

# 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 50

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: Danny Robarts (brother of Chris Robarts)

#### Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm: Nick Mazza, Vincenzo, Caterina, Francesco & Leo Monteleone

Sunday 9am: Tony, Rosa & Francesco Modica, Angelia Gilardi (one year anniversary)

Tuesday 6pm: Ilario Vallelonga (30 day Mass) Domenico, Teresa & Vincenzo Vallelonga, Giuseppe Roccisano & Mario Di Giorgi (3+nephew of Ilario)

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Tom Daly

### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: December 15<sup>th</sup> Jacob Nemtsas, Regina Dolenc; 17<sup>th</sup> Sid Wells; 18<sup>th</sup> Winifred Deed, Rocco Di Mase; 19<sup>th</sup> Frank Fox; Vincenzino & Angela Taglierini; 20<sup>th</sup> Mark Seppings; 21<sup>st</sup> Brian Deed.

*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

## 3rd Sunday of Advent / Year A 14th & 15th December 2019

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called *Gaudete* (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "*the desert shall rejoice and bloom ...*" (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.



**DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?**

*Matthew 11:2-11*

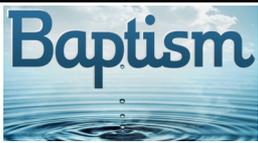
Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

## SACRED HEART CHURCH

**9.30am Mass Saturday 21st December is cancelled due to the working bee.**

# Sacred Heart Mildura

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy



### BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Jacob Mailes** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

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

## Community Life & Outreach

### BUPA AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 17th December at 10.30am

### BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENING

To be held on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm.

### 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

**Tasks to be completed:-** Cleaning/dusting of pews; dusting of all statues, Stations of the Cross and windows; cleaning out of the Counting Room and choir loft; door fonts to be cleaned. Please bring your own bucket, cleaning rags and if need be rubber gloves

You can help for as long as you can. Many hands will make for light work.

**Sausage sizzle will be provided.**  
If you can help out please contact Parish Office 5021 2872



### NATIVITY PLAY—CHRISTMAS EVE 2019

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The first practice session will be held on Wednesday 18th December at 4.30pm and the second practice session which will be a dress rehearsal will be held on Monday 23rd December at 4pm. For further information please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 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

Many thanks from all the members of the Sacred Heart Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society for the generosity of Parishioners of Sacred Heart Mildura, the Knights of the Southern Cross, Staff and Students at St Joseph's College, Sacred Heart Primary School and the Mildura Weekly (Can Appeal). Because of the marvellous response we will be assisting 200 families from Mildura and drought affected farmers in the Millewa/Carwarp area. As well as food assistance for the families many children will be receiving the wonderful toys that have been so generously donated. We could not do this important work without your help.

### PLANNED GIVING

If you have Planned Giving envelopes numbered 146 please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 as soon as possible.

## 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:** Sr. Grace, Marin Rogers, Frank Chandler, Mary Avery

**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 SUNRAYSIA

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



**MERBEIN SOUTH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held at the Community Hall Recreation Ground on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Lord, come and save us.**

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL  
PERTH 2019**

An enthusiastic group of young people from our parish and St Joseph's College have just returned from Perth where we gathered with some 5500 other young people from around Australia for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. It was a terrific and grace-filled opportunity. Many, many thanks to Paula Cox for her great efforts in organising and leading the pilgrimage, as well as Matthew Mandica and Bill Lowry for joining us in support. We must also thank our many supporters who helped us on our way. To the Knights of the Southern Cross, to the Sisters of Mercy, to the Catholic Education Office of Ballarat, to Marg Blythman and the whole St Joseph's

College Community, to Fr Mick and the whole Parish, our heartfelt thanks. Lastly, thanks must also go to the young people who were generous and courageous enough to take the leap and join us. So to Jack, Khadeja, Soane, Aleksio, Frances, Maya and Dominic, thank you! We are already planning a follow up experience here in Mildura early next year. We will keep you posted

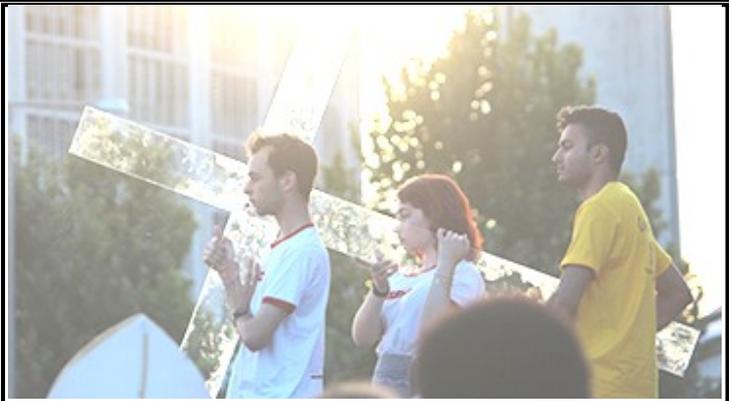
Fr James

**FROM THE MEDIA RELEASE AFTER THE  
CLOSING MASS**

Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB has encouraged thousands of young Catholics to leave the 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival ready to open their hearts and lives to Jesus. An open-air Mass at Trinity College in East Perth was the culmination of the three-day Festival, which attracted 5500 young people from across the country. It was the largest Catholic event ever held in Western Australia. In his homily at the Mass, which also drew members of the wider Perth Catholic community, Archbishop Costelloe reflected on the number of questions Jesus asks – and is asked – in the Gospels. In particular, he reflected on the question from someone introduced in the Bible as a rich young man. In the Gospels, the man asks Jesus: “Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Archbishop Costelloe reminded pilgrims that the young man could respond affirmatively to the requirement of having obeyed the commandments, but was more challenged by Jesus’ invitation to “sell all you own and give the money to the poor and then come and follow me”. “What a challenge this young man is presented with. What an opportunity for generosity and for heroism,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

