

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872
Parish Mobile : 0417 862 082
257 Eleventh Street Mildura
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 50

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew

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*

3rd Sunday of Advent / Year C 11th & 12th December 2021

RECENT DEATHS

Ron Davidson

Mildura

Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm: Vincenzo & Caterina Monteleone, Leo & Giuseppe Monteleone, Peppina Timpano

Sunday 9am: Angelina Okechekwu

Sunday 5pm: Leo & Antoinetta De Maria

Tuesday 6pm: Nick Mazza

Thursday 9.30am: Milton Lowe

Red Cliffs

Anniversaries:

Merbein

Anniversaries:

Tony Demasi, Jacob Nemtsas, Regina Dolenec, Sid Wells, Winifred Deed, Rocco Di Mase

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

Please note that if you have booked a memorial mass you are reminded to speak to the priest prior to the mass to let him know you are there.

Christmas Masses 2021

Christmas Eve

6pm Mildura

6pm Werrimull

8pm Merbein

8pm Red Cliffs

10pm Mildura

12am Midnight Mildura

Christmas Day

8.30am Irymple

9am Mildura

We will look at having Christmas Carols half an hour before at each mass

Message from our Parish Priest

The candle of Joy is lit this weekend reminding of the joy filled events in our lives there is so much still to be joyful for. What am I Joyful for? Who am I joyful for?

We have now come to the end of the year dedicated to St Joseph, I hope that this year allowed all of us to have better understanding and relationship with St Joseph.

As all the schools commence holidays this week we wish all our school staff and families every blessing for Christmas break. Looking forward to seeing you in 2022.

Next weekend we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the blessing and dedication of the original brick church here in Mildura. It is nice to be able to celebrate this on the actual date. We will have a cup of tea after each mass.

God bless you all.
Fr Matthew Thomas

Anointing Mass

This week an Anointing Mass will be held at the following churches:

Tuesday 14th December 9.30am: Red Cliffs

Wednesday 15th December 9.30am: Mildura

Thursday 16th December 9.30am: Merbein



The 3rd Sunday of Advent

Symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

Remember abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- Use the QR Check in App when entering church
- Use the hand sanitizer
- If you are feeling unwell please stay home

LOCAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

December Meetings 2021

Monday 13 Dec: KSC meeting 7.30pm at the Clubrooms.

Tuesday 14 Dec: Princes Court Aged Care Mass 10am.

Tuesday 14 Dec: Sacred Heart Parish Council meeting after 6pm Mass, in the Monaghan Centre.

Wednesday 15 Dec: Oasis Aged Care Service 10.30am.

Thursday 16 Dec: Regis Ontario Aged Care Service 2pm.

Sunday 19 Dec: Merbein Parish Council after 10.30am mass.

Tuesday 21 Dec: BUPA Aged Care Service 10.30am.

Wednesday 22 Dec: Baptism Preparation evening 7.30pm in the Monaghan Centre.



Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community — **Amari Maiorana, Luca Blagus, Gareth Jenner, Eilish Fishwick and Lucas Smith** whose baptism occurs

this weekend.

Weddings

We congratulate **Arnold Alim & Shirly Ah Soon** and **Ralph Mislant & Tessa Flett** who were married this weekend.



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund".

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Mark Gibson 5023 1204

St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258

St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Naomi Kennedy 5024 1654

St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura

Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Sacred Heart Mildura

Scripture Group: Thursday 3:00pm – Monaghan Centre

Devotions and Exposition: Friday 4:00pm

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

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Monaghan Centre



Topic: God & His Church

Thursday 16th December, 7pm in the Monaghan Centre.

(Final session for 2021 meetings resume 3 February 2022.)



Trading Stalls

Mildura & Red Cliffs 12th December

This Sunday, a Cuppa and Trading stalls will be held in Mildura after the 9am Mass & Red Cliffs after the 10am Mass.

Seeking donations of produce: fruit, vegetables, plants, seedlings, **conserves:** jams, chutneys, relish, **baked goods:** cakes, biscuits, slices, bread etc. If these can be brought in on the day of the stall it would be appreciated

Proceeds from the Mildura Trading Stall goes to The Shared Table and proceeds from the Red Cliffs Trading Stall this month will go to St Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Gardening Working Bee Red Cliffs Church

Will be held on Monday 13th December from 8am. If you can help please bring along leaf rakes, wheelbarrows, hand mowers & long and short secateurs.



St Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2021

As there will be no Vinnies Christmas Tree with gift tags this year, Vinnies Christmas Appeal Envelopes will be left at **all** church entrances.

