



Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

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parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

Fr Peter Jose CMI

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull**

**St. Francis Xavier
Elms Street, Irymple**

The Epiphany of the Lord / Year C - 2nd & 3rd January 2016

Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 6:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 am, 5:00 pm

Irymple: 8:30 am

Werrimull 11:00 am (last Sunday of each month)



Weekday Masses

*If there is a Funeral Mass on Wed,
Thurs, the advertised Mass will be
cancelled.*

Tues: 7:00 pm Wed: 9:10 am

Thurs: 9:30 am Fri: 5:40 pm

Sat: 9:30 am

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

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

Scripture Reading: Thurs 10:30 am - 20 Beasy Court

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Parish Prayer Room

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am

RECENT DEATH:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm: Carmela Cavallaro, Vito Eufemia (one year anniversary), Alessandro Piscioneri

Sunday 5pm: Bob McKenzie

Thursday 9.30am: Enzo Mazza

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you want a sick person prayed for, ask for their permission. Please let us know when to take their name off the list.

Joan Appleby, Ron Morello, Monica Crimmins, Daniel Ralli, Dan Rodan, John Devilee, Ethan Neyland, Georgie Manning, Dorothy Norris, Eileen Flanner, Fr Denis Dennehy, Eli Mad-den-Andrews, Kel Townsend, Vince Alicastro, Bishop Ron Mulkearns, Betty Krake, Sid Robinson

GOSPEL REFLECTION

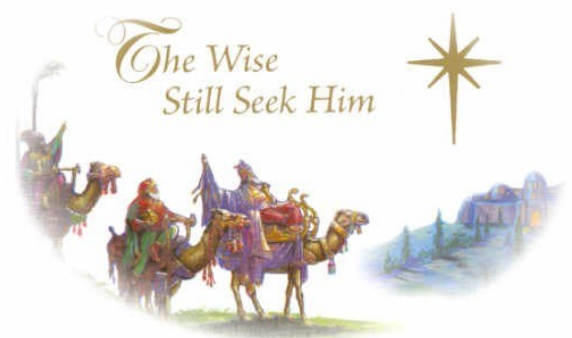
God's presence is revealed to us in diverse ways: we can read the "story" of God's universe; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can listen to

the voice of our sacred scriptures. Such learning has nothing to do with naïve dependence on our own judgment or on the judgement of others. It has more to do with a way of being in the world that involves openness to the unexpected and a critical and careful communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves.

Epiphany is the feast of the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem attracts the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews" who turns to the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures for information on the birthplace of the Messiah. They follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem, to the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named in the text as Emmanuel, God-with-us. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings, of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise in a dream the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born king of the Jews. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with people of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

- Veronica Lawson rsm



SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY

1st EUCHARIST 2016

1st Eucharist will be celebrated with children in Grade 4 in 2016. **Important Program Dates are as follows:**

Parent Information Evening Monday 8th February 6:00pm – 6:30pm Sacred Heart Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Friday 4th March 7:30pm Sacred Heart Church

Parent Formation Evenings – Wed April 27th & Wed May 4th Sacred Heart Church

1st Eucharist – 28th/29th May 4th/5th June

Program Booklets are available at the Parish Office, Tuesday – Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm



Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

THE SEASON OF LENT 2016

Ash Wednesday 10th February

First Sunday 14th February

Second Sunday 21st February

Third Sunday 28th February

Fourth Sunday 6th March

Fifth Sunday 13th March

Palm Sunday 20th March



LENTEN GROUPS FOR 2016

If anyone who is willing to lead a Reflection Group during Lent please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872 before 22nd January so that books can be ordered.

PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$4516.00
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$2595.00
Loose Plate	\$ 494.50
Bishops Collection	\$2838.05

COMMUNITY LIFE & OUTREACH

A farewell cuppa for Fr Peter will be held after all Masses on the weekend of January 9th & 10th. Any donations towards a farewell gift can be left with Carmel at the Parish Office.

