

Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
 257 Eleventh Street Mildura
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 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	
SATURAY	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: Maria-Lucia Fenu, Joan Hickey (Qld), Jean Baker (Ouyen)

(30 day Mass for Maria Grazia Pagano will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 5pm)

ANNIVERSARIES: Jacob Nemtsas

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am:

Sunday 5pm:

Tuesday 6pm:

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: Kerry O'Connor

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Dec. 17th Sid Wells; 18th Winifred Deed, 19th Frank Fox, Vincenzo & Angela Taglierini. Jacob Nemtsas

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

3rd Sunday of Advent / Year C 15th & 16th December 2018

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. This invitation is certainly present in the first two readings: God is in our midst, renewing us in love (Zephaniah) and there is no need for worry (Philippians). It is also implicit in the gospel reading from Luke with its sense of expectancy and John the Baptist's announcement of the "Good News" of the one who is to come.

There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John is asked, "What must we do?" In line with Luke's emphasis on the universality of God's saving power, the responses are directed to "all the people". Those with even minimal food (something to eat) and clothing (two tunics) are told to share. Tax agents, caught up in a system notoriously open to abuse, are to be honest. Soldiers are given three directives that provide some insight into the way the military was perceived: no extortion, no blackmail, and no complaints about wages. The third directive probably derives from the fact that soldiers were better off financially than most others. It is in no sense a prohibition on demands for just wages.

John situates himself in relation to Jesus, the anointed agent of God's liberation. John's portrait presents someone more fiery than the Lukan Jesus turns out to be. It is more like a self-portrait, especially in light of the context that has John addressing the crowds who flock to him as a "brood of vipers" or "children of snakes" (Luke 3:7). In contrast with John's water-baptism "for the forgiveness of sins", Jesus will "baptise" with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire, as we well know in this dry land of ours, is a challenging symbol, 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 know our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by doing what we must: sharing our goods, treating others with dignity, justice and forgiveness as well as responding to the cry of the earth. The question "What then must we do?" is one that we might ask ourselves each day in the face of a changing world order.

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

WHAT MUST WE DO?



Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS



Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

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.

Wally Kedmenec, Sandra McCarthy, Jean Lanigan, Mick Joslyn, Albis Dy, Jill Antonie, Brian Ramsey, Graeme Lewis, Vince Alicaastro, Fr Denis Dennehy, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

Sacramental Life & Liturgy

ADVENT

An Advent Thought - Generosity of spirit

John's words to the crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers are about adopting a spirit of generosity and a generosity of spirit. A generosity of spirit can be expressed simply in the attitude with which we approach other people: a positive, hope-filled and generous attitude will often turn around a potentially negative situation. As we approach the Christmas season, there is a need for practical actions of generosity as well. Those in need can approach Christmas with dread rather than joyful expectation. It can be the hardest time of year for struggling families.

Acts of generosity can make all the difference.

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



NATIVITY PLAY—CHRISTMAS EVE 2018

All children are invited to attend and be part of our annual and traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The first practice session is on Friday, December 14th at 4pm and the second will be a dress rehearsal on Thursday, December 20th at 6pm, both in the Sacred Heart Church. Please contact Lisa Caminiti 0413990288 or Kathy Venneri 0428774449 for more details.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIME THIS TUESDAY to 9.15am in the Monaghan Centre and 1pm: Sacred Heart Primary School—Graduation and End of Year Mass.

Community Life & Outreach

BUPA AGED CARE MASS

Anointing Mass—Tuesday 18th December 10.30am.

CHAFFEY AGED CARE PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday 19th December 10am. All welcome.

BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENING

Wednesday 19th December 7.30pm—Monaghan Centre.

ROSTERS—MONEY COUNTERS

New Rosters are now available. If you haven't received your copy either by email or post 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

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 4PM ON FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2018 AND REOPEN ON WEDNESDAY 2ND JANUARY 2019 ALL CALLS & ENQUIRIES TO PRESBYTERY 5022 9959

MILDURA & REGION CHRISTMAS MASSES 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00pm Werrimull
6:00pm Mildura
7:30pm Merbein
7:30pm Carols Red Cliffs
8:00pm Mass Red Cliffs
8:00pm Mildura
12 Midnight Mildura

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am Irymple
9:00am Ouyen
9:00am Mildura
10:30am Merbein

NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am Mildura



ADVENT COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS

Tuesday 18th December—6pm
Sacred Heart Church

Advent Reconciliation Service!

Prepare for the Christmas Season by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent!

Times for individual confession before Christmas

Thursday 20th December 5:30 – 6:00pm
Friday 21st December 6:00 – 6:30pm
Saturday 22nd December 10:00 - 10.30am
(Sacred Heart Church)

STEWARDSHIP—PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

Receipts for the first quarter of Planned Giving from 2/9/2018 to 30/11/2018 are now available for the Parishes of Merbein, Mildura and Red Cliffs.

If there are any discrepancies or concerns please contact Carmel at the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.