Communal Celebration of Reconciliation Wednesday 22nd December 6pm

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



Ordination to the Diaconate

Last Friday, Seminarians Matthew Restall and William (Bill) Lowry were ordained Deacons at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Bill over the last two years had spent time in our Parish.

This is a joyful occasion for the whole Diocese - our first ordinations in 8 years. We pray for Matt and Bill as they prepare to serve God's Church.

Piety Stall

Sacred Heart Parish Office has 2022 Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards for sale.

St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs—Piety stall is opened Sunday's after the 10am Mass with a great range of Christmas gift ideas, cards and 2022 Columban Calendars.



Sacred Heart Church Nativity Play Christmas Eve 2021

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The first practice session is on Tuesday, **December 14th at 5pm** and the second will be a dress rehearsal on Tuesday, **December 21st at 5pm**. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

LOCAL NEWS

WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	6PM	9.30AM	
WEDNESDAY	9.:30AM		
THURSDAY	9:30AM	5:30PM	NO MASS
FRIDAY	6PM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9:00AM	10AM	10:30AM
		5PM		
WERRIMULL	11:00AM (5TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)			

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: Rosemary Byrne, Nancy Panuccio,

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: Barry Crosbie

SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 878.50	\$101.90	\$145.90
2 nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$3141.25	\$177.50	\$283.00
Loose Plate	\$ 490.10	\$ 76.50	\$ 29.05



ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 11th & 12th December 2021

Next weekend - 18th & 19th December 2021

Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Gary Huxtable
 Sunday 9am: Peter Issanchon
 Sunday 5pm: St Paul's Graduation Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: 3

Saturday 6pm: M Cirillo, J Deacon, V Pileggi
 Sunday 9am: G Johnston, J Cresp, G Raiti
 Sunday 5pm: S Hermans, N Kennedy, M Irvin

Music: Sat 6pm: M Sullivan, J Macri
 Sun 9am: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon
 Sun 5pm: St Paul's Graduation Mass

Counting Team: Team 10 — W Carmichael

Irymple

Reader: G McCracken

Merbein

Reader: K Wagner
Offertory: K Wagner & K McCarthy

Red Cliffs

Readers: M Duck, M Monteleone

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: Cameron Family

Altar Servers: Group 6

Eucharistic Minister: B Pitt

Church Cleaning: M Dominelli, A Duck, J Njegovan

Flowers: J Cameron



Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am

Mildura

Readers: Saturday 6pm: K Quinlan
 Sunday 9am: Peter Maloney
 Sunday 5pm: Peter Hammond

Eucharistic Ministers: 3

Saturday 6pm: A Greville, T Fatai, A Naray
 Sunday 9am: E Garreffa, S Lewis, M Wight
 Sunday 5pm: M Zema, J Zema, T Cirillo

Music: Sat 6pm: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon
 Sun 9am: Tongan Choir, M Guthrie
 Sun 5pm: S Fatai, K Mapapalangi, L Duy

Counting Team: Team 1—G Lavery

Irymple

Reader: M Duck

Merbein

Reader: F Cox
Offertory: Dannatt Family

Red Cliffs

Readers: P Hunt, J Vines

Music: Guitar

Offertory Procession: C Cavallaro

Altar Servers: School Holidays

Eucharistic Minister: J Strangio

Church Cleaning: Volunteers

Flowers: J Cameron



Next Weekends Readings: — 4th Sunday of Advent Year C —18th & 19th December 2021

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44



First Reading

Zep 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is
the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

Second Reading

Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your toler-
ance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.
There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you
need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and
thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so
much greater than we can understand, will guard
your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.



Gospel Acclamation

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?'
he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must
share with the man who has none, and the one with
something to eat must do the same.' There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said
to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them,
'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked
him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'
He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the peo-
ple, who were beginning to think that John might be
the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I bap-
tise you with water, but someone is coming, some-
one who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit
to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in
his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the
wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire
that will never go out.' As well as this, there were
many other things he said to exhort the people and to
announce the Good News to them.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate
Gaudete Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy.
According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf.
Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emo-
tional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's
response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for
joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies
and because God is in the midst of the people. The
psalm response proclaims the same message; the
reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is
near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are
anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but
because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The
readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us,
not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the
saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care
and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We re-
joice in the peace of God that surpasses all understand-
ing. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who
has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of
birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that
the presence of God in our midst can so transform our
lives that the promises of peace and security will be ful-
filled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension be-
tween already and not yet.

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