

# 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 1

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: Iolanda Dimasi, Giuseppina Caia, Elena Chine, Adalgisa Trainne (Italy—sister of Loreto Marozzi)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am: Enzo Mazza, Giuseppe Cavallo, Sebastian C Joseph

Sunday 5pm: Dolores Cambaya (1st year anniversary)

### RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries:

### MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: January 7<sup>th</sup> Allan Bell, Eileen McCoy; 10<sup>th</sup> Teresa

Gadzinski

Anniversary Mass will be offered today for Robert McCarthy

(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

## The Epiphany of the Lord / Year C 5th & 6th January 2019

God's presence is revealed to us in many and diverse ways: we can read the "story" of God's creation of the universe; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our experience and the experience of others; and we can listen to the word of God in our sacred scriptures. Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways has nothing to do with naive 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 the power of God's Spirit 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 enquiries in Jerusalem attract 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. The "magi" 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 traditionally been associated with three different characters, usually kings, of different tribes or peoples. 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. We are invited 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. We are also invited to be wary of those, like Herod, who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

Veronica Lawson rsm

### PLEASE NOTE

**THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY 9.15AM MASS DUE TO THE FUNERAL MASS OF ELENA CHINE AT 10AM.**

# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy

### BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community Giuseppe Cirillo and Lucy Smith whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

**BAPTISM**

## Community Life & Outreach

### NEW ROSTERS FOR AGED CARE MASSES 2019

Rosters are now available for BUPA, Oasis, Princes Court, Regis Ontario and Regis Tenth Aged Care Centres. Please call the Parish Office on 5021 2872 or email: parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au for a copy.

### The day that Albert Einstein feared most has arrived!



Planning their honeymoon.



A day at the beach.



Having dinner with friends



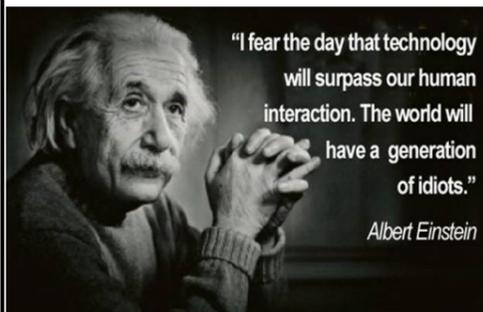
Out on an intimate date



Having a conversation with your bestie.



A visit to the museum.



**It's here!**

### 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

### 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:** Michele Vanni, Sandra McCarthy, Jean Lanigan, Mick Joslyn, Albis Dy, Jill Antonie, Brian Ramsey, Graeme Lewis, Vince Alicastro, Fr Denis Dennehy, Geraldine Brunner, Hailey Crossan

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

**Red Cliffs:** Mary O'Leary, 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

### BULLETIN NOTICES

Please make any requests for the Bulletin to the Parish Office by 12.00 noon each Thursday.

Email: parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au or call during office hours 5021 2872.

### WANTED:

#### COLES MINI SHOP COLLECTABLES

If you have any Coles Mini shop collectables and you no longer want them I am looking for as many as I can get to use with my VCE Accounting students in 2019. Please drop them in at the College front office. They do not need to be completed sets. I will take as many as you have. So if your children have lost interest in them, I will put them to good use.



Thanks Paula Cox SJC

### SAVE THE DATE—4TH MARCH 2019

The Sacred Heart Parish is very fortunate to host a Summer Concert at the Sacred Heart Church on Monday 4th March 2019 at 7pm. Further information in the coming weeks.

Chamber Philharmonia Cologne \* Germany

**AUSTRALIA**  
SUMMER 2019

**VIVALDI**  
LA TEMPESTA DI MARE  
Concerto for Violin, Strings and basso continuo »La Tempesta di Mare«  
Concerto in D Minor for Oboe, Strings and basso continuo

**J.S. BACH**  
Concerto in D Minor for Violin, Oboe and Orchestra BWV 1060

**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
»Nocturne« for Violoncello and String Orchestra

**SAINT-SAENS**  
»Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso« for Violin and Orchestra op. 28

**CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE**  
(Germany)

Sergey Didorenko \* Violin    Adrian Pulido Bautista \* Oboe    Dmitriy Gornowski \* Violoncello

**This Weekend's Responsorial Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

**THE SAINT AND THE SULTAN'S MODEL FOR PEACE** Eureka Street

Peace, enigmatically and etymologically, is largely defined by an absence of war. Among all the Christmas songs and carols, the one that grips me without fail is John Lennon and Yoko Ono's 1972 lament, 'Happy Xmas (War is Over)'.