MILDURA PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1394.40
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$3130.80
Loose Plate	\$ 651.25
Monaghan Centre	\$ 120.00

Sacred Heart Parish—Finance Meeting—Tuesday 18th December 7am.

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



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.

Jean Lanigan, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Raymondo Chan, Albis, Roman & Joe Dy, Graeme Lewis, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Joe Cufari, Maurice O' Connor, Joe Mammone



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.

Martin Rogers, Anne-Maree Whitechurch, Kit Coogan, Maria Pyatt, Ted Verryt, Frank Chandler, Fr Frank Smith CSSR

NO CHANGES TO THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES

Sunday Dec 16: 3rd Sunday of Advent– Year C

CHRISTMAS SINGING PRACTICE

Straight after Mass on Sunday December 23rd.



CHRISTMAS IN RED CLIFFS

Carols 7.30 pm Christmas Eve. Mass at 8.00 pm. Christmas morning mass at Irymple at 8.30 am.

LAY MINISTERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASS.

We need 11. So, far, 6 have signed up. We need 5 more.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RED CLIFFS 2019

We need to start organising soon for next year's preparation for Confirmation, First Confession & First Communion. If you know of any Catholic children in State Schools who are in grade 4 or above, and have not yet received these Sacraments, please ask them to get in touch with Fr Pat Flanagan Ph. 5024-1966.

ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Readings

Introduction to Mass: Natalizia Tassone
First Reading: Margaret Bell
Second Reading: Lou Grivec
Prayer of the Faithful: Gabrielle Spataro

Servers

Thurible: Ella Briggs & Katie Hawkes
Book: Liam Dowling
Cross: Rustyn McCarthy
Candles: Aidan Ban & Sebastian Morello
Ringling the Bells: Gabrielle, Abby, Megan, Isabella & all other servers who are present

Offertory Procession: Hilda & Sylvia

Giving Communion

Plates: Bay 1. Tom Dowling 2. Tomas Hawkes 3. Carmel Russo 4. Flagg 5. Maryanna Cavallaro 6. Naomi Morello
Cups: Bay 1. Sylvia Orr 2. Janene Cameron 3. Patricia Hill 4. Maryanne Matotek 5. Carmel Markham 6. Chen Cavallaro
A reminder that Bay 1 is the Bay nearest to the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary.



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.

RED CLIFFS PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$341.40
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$447.00
Loose Plate	\$125.45

PARISH COUNCIL

The end of year 'thank you' lunch will be held on Sunday 16th December (today) at the Merbein Club. Parish Council members are warmly invited to attend.

PLENARY COUNCIL – Parish/School Gathering

Please keep February 14th 2019 free to attend this important event. This date was chosen purposely to coincide with the annual school Information Evening on which new families are welcomed and introduced to the school community which next year will include the whole parish community. Our school is a **Parish Primary School** and many of our parishioners attended that school but over the years have lost touch with the school community. This evening will be an opportunity to re-establish connections with our school and to meet the teachers, parents and students and enjoy a meal together and so help to build our Parish Family.

SCHOOL NEWS.

The end of school year for student is on Friday 14th December and a week later for the staff. We thank the school community for their cooperation and participation in the Parish over the past year and wish them all a blessed and peace - filled Christmas and a restful and safe holiday.

Results of the major school Christmas raffle will be in this column next week.

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

In a documentary released last week, Pope Francis said, *"If you asked me who is the poorest of the poorest of the poor, I would tell you 'Mother Earth.'"* Few gifts match a mother's sheltering care. May 21 was the first feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, a new annual saint's day instituted under the guidance of Pope Francis. On May 24, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Help of Christians. As we seek to emulate Mary in caring for those who are most innocent, let us remember the poor and the young, who suffer the consequences of environmental degradation.

COMMUNITY EVENT

Congratulations and thank you to the Merbein Rotary Club for organising the annual Carols evening last Friday. Children from the local Merbein schools helped entertain the community by singing Carols as did the local adult choirs. It was a most enjoyable evening and a good reminder of what Christmas is really about. If any of the school choir would like to sing their carols at our Mass on Christmas Eve - Monday at 7.30pm you would be most welcome.

MERBEIN PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$106.25
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$249.00
Loose Plate	\$ 34.05

This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Cry out with joy and gladness for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

CONFIDENTIALITY, CONFESSION AND THE LAW

In Victoria, confidentiality has recently been much discussed. Following the Royal Commission into the Sexual Abuse of Children the state government has promised legislation to force religious ministers to report the sexual abuse of children even if the information has been received in Confession. In Catholic practice the seal of confession has been sacrosanct.

More recently the Victorian government has called its own royal commission to deal with the public revelation that a lawyer had breached the professional duty of confidentiality to clients by cooperating with police. She had passed on to police the substance of conversations conducted under legal privilege. The government has acted because the use in court of evidence gained in this way might invalidate the convictions of high profile criminals. The government has been careful to absolve the police leadership from blame in their decision to use evidence obtained in this way.

In each of these cases the confidentiality of privileged conversations with lawyer or priest, which those entering the conversation would once have seen as absolute, has now been breached once by legislation and once by the deliberate breach of a professional code by lawyer and police.

