



Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337

Presbytery: 5022 9959

P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502

parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

Fr Peter Jose CMI

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull**

**St. Francis Xavier
Elms Street, Irymple**

The Holy Family / Year C - 26th & 27th December 2015

Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 6:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 am, 5:00 pm

Irymple: 8:30 am

Werrimull 11:00 am (last Sunday of each month)



Weekday Masses

*If there is a Funeral Mass on Wed,
Thurs, the advertised Mass will be
cancelled.*

Tues: 7:00 pm Wed: 9:10 am

Thurs: 9:30 am Fri: 5:40 pm

Sat: 9.30 am

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri. 8:40 am

Scripture Reading: Thurs 10:30 am - 20 Beasy Court

Christian Meditation: Sat 11:30 am Parish Prayer Room

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am

RECENT DEATH:

ANNIVERSARIES: Vito Eufemia (one year anniversary—
Saturday 2nd January 6pm)

Saturday 6pm: Stephen Muir (one year anniversary), Kylie Davis, Sergio Malcotti

Tuesday 7pm: Pietro Marziano, Giovanni Dimasi (ten year anniversary)

*(Only members of the deceased's
immediate family are permitted to
arrange anniversary Masses.)*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you want a sick person prayed for, ask for their permission. Please let us know when to take their name off the list.

Joan Appleby, Ron Morello, Monica Crimmins, Daniel Ralli, Dan Rodan, John Devilee, Ethan Neyland, Georgie Manning, Dorothy Norris, Eileen Flanner, Fr Denis Dennehy, Eli Madden-Andrews, Kel Townsend, Vince Alicastro, Bishop Ron Mulkearns, Betty Krake

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. It is only strange if we take the descriptions literally and focus on the old rather than the new that is forever breaking



into the world. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court is located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "of God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event.

The Advent and Christmas periods are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of our God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would return in their own times and bring everything to completion. Some decades after the death of Jesus, the members of Luke's community had come to realize that this second coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They then needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that de-sensitize the heart or the human spirit: carousing, drunkenness and undue worry.

Suffering is part of life and God's advent or coming in the lives of the suffering takes myriad forms. From Luke's perspective, the sufferings of the present may well be the prelude to a new experience of the presence of God in the world. An attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes—this is the proper stance for the Christian believer.

This gospel passage is best read against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship".

Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation.

Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression, including those seeking asylum among us and those who have sought asylum yet still await resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas. - **Veronica Lawson rsm**

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIME
FOR FRIDAY, 1ST JANUARY 9AM ONLY.
THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT 5.40PM**

SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community Austin Fox, Raphael Smythe, Estelle Doody, Koby Madden, Sonny McGlynn, Billy Mudge, Isla Ormesher and Evie Watson whose Baptism occurs this weekend.



1st EUCHARIST 2016

1st Eucharist will be celebrated with children in Grade 4 in 2016. **Important Program Dates are as follows:**

Parent Information Evening Monday 8th February 6:00pm – 6:30pm Sacred Heart Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Friday 4th March 7:30pm Sacred Heart Church

Parent Formation Evenings – Wed April 27th & Wed May 4th Sacred Heart Church

1st Eucharist – 28th/29th May 4th/5th June



Program Booklets are available at the Parish Office, Tuesday – Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR
NEW YEARS DAY MASS—FRIDAY 9AM
ROSTER SHEETS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.**

**Happy
New Year!**

PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1175.75
2nd Collection (includes DD, CC & EFT)	\$3119.50
Loose Plate	\$ 325.75

YOUTH

ADVANCE NOTICE: Youth are organizing a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings on Saturday, January 2nd 2016.

YOUTH GATHERING

Halls Gap, April 4th—7th, 2016

For young people aged 16 and over.

More information to follow

**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FROM
THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER
AND REOPEN ON 5TH JANUARY
ALL CALLS & ENQUIRIES
PRESBYTERY 5022 9959**

COMMUNITY LIFE & OUTREACH

A farewell cuppa for Fr Peter will be held after all Masses on the weekend of January 9th & 10th. Any donations towards a farewell gift can be left with Carmel at the Parish Office.