I say 'lament', because the honest recognition that 'war is over, if you want it' has yet to be answered. Woosy man that I am, I also have to confess that I'm often reduced to maudlin tears by the kids singing along from the Harlem Community Choir.

The idea that a child being born in the Middle East can bring about geopolitical harmony tends to mark Christians as optimists. I do like to think that all human beings desire peace, and that we can cling to historical scraps of hope — echoes of initiated rapprochements, when conflict and the lust for power, status, control and resources have been subverted by people of good will.



Next year, for example, will mark the 800th anniversary of an Italian named Francis di Bernadone literally risking life and limb to meet up with a bloke named Malik-al-Kamil during the Fifth Crusade (those

bloody misadventures wherein Christendom took on Muslims, Jews and heretics, in spasmodic attempts to conquer and hold Jerusalem). The Italian became better known, after his death, as Saint Francis of Assisi.

His intended conversationalist was the Sultan of Egypt, a man who'd reportedly responded to Crusaders' atrocities by promising a Byzantine gold piece to anyone who brought him a Christian's head; al-Kamil is better known as the nephew of An-Nasir Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub, or 'Saladin', King Richard the Lionheart's noted adversary.

As we hear and/or sing seasonal songs of peace and harmony, I suggest there are some lessons we can learn from that quirky piece of history.

**Peace comes with effort and risk.**

Some commentators believe Francis crossed enemy lines to chase martyrdom. What most historians agree on is that the saint and his mate, Brother Illuminatus, were perhaps beaten and dragged into the sultan's tent, where Francis declared (not in Arabic, unhelpfully) that they were ambassadors of God. The Christians got a fair hearing from the Saracens, and lived to tell a tale of mutual learning.

**Peace is aided by finding common ground.**

Having received short shrift from his co-religionist, the Christian commander Cardinal Pelagius, Francis chose to try his hand with the enemy. The two captured Europeans were initially taken for Muslim Sufi mystics, as they wore woollen robes like the Sufis (the word *sufi* means 'one who wears wool').

The 38-year-old, Italian-speaking Francis apparently yelled one of his few Arabic words — 'Sultan' — when captured. Francis then chose to greet the 39-year-old al-Kamil with his standard phrase,

'May the Lord give you peace'. This went down well with the Muslim leader, who thought the odd-looking interloper may be a messenger responding to the sultan's peace proposal.

While that was decidedly not the case (the future saint was actually viewed as a heretic by many Europeans), Francis' greeting was similar to the Arabic greeting, *Assalam o alaikum* ('peace be upon you'). That similarity kept the Europeans inside the tent.

**Peace comes from dialogue and humility.**

Francis didn't judge, condemn or disparage Islam. Many commentators suggest that both Francis and al-Kamil were deeply influenced in their exchanges, through the other's translated words.

Francis' approach contrasts strongly with that of a later, less than diplomatic visit of Franciscan friars to Morocco, where the churchmen declared Christianity was vastly superior to Islam and reportedly badmouthed the prophet's doctrines. That approach got them arrested and tortured, duly limiting the exchange of views and values.

**Peace comes incrementally, from compromise and awareness.**

Despite unlikely, hagiographic suggestions of the sultan converting on his deathbed (made in the lead-up to Francis' canonisation), there are no credible sources to suggest that either man changed his chosen worldview. The outcome was respect, rather than conversion or proselytism.

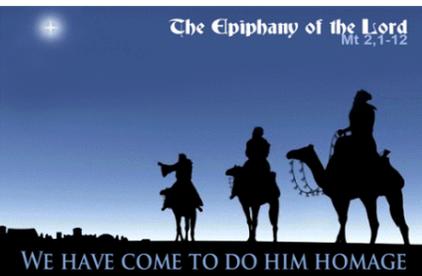
The sultan met with his barefoot visitors for several days. An ivory horn, blown by the muezzin to call Muslims to prayer, was a parting gift to Francis, who's said to have used it to call Christians to prayer or preaching back on his home soil. Scholars also trace the influence of Sufi prayers in the writings of the saint, and in his conduct.

As for the sultan, the encounter's said to have had more practical outcomes. Reports of concessions include permission for Francis to visit holy sites, and of the sultan treating prisoners-of-war with kindness and humanity. In 1221 the Fifth Crusade ended, with large losses of life on both sides and a peace agreement with al-Kamil.