MISERICORDIAE

VULTUS - THE FACE OF MERCY

In his announcement about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis declared that "no-one can be excluded from the mercy of God."

He went on to say that the Church was "the house

where everyone is welcomed and no-one is rejected. Her doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace may find the assurance of forgiveness."

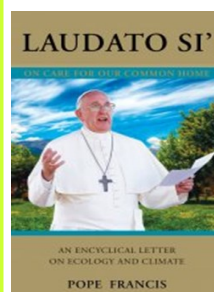
In coming weeks, we will share extracts from the document *Misericordiae Vultus* (it translates from the Latin as "The Face of Mercy"). This "bull of indiction" focuses on the theme for the Jubilee Year, namely "Merciful Like the Father". In it, Pope Francis reminds that we are each called to a journey of "spiritual conversion".

"The greater the sin, the greater the love that must be shown by the Church to those who repent," the Pope said in his announcement.

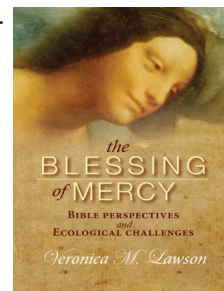


COPIES FOR SALE

The Parish Office has for sale copies of Sr Veronica Lawson's book—'The Blessing of Mercy—Bible Perspectives and Ecological Challenges' at \$12.00



each and Pope Francis—*Laudato Si'* - on Care for our Common Home. An encyclical letter on Ecology and Climate for \$14 each.



YOUTH

YOUTH GATHERING

Halls Gap, April 4th—7th, 2016

For young people aged 16 and over.

More information to follow

GOSPEL STORIES OF THE SECURITY STATE

Andrew Hamilton

The images accompanying the news stories at Christmas always seem discordant with those of the Christmas stories.



This year the dissonance is particularly striking. The riot shields and special forces in Paris, the wall dwarfing Bethlehem, the bombers preying on Syria, the electronic surveillance everywhere, all suggest a dystopian world of mistrust and fear.

The Christmas stories of the birth of a child in the fields speak of hope and trust; the angels sing of peace and harmony.

Of course the pastel coloured domesticity of the images of Jesus' birth does not do justice to its context. Herod's sending out first his spies to find where the Messiah was to be born, and then his soldiers to eradicate the threat the child posed to national security, may not appear on Christmas cards, but they frame the story of Jesus' birth.

The disjunction between the tenderness of the Christmas stories and the brutality of their public context is mirrored in the conflict between the humane values of the Gospel and the harsh instrumental values of the public world in any age. The spirit of Christ's birth and the spirit of Herod's security sweep continue to coexist.

A small but telling example of this dissonance was a decision by the Australian Border Force. It banned the longstanding practice by which the Brigidine Sisters took children held in a Melbourne Detention Centre out on picnics. These outings have been much enjoyed by children, whose mental health is seriously at risk through detention. They can enjoy the smells and sights of animals at the children's farm and taste a world unconfined by fences. One of the sisters involved explained, 'It is essential to give these kids some normality away from people who are scared, anxious and depressed all the time.' As one might expect in events organised by sisters with a life-time's experience in teaching, the outings have been entirely safe. They embody the humane spirit of the Christmas stories.

The response of the Australian Border Force ignored the children and emphasised the demands of security. These outings, a spokesperson said, were not 'appropriate' to the security of detainees and staff, and offered only limited supervision.

But, we were assured, the officers would offer excursions. How children would find normality in excursions in which the guards were focused on providing unlimited security was not explained. To the cynical outsider it all sounded like Herod sending out his soldiers after the security cull to organise a picnic for the mothers and surviving children of Bethlehem.

At one level this was a standard story of any bureaucracy enjoying impunity. But more deeply it suggests why the Gospel stories are deeply subversive of state priorities. They take it for granted that Herods will exist with the over-riding passion for security at all costs, and that we need to live with their unbridled power and lack of respect for humanity.

