

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 44



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:

Anniversaries:

Sunday 9am: Deceased members of the Chiavone & Delorenzo families, Giovanni Bachetti, Leo Camarotto

RED CLIFFS

Recent Deaths: Gabrielle Borbiro

Anniversaries: Venanzio Pasut

MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: Nov.3rd Joyce Fraser; 9th Bill Fisher

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year C 2nd & 3rd November 2019

In 2015, a little book came my way and proceeded to turn my world upside down. The author of that book was German forester Peter Wohlleben, its title *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World*. I have long mourned the destruction of trees, local and global, including the threatened trees of the Amazon. I grew up loving, valuing and sometimes climbing the trees of the Macedon Ranges. I now live among the trees on the outskirts of Ballarat. Wohlleben's book brought home to me how much I had still to learn about these precious gifts of life and love.

Luke's story of the toll-collector Zacchaeus provides me with yet another opportunity to give thanks for the wonder of trees, their intrinsic beauty and the life they sustain. A sycamore tree is at the heart of this story. Once I would have thought of this tree simply as one of the props in the human story that unfolds, providing as it does the platform for a height challenged would-be disciple of Jesus to "see". The human encounter with the holy is foregrounded in this story and is in no way to be discounted. But let us not relegate the tree to the status of prop. As I write this reflection, the Synod on the Amazon is underway in Rome and the tropical forests of northern Australia are threatened by fire. The planet cannot breathe without its trees. We might keep this in mind as we turn to the human elements in the story of Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus is a wealthy man, a chief tax collector, possibly responsible for overseeing the activities of other tax collectors. He wants to see what Jesus is like and he lets nothing get in the way. He runs ahead and climbs the sycamore tree. Jesus looks up and tells him to come down quickly, "for I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus offers hospitality "joyfully". Hospitality, joy, haste to respond to divine visitation: these are constant themes in Luke.

"All those who see" complain that Jesus chooses to stay with a sinner, no doubt considering themselves more worthy hosts for God's prophet. There are clues in the text that Zacchaeus has already changed his ways, however. The future tense in translations ('I will pay') obscures this important element. He gives half his property to the destitute and, if he has cheated anyone, he pays them back four times the amount. Jesus looks at Zacchaeus and assures him that salvation has come to his house. He then acts to restore honour to Zacchaeus in the eyes of those who hold him and his kind in contempt. Zacchaeus is affirmed as a true descendant of his forbears in faith. Salvation for our house, our "common home", will only come with comparable attention to what we have despoiled.

Veronica Lawson rsm

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

PLEASE NOTE

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

Will be closed Tuesday 5th November, due to the Melbourne Cup, Public Holiday.

Sacred Heart Mildura Community Life & Outreach

Sacramental Life & Liturgy



BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish community **Brianna Maiorana, Tyson Phung and Theo Winton** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

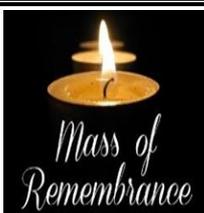
RCIA 2019 –2020

My Journey into the Catholic Community
Thursday 7th November 7pm, Hillman Room.



CONFIRMATION

Next weekend we begin our celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray for the children receiving this sacrament and for their parents. Thank you to all who have assisted with the preparation of these children.



Bereavement Mass

This Sunday we especially welcome all those families from our Parish Community who have lost loved ones over the past twelve months. We pray with them as once again we thank God for the gift of our loved ones, and ask that God hold them within His loving and eternal embrace. **There will be a cuppa after the 9:00am Mass in**

Community Life & Outreach

ANOINTING MASS

Thursday 7th November 9.15am. All welcome.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

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



PARISH COUNCIL MILDURA

Tuesday 12th November following 6:00pm Mass

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Now have available Columban Calendars 2020 and Religious Christmas cards.

Calendars \$9.00 each and cards (packs of 8) \$3.00.

Please note: Items will be sold by St Vincent de Paul members at the back of the church this weekend.



Jesus Seeks a Sinful Man that Seeks After Him

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus came to save sinners.