**Have you
thought?
Mary**

We're told in today's gospel that Mary 'stored up all these things in her heart'. Mary is a model of the reflective life. When extraordinary, life-altering events occur to her, she is portrayed as pondering these events in her heart. She responds to these events by allowing them to speak to her and speak to her heart rather than simply 'reacting' as so many of us do. The ability to reflect on events, rather than react to them, can lead to a much better considered response and less chance of making the same mistakes over and over again.

HAPPY NEW YEAR & THANK YOU

As we complete another year, I take this opportunity to say thank you so much for your continued support of our Parish Community. To all of you who arrive at Mass each weekend – I know that this commitment is a personal and devotional one, but through your contribution to the first collection, you are the people who continue to keep the priests housed and fed, their cars filled with petrol, and make sure there's some money in their pockets. Thank you for your wonderful generosity. Thanks also to those who continue to contribute to our Planned Giving (Stewardship) Program. This ensures that we can continue to operate and meet the pastoral challenges that are part of our Faith Community. To Carmel and all of our wonderful Office Staff – a huge thank you. Thanks to those who assist with the preparation for Masses – on the weekends and during the week. And thank you to Margaret for all she does in the Presbytery and beyond. I must also acknowledge the "Parks & Gardens Committee". These gentlemen maintain the Presbytery and Church surrounds at a standard which makes us all proud. Thank you also to those who contribute towards the running of Pastoral Programs – Pre-Marriage, Baptism, Children's Liturgy, God Start, RCIA and Children's Sacraments. There are so many people who assist with Sunday Liturgy, but I must especially thank those who contribute through music. Thank you to our Youth for their presence and creative contribution to the liturgy also. I acknowledge the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Soup Kitchen Committee and volunteers, the Knights of the Southern Cross, the Catholic Ladies Group and the various Committees who organise our cultural events, all of whom continue to make such an important contribution to the life of our Parish. Finally, I sympathise with all those families who have lost loved ones throughout 2015. Your first Christmas without them would have been sad and difficult. May 2016 be a year of blessing for all of us, especially for Fr. Peter Jose who will be leaving us in January, and whose 18 months among us has been deeply appreciated.

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS' YEAR OF ACTION

Celeste Liddle

At the end of 2014, the scene for Indigenous politics in 2015 was truly set: it was going to be a year of increased fight and protest for Indigenous rights.

While it is rare to see a year where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people don't take to the streets to challenge government policies, Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett's announcement in November 2014 of the proposed closure of remote communities led to a large scale movement. If the idea of forcing Aboriginal people off their traditional lands was not enough to cause anger in the Aboriginal population, the comments made by the then Prime Minister and Minister for Indigenous Affairs sealed the deal. Tony Abbott's suggestion that remaining connected with family and community on lands with which you have an intense religious connection going back several millennia was a mere lifestyle choice, which the Australian taxpayer was not obligated to supplement, revealed that despite his stated interest in Indigenous affairs, he had a lot to learn.

'Selfish rabble'

SOS Blak Australia — a vast network of Indigenous activists started by Sam Cook — sprang into action. November 2014 marked the beginning of an ongoing grassroots campaign of protest to stop the forced closure of Aboriginal communities. Throughout 2015, protests in Australia and across the world shut down major cities in order to highlight the right for Aboriginal people to retain their communities. In April this year, the crowds in Melbourne, bolstered by solidarity campaigns from unions, political and community groups, swelled to over 4000 people. This CBD shutdown was so successful that it caused a traffic gridlock for several hours and led to Melbourne's *Herald Sun* labelling the protesters a 'selfish rabble' — a term which was then humorously embraced by the movement.

While Barnett seemed to backpedal slightly on his proposal in May, both his words and Abbott's served as a reminder that as Aboriginal people, rights to our lands and culture are precarious, and continuously under threat by governments. The fight must continue. It is certain that 2016 will see more sovereignty actions by Indigenous communities and their supporters.

Speaking of sovereignty actions, after 15 months occupying The Block, the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy had a win in August. The Tent Embassy had sprung up in protest to a development proposal greenlighted by the Aboriginal Housing Corporation which did not include affordable housing for Aboriginal people. This led to eviction notices (which were defied) and court action against the Embassy.