“But then comes what I think is one of the saddest sentences in the Gospels: ‘When the young man heard these words, he turned away and went away sad because he was a person of great wealth’.” While the rest of the man’s story is not told in the Gospels, Archbishop Costelloe said the question is one all Christians are called to consider and pray about. “There are so many answers to the question ‘Lord what must I do?’ The answer Jesus gives to you will depend on your own personal circumstances and also on what it is that you are holding close to your heart, but which is preventing you from being the person God has created you to be,”

Archbishop Costelloe said. “The key line in the story, of course, in the answer Jesus gives to the rich young man is this – and it will be the key line in whatever answer Jesus gives to you: ‘Come and follow me’. So don’t walk away



sad from the opportunity Jesus holds out to you for an heroic life. “Don’t walk away sad from the chance to make your life a wonderful gift to others. Don’t walk away sad from the chance to live your life to the full just as God intended you to when he called you into existence. “Don’t walk away sad from Jesus: he is our Way, he is our Truth, he is our Life. He is alive, he is here with us, he’s calling to each one of us. So tonight, take the chance, take your courage in both hands, and open your hearts and your lives to him.”

**TO GIVE AWAY**

Westinghouse 600mm wide—stainless steel 4 burner oven and hotplate (gas bottle) and grill (electric). For further information please contact Larry Circosta on 5023 4485.

**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

**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**

**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 (DSCI) 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](http://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.

**SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE**

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1919.95	\$100.00	\$317.05
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$2861.00	\$208.00	\$333.60
Loose Plate	\$ 662.75	\$ 13.65	\$130.55

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

## PARISH NEWS

**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 Sr. Carmel (0429149943) 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 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) at, 7.30pm, at the Merbein Catholic Church. The usual 10.30 Mass will take place on Christmas Day.  
Thought for the week : *"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often"*.

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

## SCHOOL NEWS:

On Thursday night we enjoyed a fantastic evening of entertainment at our school concert! Thank you to all of you who came along to support your children and to those who bought raffle tickets before and on the night. We raised around \$4000.00 for the school! Below are the winners of our first three prizes:

1. Flight Centre voucher: Robin Gebert
2. Fuel Vouchers: Hayden Gourlay
3. City Heart Voucher: Lana Copley

Thank you again to all families who have brought along a gift for our Giving Tree. On Friday at assembly, the students will present these gifts to members of the Merbein branch of St. Vincent de Paul. These will then be distributed to those in need. Well done to all of our OLSH students who got behind this initiative.



## The 3rd Sunday of Advent

Symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candles reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

## WEEKDAY MASSES

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

## CALENDAR

**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.

## SETTING UP OUR CRIB

Help is needed getting our crib figures down from their storage place in the loft, and setting the crib up. A reminder that the Bambino, and also the 3 Kings, go onto the big bench in the back sacristy, awaiting respectively Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany.

## CHRISTMAS MASS

Our Christmas Mass at St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs is at 8.00 pm December 24, Christmas Eve. It is preceded by Carols, commencing at 7.30 pm.

## WORKING BEE

Organised for Saturday 21st December from 8.30am in readiness for our Christmas Eve Mass. It would be fantastic if 10 volunteers or more are able to help out with a clean and tidying of the inside of the church: statues to be dusted, stations of the cross to be dusted, pews, altar and floors . Please bring your own bucket, rags. Many hands make light work.



## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS 4th Sunday of Advent 21st & 22nd December 2019

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14**

**Responsorial: Ps 23:1-6**

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7**

**Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24**



	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
<b>Leader / Reader</b>		Anita Naray	Cathy/Paul McErvale	Barb Bunting	P Riordan	J Cameron J Vines / M Slater	Bernadette Wells
<b>Music</b>		M Guthrie All welcome	Singing Group M Sullivan	M Hammond J Macri / J Ljubic		Tongan Choir	
<b>Offertory</b>			Baptism			M Bell	Besgrove Family
<b>Altar Servers</b>		Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please		<b>GROUP 4</b> J Monteleone	Volunteer Please
<b>Eucharist Ministers</b>		Maria Cirillo	Elina Garreffa	Mario Zema	W Smith	M Dominelli	Volunteer Please
		Christine Carmichael	Maryanne Modica	Josie Zema		D Eagle	
		Jacinda Deacon	Lyn Welsh	Bernadette Avery	<b>OASIS AGED CARE</b>	T Gardiner	<b>LAY-LED LEADERS</b> December 29th
		Katy Quinlan	Giuseppe Scopacasa	Trish Cirillo	M Jensen	<b>CUPPA'S</b>	
		Vince Pileggi	Maria Scopacasa	Jeena Jose			Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
		Volunteer please	Susan Lewis	Christine Slattery	<b>LAY LITURGY LEADERS</b>		<b>CHAFFEY AGED CARE</b>
		Minda Wright			<b>FLOWERS</b> J Cameron	Kay Wagner Val McCarthy	
<b>Counting Team</b>	<b>TEAM 7</b>	<b>HELEN KAY 0429 135 053</b>				<b>B Gardner/S Williams</b>	As per arrangement
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	As per arrangement					<b>Volunteers</b>	As per arrangement