Weekly Prayer Opportunities Mildura

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

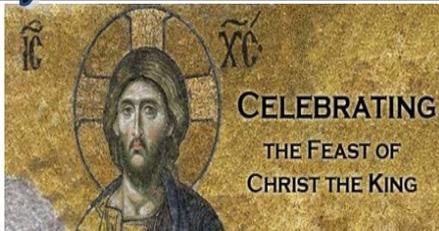
Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesday 6:30pm

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 3:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Prayer Room

Sacred Heart Parish will celebrate the **Feast of Christ the King** in a special way on **Sunday 24th of November at the 5:00pm Mass.**



During this Mass we will specially recognise the wonderful multi-cultural dimension of our Parish Community. We invite the various cultural groups to celebrate in formal dress, and to bring along food typical of your country to share with others.

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, Lorna Kearney, Dien Brown, Clair Lang, Sandra McCarthy, Albis Dy, Brian Ramsey, Vince Alicastro, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner,

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

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS

Parish Edition—Summer 2019/2020

The Mystery of God

Copies now available in all church foyers

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill Centenary Celebrations

Centenary celebrations will begin with a Parish Mass on November 10 at 10.30am and a school Mass on Monday, November 11 at 9.15am. Tours of the school and St Mary Mackillop College will also be held on both days. For more information to go www.smswanhill100years.com.

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR DROUGHT

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. Attached is the prayer, Roman Missal and lectionary details and sample prayers of the faithful. Access further resources and find out more at www.catholic.org.au/drought

PLENARY COUNCIL THEMES FOR DISCERNMENT

Copies of each Theme are now available at the Sacred Heart Parish Office for those who attended the meetings so that groups can choose which Theme they will be discerning for the process to begin.

Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

Words make a difference. Pope Francis' intention for October asked for reconciliation in the Near East. Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Egypt are to the East of Rome, and are close to Italy. That is why they are referred to as the Near East. What happens there has an immediate impact on Europe in the form of people who flee from conflict and seek protection. These neighbouring nations, too, have left their mark on Europe through the movement of peoples, through wars and through all the connections made by trade, culture and religion. Europeans, too, have left their mark for better and for worse on the countries of their Near East.

For Australians these nations are not near. We are not immediately affected by what happens there. Although we send soldiers and arms to support military adventures there, their wars are not our wars. When Pope Francis invites us to allow the people of the Middle East and their predicaments to touch us and to enter our prayers, he wants us to expand our minds and hearts to receive people and places distant from us.

The region has been riven by warfare in which local conflicts have been rocket fuelled by foreign powers including Australia. Extremist Muslim groups committed to unite the Arab world have launched offensives and met by counter armies. In these struggles, Sunni Muslims have been set against Shiite Muslims, and smaller religious groups such as Christians, Sufi Muslims and Mandaeans, have been persecuted and driven from their homes. Warfare has bred further hatred and misery and has displaced millions of people.

When seen against the scale of this intense conflict Pope Francis' prayer for a spirit of dialogue, encounter and reconciliation may seem Utopian. He urges us to pray for the seemingly unachievable. But those killed and displaced by conflict need the support of our prayers, as do the ordinary people who long for peace and reconciliation.

The Pope urges us to pray that people will share their life together. He evokes the Christian vision of society in which we are first of all human beings who depend on one another and whose happiness and prosperity are built by trusting and generous relationships. At the deepest level we are not defined by being Christians, Muslims or members of other religious and political groups to which we might belong, but by our membership of the human race. We are invited to live together and to make our differences a source of richness and of wonder, not of conflict. In the diverse world of Jesuit Social Services and those whom we serve this is central to our lives and work.

In reality there are many points of contact. In the Middle East where Christian and Muslim groups both take prayer seriously, the similarities between them can engender conflict or peace making. Churches and mosques have both often been destroyed out of hatred. Buildings that for one group of people are familiar places of nurture, of support and of encouragement are for other groups alien, fearsome and objectionable. They become symbols of division, not of coming together.