But they urge us not to take the Herods of our world seriously. We are rather to respond to the simple humanity of children and adults.

The overarching story which frames the stories of Jesus' birth make clear the reasons for disdaining security as a controlling human value. It describes a Son of God who entered our world and shared our life as a vulnerable child, dependent on the vicissitudes of health, climate and supportive adults.

He offered a vision of human life that challenged the illusory security offered by inherited traditions and overwhelming force, and sought the company of people who lacked secure reputation and resources.

He died as he lived — unarmoured, uncompliant and trusting. He was caught in a successful security operation that had him discredited, tortured and put into a grave with a rock to seal its entrance and guarded by soldiers to ensure he stayed down. And, of course, trust and passionate life proved stronger than the best planned security measures. The stories tell how God rates security.

This Christmas, as so often in his short time as Pope, Francis has embodied the Gospel priorities in simple ways. On his journey to the people of war-torn Congo, undertaken despite warnings of its insecurity, he joked that if the pilot of his plane thought it too dangerous to land he could send the Pope down by parachute.

As an image of what Christmas is about, that beats Santa Claus gliding down on his sled.

Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.

JOKE

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the priest was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands.

He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Priest said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Priest questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."



Our Parish Vision
***“Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community united by
 our faith in Jesus Christ.
 We work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to
 spread the good news of God’s
 Kingdom.”***



Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Primary School
Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204

St Paul’s Primary School
Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

St Joseph’s Secondary College
Principal: Anthony Banks 5018 8000

2nd & 3rd January, 2016			9th & 10th January, 2016		
THIS WEEK’S READINGS			NEXT WEEK’S READINGS		
First Reading: Isa 60:1-6 Resp Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-13 Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Gospel: Mt 2:1-12			First Reading: Isa 40:1-5, 9-11 Resp Psalm: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1 Response: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Second Reading: Tit 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Gospel: Lk 3:15-16, 21-22		
EUCCHARIST MINISTERS			EUCCHARIST MINISTERS		
SATURDAY	SUNDAY		SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6PM	9AM	5PM	6PM	9AM	5PM
6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required	6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required
Trish McNamara	Lyn Welsh	Paula Cox	Anthony Henderson	Rose Op’t Hoog	Bill Dolence
Morris Henderson	Sheryl Pettinau	Jennifer Boord	Christine Carmichael	Rini Op’t Hoog	Jacqui Willis
Ellen Frauenfelder	Giuseppe Scopacasa	Reni Cheriyan	Margaret McDonald	Cora Howell	Barbara Bunting
Maria Cirillo	Maria Scopacasa	Wendy Finn	Anita Naray	Narie Lewis	Sasha Banks
Anne-Maree Greville	Susan Lewis	Tony Finn	Leo Kearney	Renata Byra	Katrina Groves
Volunteer Please	Minda Wright	Melanie Ransome	Margaret Sheahan	Sonia Opie	Judy Hall
	Johanna Bagacay			Phillip Opie	
MUSIC			MUSIC		
Singing Group	Italian Choir	M Hammond	Filipino Group	Sacred Heart Group	Youth Group
M Sullivan	N Armsden	J Ljubic	N Armsden	Leader	Leader
		J Macri		M Fainga’anuku	K Mafi
ALTAR SERVERS			ALTAR SERVERS		
2 Servers required	2 Servers required	2 Servers required	2 Servers required	2 Servers required	2 Servers required
Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer
OFFERTORY PROCESSION			OFFERTORY PROCESSION		
2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
	Mary Gobbo	Joy Movell	Baptism	Baptism	
READERS			READERS		
Anita Naray	Lyn Welsh	Greg Johnson	Katy Quinlan	Peter Maloney	Clare Sheahan
COUNTING TEAM 10			COUNTING TEAM 1		
BRIAN GROGAN 5021 2099			GERRY LAVERY 5021 1918		
IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM			IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM		
READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER		READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER	
Margaret Hill	Ken Knight		Kath Modoo	Di John	