

# Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872  
Parish Mobile : 0417 862 082  
257 Eleventh Street Mildura  
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Newsheet: Week 52

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*

## Christmas Day / Year A 24th & 25th December 2022

### RECENT DEATHS

Mario Simonetta, Lana Godfrey, Melina Rocca, Vincenzo Tuccio,

### Mildura

Anniversaries:

Friday 6pm: Iolanda & Ilario Dimasi, Albino Dimasi, Pietro Marziano  
(10 year anniversary)

### Red Cliffs

Anniversaries:

### Merbein

Anniversaries:

*(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

### Thankyou

To all of the wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time within the parish. Your efforts and contribution are always appreciated and valued. We would not be able to offer the service that we do, the masses and liturgies would not happen and the church and grounds would not look as good as they do.

We have another type of volunteer who are unable to do the heavy lifting, the public roles these people are our prayers. Without the prayerful support we lose the spiritual dimension of the parish life. Keep praying and encouraging all of us to do the same. I ask God to bless you on behalf of Fr Shaiju and Myself and all parishioners.

## Message from our Parish Priest

*On behalf of Fr Shaiju, and myself we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and that 2023 brings you all many blessings from God.*

*This year has seen some changes while still trying to understand the new COVID world. We are very fortunate to still be able to travel and have Christmas together with family and friends. Let us be grateful for this opportunity.*

*I hope that this year, whatever you are doing allows you time to spend with family and friends and enjoy being with the people who are important to you.*

*I ask the Lord to send his blessings upon you and your families as we celebrate Christmas remembering those who are unable to be with loved ones, or those who have experienced a death recently that we are able to feel God's loving embrace in our lives.*

*The birth of Christ gave us a beautiful gift from God, and we pass that on to others when we gather and give them the gift of ourselves or a small gift.*

*One of the best gifts we can give is being present to others, it costs nothing, sometimes hard to wrap but always appreciated by those who receive it.*

*Looking forward to seeing you all in 2023, may God's blessing be with you now during this Christmas time and into the new year.*

God Bless  
Fr Matthew



# LOCAL NEWS

## Advance Notice Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours for December 2022 & January 2023

Please note from **24th December to 2 January 2023** the Parish Office will be closed.

From **3rd January till 25th January** the operating hours for the Parish Office will be from **9am till 12noon only**.

**Friday 26th January Office closed Public Holiday.**  
The return to normal office hours will commence from Tuesday 30th January 2023.

## Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen

Will be closed from Monday 19th December and reopen on Monday 9th January at 5.30pm as per normal operating days and time.

## Advance Notice Sacramental Dates for 2023

Parent meeting & celebration dates for the following sacraments will take place on:

### Penance (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 15th February 7pm, SH Church.

Celebration 5th April, 7pm SH Church

### Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 22nd March 7pm, SH Church

Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th June

### First Eucharist (Grade 4 and above)

Parent meeting 6th September 7pm, SH Church

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd October

### Penance (Grade 2 and above)

Parent meeting 4th October 7pm, SH Church

Celebration Wednesday 22nd November 7pm

## Please abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- Masks now do not need to be worn in church but if you wish you can continue to wear them.
- Use the hand sanitizer
- If you are feeling unwell please stay home

## 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 11:30am Monaghan Centre

**Legion's of Mary:** Tuesday after 6pm Mass

## Thank You and Happy Christmas

On behalf of the children and families who are the beneficiaries of the Shared Table, I would like to thank the Parishioners of the Catholic Communities of Sunraysia for the support given over the past twelve months. Please be assured that your kindness makes a huge difference to the lives of so many here in Yanaoca and in Lima. Thanks also in a special way to Sacred Heart Primary School, the Parish Trading Stalls, and Sr Helen and her team for the production of the Recipe Book – and of course to those who bought copies. Be assured of the grateful prayers of the people here in Peru, and may you all have a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Fr Michael McKinnon