The two matters are, of course, different in their scope and the justifications offered for them, but together they suggest that in society authorities regard confidentiality as more negotiable than was once the case.

For that reason the implications of these breaches of confidentiality deserve reflection. In both cases the reasons given for weakening the protection of confidentiality were based on the relative consequences of respecting and of breaching it. To protect the confidentiality of confession within a religious context could result in crimes of sexual abuse against children continuing with impunity.

The Victorian police argued that they were involved in a war against crime in which many people were being killed. They were therefore justified in using lawyers as informers who could provide information by violating their professional duty of confidentiality to their clients. In any case, they argued that they violated no law in doing so. They did not, however, consider the possibility that cases brought against criminals trapped through the breach of confidentiality would be vitiated.

Does it matter that confidentiality is infringed in these ways? The value of confidentiality is grounded paradoxically in the value of conversation which is central for human flourishing. We are social animals for whom free communication is essential for our personal growth and for the development of society. Through it we make connections, develop our sense of ourselves, explore the areas of fear, doubt and guilt in our lives, make plans for our future and consult on matters of vital concern to other persons and groups. Good conversation demands mutual trust. When it is deep and about delicate relationships, it must be protected by a

surrounding wall of silence. Whatever of the law, it is lacking in decency for participants to disclose what is understood among them to be confined to the conversation group. It would be similarly unethical to bug others' conversations, listen at keyholes, raid their wastepaper baskets for records, and to link the conversation to a loudspeaker blaring out over the town. In conversation we normally expect a level of confidentiality, and our reputation for seriousness as human beings is rightly made dependent on our preservation of it. The expectation of confidentiality, however, depends on the seriousness of the conversation. To publicise the football allegiance of conversation partners would be trivial; to publicise an affair that they talked through with us, or to share with others outside a government committee secret information about a forthcoming major currency devaluation would be a gross breach of trust.

In the case of confession the argument for preserving its absolute confidentiality is based on the conviction that it is a conversation about the deepest realities, including discreditable behaviour, of people's lives, and is understood by the partners to include God as the major partner in the conversation. That is why disclosure, voluntary or forced, of what is confessed in that conversation has been seen as a gross violation of trust and of religious duty. The disclosure by a lawyer of what is said by a client in the course of privileged conversation has also been seen as a gross abuse of trust with potentially harmful consequences. The harm is not confined to the relationship between the client and the lawyer, but extends to society as a whole. If confidence in this relationship is eroded by information damaging to the defendant being made available to the prosecution, and if police officers connive in breaches of fiduciary duty, trust in the fairness of the judicial system will be lost. Justice will no longer be seen as blind but as one-eyed, and all conversations will become guarded.

The erosion of confidentiality is serious because it can easily become incremental. Authorities in any organisation always find life easier when they can operate in secrecy and have access to information about those they supervise. It is natural for police to want access to confidential interviews and for governments to legislate to give themselves access to personal information. Once conceded, the demands become more extensive. This can be documented in many areas of Australian life over the last decade. Further down that path Stasiland looms.

Nevertheless, the right to confidentiality in serious matters is not absolute. It can be overridden by the certain threat of serious harm that will occur if it is maintained. But given the harmful social consequences that follow from breaches of confidentiality that threat needs to be established and not merely surmised. There should be a bias in favour of confidentiality: exceptions should be defined as narrowly as possible and should be regularly reviewed. *Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS

4th Sunday in Advent Year C / 22nd & 23rd December 2018

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Responsorial: 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.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44



Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 1:00am	Sacred Heart Saturday 6:00pm	Sacred Heart Sunday 9:00am	Sacred Heart Sunday 5:00pm	Irymple Sunday 8:30am	Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am	Merbein Sunday 10:30am	Merbein Lay Led Assembly Last Sunday of the month
Leader / Reader	Rosemary Barnes	Maria Munro	Volunteer	M Hill	T Hawkes D Eagle / T Gardiner	Bernadette Wells	December 30th
Music	M Sullivan Singing Group	SH Choir M Fainga'anuku			Guitar		Nancy Prevedello Kevin Aston
Offertory	Baptism	Baptism			Russo Family	V McCarthy & family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		Aidan Ban	Volunteer please	
Eucharist Ministers	Anne-Maree Greville	Maria Scopacasa	Tony Finn	R Hill	Jamey Monteleone	Pat Sylvia	
	Taiana Fatai	Susan Lewis	Melanie Ransome		Nathan Monteleone	Annette Lemon	
	Margaret McDonald	Minda Wright	Bill Dolence		K & E Romeo		
	Paul Kerr	Rose Op't Hoog	Jacqui Willis		N Morello		
	Anita Naray	Rini Op't Hoog	Barbara Bunting		S Orr	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Cora Howell	Katrina Groves		B Pitt	Kay Wagner Val McCarthy	
	Narie Lewis				FLOWERS Janine Cameron		
Counting Team	TEAM 5	JIM FARRELLY 0477 140 759			B Gardiner/S Williams		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	