Prayer, however, can also help build bridges. The story of Abraham and respect for Jesus and Mary are shared by Jews, Christians and Muslims, as is generosity to the poor and stranger.

The path to healing and reconciliation must begin in praying for one another and for the healing of broken relationships. This can then lead people of different faiths talking together, taking an interest in how others pray and find encouragement in their own prayer. That is the beginning of a deeper sharing.

Andrew Hamilton SJ

SYNODS A TOOL OF REFORM AND CONSENSUS,

While synods may be Pope Francis' major tool for the reform of the Church, according to Sr Nathalie Becquart, he is also using them to gradually build consensus and preserve its unity.

Sr Nathalie was an auditor for last October's Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment, and last May, the Pope named her, along with three other women, as consultors to the Synod's General Secretariat – marking a historic first for the Church.

While in Rome for the final days of the Synod on the Amazon, Sr Nathalie said she saw a strong link between the two synods. "During the synod on the youth, the main topic was a question of...the inculturation of the Gospel in the culture of the youth. And that was also the main topic for the Amazon people," she said.

Further, she said, inculturation necessitates another major aspect of synodality, which is vesting local churches with more decision-making power. "When you speak about inculturation, you speak about decentralisation and that's the main thing also for the reform of the Church nowadays," she added.

Sr Nathalie, who is a member of the Congregation of Xavières, was the first woman to serve as the Director of the National Service for Youth Evangelisation and Vocations in France, a post she completed just before arriving in Rome to participate in last year's synod.

She believes the Church is "now in the main stage for the reception of the synod, and it's a long process". "The synod of bishops is a tool of the reform of the Church. It's a school of conversion, transformation," she said.

She's convinced that synods are an effective means of moving the Church forward, even if cautiously – noting that the Pope has told the consultors to the General Secretariat that he is considering the topic of the next synod to be "synodality" itself.

"The Pope is very aware that his role is to work for communion in the Church," she said. "It's a question about an inclusive church and a synodal church rooted in the theology of the people of God."

RISING NUMBER OF OLDER HOMELESS 'A TIME BOMB'

The number of older women experiencing homelessness in Victoria has risen by 48 per cent since 2013 (Pixabay)

There has been a 37 per cent increase in the number of older people using homelessness services since 2013, according to new research that has prompted calls for a boost to social housing investment. Source: *Pro Bono News*.

A report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said 24,094 people over 55 needed homelessness services in 2018, with 11,963 people seeking support in Victoria alone.

Council to Homeless Persons chief executive Jenny Smith said homelessness among people over 55 was rising faster than any other age group. She said this highlighted that the country's older population were being locked out of the private rental market.

"The rise of homelessness for older people over the last five years is alarming and it's clear that more must be done to address this issue," Ms Smith said. "This problem isn't going away and in fact, it's getting worse."

Ms Smith said she was particularly concerned by the rise of homelessness in older women, which has increased 48 per cent in Victoria since 2013. She noted women were less visible in their homelessness, because they were less likely to be sleeping rough and were more likely to be sleeping in their car or couch surfing.

"This means that it's easier for them to go unnoticed," she said. "Governments have consistently ignored the fact that our rapidly ageing population, combined with the rising costs of rents, is creating a time bomb of older homelessness."

Housing and rental affordability has proven to be a key issue for older Australians, with ABS statistics showing a 42 per cent increase in people over 65 paying unaffordable rents in Australia since 2011.

Anglicare's 2019 Rental Affordability Snapshot found only 0.8 per cent of properties were suitable for a single person on the age pension, compared to 1.24 per cent of homes last year. Ms Smith said the federal government needed to take action on housing to reverse this trend.

SUNRAYSLIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$2013.70	\$223.05	\$280.10
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$1534.00	\$542.00	\$370.75
Loose Plate	\$ 648.75	\$ 31.00	\$ 80.55

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

PARISH NEWS:

Thank you to those who took part last Sunday in the next stage of discernment for the Plenary Council. It may seem a little confusing but all that is asked of you at this stage is to continue to reflect on the reading that your group have chosen and continue to ask the question 'How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is "Inclusive, participatory and synodal" or "A joyful, hope-filled and servant community" or whatever your group has chosen of the six areas that have been suggested to explore. We all need to take part in this Plenary Council to discern what the Spirit is asking of us here in Merbein.