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



## 56th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2023

Pope Francis' message for the 56<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace, "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace" is available from <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

*Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace:* Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

# LOCAL NEWS

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6PM 10PM MIDNIGHT	8PM	8PM
SATURDAY	WERRIMULL	6PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9AM		

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

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

## 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:** Teresa Camarotto, James Bowring, Caleb Bowers, Margaret Mottram, Rosemary Byrne

**Merbein:**

**Red Cliffs:** Jenny Boyd, Catherine Bell, Faye Cufari, Marie Adams, Barry Crosbie

## SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1810.35	\$119.40	\$181.95
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$1150.00	\$200.00	\$216.00
Loose Plate	\$853.60	\$ 68.00	\$ 52.80

## TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE 2023

It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of parishioners who are unable to get themselves to Mass each weekend. If you know of any Parishioners in this circumstance, or if you are willing to assist please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872 so that arrangements / rosters can be made.

# ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 24th & 25th December 2022

**Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am**

### Mildura

**Readers:** Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas roster

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas roster

**Music:** Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas roster

**Offertory Procession:** Sat 6pm, 10pm & Midnight: As per Christmas Roster

Sun 9am: As per Christmas Roster

### Irymple Christmas Day 8am

**Reader:** W Schmidt

### Merbein Christmas Eve 8pm

**Reader:** E Piscioneri

**Offertory:** E & S Iamarino

### Red Cliffs Christmas Eve 8pm

**Readers:** As per Christmas Roster

**Music:** Guitar

**Offertory Procession:** As Per Christmas Roster

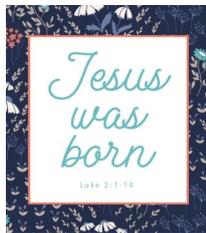
**Altar Servers:** Volunteers most welcome

**Eucharistic Minister:** As per Christmas Roster

**Church Cleaning:** Mapapalangi Family

**Flowers:** J Cameron

Please find your own replacement if you are unable to attend on your Rostered Day.



Next weekend - 31st December & 1st January 2022

**Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am**

### Mildura

**Readers:** Sat 6pm: G Huxtable

Sun 9am: T Fainga'anuku

Sun 5pm: M Bowring

**Eucharistic Ministers:** x 3 people

Sat 6pm: A Greville, P Kerr, M McDonald

Sun 9am: J Rocca, E Mazza, volunteer please

Sun 5pm: J Hall, T Finn, B Dolence

**Music:** Sat 6pm: M Guthrie, All welcome

Sun 9am: Italian Choir, M Sullivan

Sun 5pm: No music

**Offertory Procession:**

Sun 9am: L & C Welsh

**Counting Team:** Group 4—M Roper

### Irymple

**Reader:** M Hill

### Merbein

**Reader:** F Sabo

**Offertory:** F Sabo, Val McCarthy

### Red Cliffs

**Readers:** J Lewis, M Bell

**Music:** Guitar

**Offertory Procession:** Cameron Family

**Altar Servers:** Volunteers most welcome

**Eucharistic Minister:** A Higham

**Church Cleaning:** Volunteers

**Flowers:** Volunteer

Please find your own replacement if you are unable to attend on your Rostered Day.



**Next Weekends Readings:** - Mary, Mother of God Year A — 31st December 2022 & 1st January 2023

1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Response: May God bless us in his mercy.

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21



## First Reading

Is 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.  
For all the footgear of battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
is burnt  
and consumed by fire.  
For there is a child born for us,  
a son given to us  
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;  
and this is the name they give him:  
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,  
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.  
Wide is his dominion  
in a peace that has no end,  
for the throne of David  
and for his royal power,  
which he establishes and makes secure  
in justice and integrity.  
From this time onwards and for ever,  
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)



## Second Reading

Ti 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

*God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

## Gospel Acclamation

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Today a saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest  
heaven and peace  
to men who enjoy  
his favour.'

*A Saviour Has Been  
Born To You*

Luke 2:1-14