When war again broke out years later, in a mournful silent retreat taken in protest, Francis became the first person to be recorded as a stigmatic. The symbolism of a suffering servant sharing Christ's wounds has stayed with the Church ever since.

Francis was persuasive, perhaps, but that Liverpoolian Lennon was right, too. Choice, people power and influence, not boots on the ground and bloodshed, is the only path to peace. War is over, if you want it.

*Barry Gittins is a Melbourne writer.*



SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE			
Last week's collections 30/12/2018	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1811.25	\$ 46.30	\$204.20
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$3304.35	\$199.00	\$302.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 676.30	\$ 11.70	\$ 45.75
<b>Monaghan Centre</b>	\$ 527.00		
<b>Bishop's Christmas Appeal</b>	\$ 91.70		

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

There will be no week-day Mass during the month of January.  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month Lay Led Liturgy will be replaced by Mass for January.

## LAUDATO SI'REFLECTION – JANUARY 2019

Monthly Prayer Intention: 'Peace, Salaam, Shalom' - For peace with all creation, rediscover the grandeur of God's gift and our individual and shared responsibility as inhabitants of this world, citizens and builders of the future.

This year marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Church's World Day of Peace Message on January 1. This year, Pope Francis' theme is "Good Politics is at the Service of Peace" In it he speaks of caring for our common home and rejecting the exploitation of the earth for quick profit. He reminds us that, *Everyone can contribute his or her stone to help build the common home.*

**QUOTE FOR THE MONTH** An adequate understanding of spirituality consists in filling out what we mean by peace, which is much more than the absence of war. Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for our common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with the capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life...An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence "must not be contrived but found, uncovered". An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness...(IS#225and 230)

## NO CHANGES TO THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES

### NOTE FOR LAY MINISTERS

Don't forget to give to the people you visit copies of the Sunday Readings and of the Newsheet.

### CUPPA & TRADING TABLE

Ever since the Trading Table & Cuppa started, Hilda & Sylvia have been setting up for it the day before, for which we must be grateful. Now they have retired from this duty. If the Trading Table is to continue, we need volunteers to do this. It needs 2 people to set up. It doesn't have to be the same 2 parishioners every month. I have typed out a list of what needs to be done. We need volunteers to set up for Australia weekend, Sunday, January 27.

### PLENARY COUNCIL

The more astute among you will have noticed that my report in the annual newsletter was actually last year's repeated. That's because what I did out for this year was too long to fit. It was about the Plenary Council. I have done out some copies of this. More importantly, on the back is the three-part questionnaire put out by the Plenary Council.

Ash Wednesday, March 6, is the cut-off point for receiving submissions for the Council's Agenda.

Straight after Mass on Sunday, February 3, those who wish to give of their wisdom can sit down with us to a cuppa and a simple biscuit (top quality, supplied by me) and we'll talk and listen to one another and see what we come up with. I will send any resulting submissions to the Council on our behalf.

Flags the Priest



## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS

The Baptism of the Lord Year C / 12th & 13th January 2019

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Responsorial: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30  
Response: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!  
Second Reading: St Paul to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



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	Gary Huxtable	Narie Lewis	Jancy Thomas	G McCracken	J Cameron C Markham/M Monteleone	Jeanette Ellis	
Music	Filipino Community	M Sullivan Singing Group	NO MUSIC		Guitar		
Offertory		Louise Belej			M Adams	Prevedello Family	
Altar Servers	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Volunteer please		E Papamocp;api	Volunteer please	
Eucharist Ministers	Maria Cirillo	Michael Faingaanuku	Vittorio Carlucci	R Barbary	I Manno	Vi Barling	
	Christine Carmichael	Maureen Speed	Christine Slattery		A Collihole	M Farnsworth	
	Ellen Frauenfelder	Nancy Fatai	Jacinta Macri		M Collihole		
	Jacinda Deacon	Peter O'Donnell	Paula Cox		C Cavallaro		
	Katy Quinlan	Greg Johnston	Jennifer Boord		M Cavallaro	CHAFFEY AGED CARE	
	Vince Pileggi	Gina Raiti	Reni Cheriyan		J Divola	Volunteers please	
	Anna Vartuli				FLOWERS Volunteers		
Counting Team	TEAM 8	TREVOR AUST 5023 6597			G & S Warman		
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement			As per arrangement	Volunteers	As per arrangement	