SCHOOL NEWS:

Last Tuesday our school hosted a Sustainability Workshop that included 11 participants from Catholic schools around the Sunraysia area. We shared sustainability practices that take place at our schools and how we could better carry out these practices. We learnt a lot from each other and hope to embed some of these ideas into our own school.

A big thanks to our school leaders Bridget, Rhett, Sebastian, Peter, Wil and Alicia who did an amazing job in speaking to these people about our own sustainability practices at OLSH. We were very proud of you all!

Coming Events:-

- Mission Week 11th - 15th of November.
- Mission Mass Thursday 14th November
- Mission Day 15th November

Preps 2020 Transition Program

The dates for the 2020 Prep students to spend some time at OLSH as part of their transition process are below:

Thursday 7th November 9.00 – 1.30pm (Play lunch & lunch will be required)

Wednesday 4th December 9.00 – 3.25pm (Play lunch & lunch will be required)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Unit 9—Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9.30am, Tues, Thur:5.30pm

CALENDAR

Sunday 3 Nov: Remembrance Day Mass

Sunday 10 Nov: Youth Mass /Christmas craft stall/Raffle/BBQ

Wednesday 13 Nov: Parish Council

Sunday 24 Nov: Feast of Christ the King, and our First Communion Day.

Sunday 8 Dec: End of Year Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass

PARISH WORKING BEE

A heartfelt thanks for those who helped with the Working Bee last Wednesday.

VINNIES' CHRISTMAS TREE

Vinnies' Christmas Tree will be in place on the Sanctuary for the Feast of Christ the King, which is also our First Communion Day. As usual you are asked to take a tag or tags from the Tree, by a good Christmas present for whoever your tag indicates (eg. a girl 7 years old), wrap the present in Christmas wrapping, attach the tag to the present, and bring it with you to Mass on Sunday, December 8, which is both St Joseph's School's End-of-Year Thanksgiving Mass, and our Forgiveness Mass in preparation for Christmas. We bring our Christmas presents to the big Christmas Tree during the Forgiveness Prayers.

LLL & L

Will meet at Carmel Markhams house at 11am for a cuppa and chat on Monday 4th November. All welcome. Please contact Di Eagle 5024 2667 for further information.



YOUTH MASS

A Parish BBQ will be held after our Youth Mass on Sunday 10th November. Please fill in the attendance form in the gathering area of the church.



NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9th & 10th November 2019

First Reading: 7:1-2, 9-14

Responsorial: Ps 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15

Response: Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Thessalonians 2:16—3:5

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

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	Confirmation	Confirmation	Tony Finn	D Knight	K Hawkes M Bell/J Cameron	Elvira Iamarino
Music	Confirmation Sacred Heart School	Confirmation	Lam Duy J Ljubic		Guitar	
Offertory	Confirmation	Confirmation			Lewis Family	Iamarino Family
Altar Servers	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please		GROUP 4 G Strangio	Volunteer Please
Eucharist Ministers	Maria Cirillo	Greg Johnston	Wendy Finn	P Riordan	P Hunt	Kay Wagner
	Christine Carmichael	Gina Raiti	Tony Finn		C Markham	Natalie Besgrove
	Jacinda Deacon	Anna Vartuli	Bill Dolence	OASIS AGED CARE	M Matotek	LAY-LED LEADERS 24th November
	Katy Quinlan	Sara Visona	Jacqui Willis	M Jensen	CUPPA'S	Vernon Knight Elvira Iamarino
	Vince Pileggi	Juliet Crresp	Barbara Bunting			CHAFFEY AGED CARE
	Volunteer Please	Louise Belej	Volunteer Pleas	LAY LITURGY LEADERS	FLOWERS S Cufari	Sr Camel Setford
Counting Team	TEAM 1	GERRY LAVERY 5021 1918			G Brizzi / CRusso	As per arrangement
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement				Volunteers	As per arrangement