merbein | Red Cliffs |
|--|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery) | \$1380.85 | \$ 68.60 | \$287.40 |
| 2nd Collection (includes all EFT) | \$3745.45 | \$159.80 | \$379.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$ 577.15 | \$ 22.15 | \$115.10 |
| The Shared Table | \$ 270.00 | | |

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

PARISH NEWS

The final Parish Council Meeting until February 2020 will take place immediately after Mass today. Anyone who feels they would like to contribute to our parish with some ideas and suggestions are welcome to be part of our Parish Council.

Christmas Eve Mass: Any children who will be attending Christmas Eve Mass this year and who would like to take part in a very simple Christmas play would you please contact the school or Sr. Carmel so that we can organise a small play to be part of the Christmas Mass. Any children who will be visiting families and would like to participate are most welcome. Names of these children would be most helpful. Mass will be held on December 24th (Christmas Eve) at, 7.30pm, at the Merbein Catholic Church. The usual 10.30 Mass will take place on Christmas Day.

SCHOOL NEWS:

Preps 2020 Transition Program

The dates for the 2020 Prep students to spend some time at OLSH as part of their transition process continues and is as follows: Monday 9th December, Tuesday 10th December each day being from 9.00am – 3.25pm (Play lunch & lunch will be required)

Grade six Graduation Mass will take place at 9.15am next Thursday 12th December followed by morning tea in the Multi-purpose room. Parishioners and special friends are most welcome.



The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem

WEEKDAY MASSES

Unit 9—Mon, Wed, Sat: 9.30am Tues, Thur: 5.30pm
Fri—6.30pm Saverio Romeo 30 day Mass

CALENDAR

Sunday 8 Dec: End of Year Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass

Sunday 29 Dec: Feast of the Holy Family

Wed 1 Jan: Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday 5 Jan: Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday 12 Jan: Baptism of the Lord

The Season of Christmas is completed by the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at his Baptism in the River Jordan, to fit him for the mission the Father has entrusted to him.



We congratulate our Grade 6 students on their graduation and we wish them well in their education journey as they prepare for the next chapter of schooling—secondary college.

ADVENT FORGIVENESS MASS

Our signs of repentance at our Advent Mass, besides the prayers for forgiveness are two-fold. We write out our sins on a sheet of paper, and we bring them to the Sanctuary to be burned, and we bring a present for a needy child to our Christmas tree on Sunday December 8th.

ROSTERS FOR 2020

If you would like to help out in any of our volunteer duties please update the list in the foyer of the Gathering Area or contact Carmel Russo on 5021 2872 by Friday 13th December.

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 3rd Sunday of Advent 14th & 15th December 2019

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Responsorial: Ps 145:6-10
Response: Lord, come and save us.
Second Reading: St James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



| Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 11am | Sacred Heart Saturday 6pm | Sacred Heart Sunday 9am | Sacred Heart Sunday 5pm | Irymple Sunday 8:30am | Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am | Merbein Sunday 10:30am |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Leader / Reader | Rosemary Barnes | Talia Fainga'anulu | St Paul's School Graduation Mass | M Hill | M Bell C Markham/M Monteleone | Vernon Knnight |
| Music | Filipino Group M Issanchon | Tongan Choir M Guthrie | St Paul's School Graduation Mass | | Guitar | |
| Offertory | | Joy Morvell | St Paul's School | | M Adams | Knight Family |
| Altar Servers | Volunteer Please | Volunteer Please | Volunteer Please | | GROUP 3 E Briggs | Volunteer Please |
| Eucharist Ministers | Anne-Maree Greville | Greg Johnston | Katrina Groves | R Hill | C Cavallaro | Kay Wagner |
| | Taiana Fatai | Gina Raiti | Judy Hall | | M Cavallaro | Michael Brewel |
| | Margaret McDonald | Anna Vartuli | Myrna Rodi | OASIS AGED CARE | J Divola | LAY-LED LEADERS December 29th |
| | Paul Kerr | Sara Visona | Maree Irvin | M Duck | CUPPA'S | |
| | Anita Naray | Juliet Cresp | Sue Hermans | | | CHAFFEY AGED CARE |
| | Ryan O'Callaghan | Louise Belej | Naomi Kennedy | LAY LITURGY LEADERS | | |
| | | Nancy Leonardis | | W & G Schmidt | FLOWERS J Cameron | |
| Counting Team | TEAM 6 | JIM O'DONNELL 5021 4939 | | | G Brizzi/C Russo | As per arrangement |
| Church Cleaning | As per arrangement | | | | Grp 3—C Russo | As per arrangement |