The spokesman for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion announced the development of 62 affordable dwellings for Aboriginal people and congratulated the Tent Embassy for its action and vigilance over such a prolonged period. It is pleasing that this key urban Indigenous community will thrive and continue its fight well into the future.

Adam Goodes, boos bad

This year also saw Adam Goodes hang up his football boots after an incredibly successful playing career which was, unfortunately, tainted by a series of racist actions against him during its final months.

Goodes, who holds the distinction of captaining the Sydney Swans from 2009–2012, winning the Brownlow Medal twice and being named Australian of the Year in 2014,

attracted the ire of racist Australians when he dared to cause a young opposition fan to be ejected from the crowd after she yelled a racial slur at him in 2013.

This, coupled with the Australian of the Year announcement and his growing prominence in the Recognise campaign, led to Goodes being the target of racist actions by crowds, who continually booed him every time he took to the field.

Various non-Indigenous football figures and media commentators swore this targeting was not racism but rather just a normal part of football banter. However, when Goodes' post-football career as an ambassador for retailer David Jones was announced, the store's page was also flooded with racist slurs and calls to boycott, proving the slurs did not just exist within the confines of a game. Throughout all this, Goodes continually showed class and stuck to his guns on issues of racism and is to be commended.

Roadblocks to constitutional recognition

2015 saw the idea of constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make very little ground at all. Partly, this has been because though the government continues to fund the Recognise campaign in order to grow public support for a referendum, fundamental details such as the referendum questions and the form that this recognition will take are yet to be decided upon.

But it is also partly due to the growing awareness of Indigenous opposition to constitutional recognition for a range of reasons, including the ongoing push for a treaty.

Most recently, a Referendum Council was announced to oversee community consultations as the referendum details are finalised. While many Aboriginal people welcome a broader consultation on this topic, it is clear that consensus within the community is far from being reached.

A hope in 2016 is therefore that Indigenous voices and our debates on constitutional recognition will become front and centre in the discussion so that when Australia finally goes to the polls, they are making an informed decision based on the rights of Indigenous people. Certainly, they should not be making their decisions based upon the continued profiling of conservative non-Indigenous voices.

Watch this space

2016 promises to be a year of continued action and protest in Indigenous politics, building upon the many actions this year. As was showed by the 2015 Closing the Gap Report, the disparities remain. While Indigenous people continue to be the victims of government paternalism, to be incarcerated at exorbitant rates, and to have to fight for the right to culture, land and community, they will continue to rally on the streets.

Here's hoping that 2016 sees a commitment to change and collaboration from mainstream Australia in order to start a journey forward together.

Celeste Liddle is an Arrernte woman living in Melbourne, the National Indigenous Organiser of the NTEU, and a freelance opinion writer and social commentator. She blogs at [Rantings of an Aboriginal Feminist](#).



Our Parish Vision
**“Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community united by
 our faith in Jesus Christ.
 We work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to
 spread the good news of God’s
 Kingdom.”**



Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Primary School
 Principal: *Des Lowry* 5023 1204

St Paul’s Primary School
 Principal: *Vince Muscatello* 5023 4567

St Joseph’s Secondary College
 Principal: *Anthony Banks* 5018 8000

26th & 27th December, 2015

2nd & 3rd January, 2016

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

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First Reading: Sam 1:20-22, 24-28
Resp Psalm: Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10. R. v. 5
Response: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.
Second Reading: 1 Jn3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel: Lk 2:41-52

First Reading: Isa 60:1-6
Resp Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-13
Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

6PM

9AM

5PM

6PM

9AM

5PM

6 Ministers required

7 Ministers required

6 Ministers required

6 Ministers required

7 Ministers required

6 Ministers required

Leo Kearney

Juliet Cresp

Clem Carlucci

Trish McNamara

Lyn Welsh

Paula Cox

Margaret Sheahan

Robert Tindall

Vittorio Carlucci

Morris Henderson

Sheryl Pettinau

Jennifer Boord

Linda Henderson

Louise Belej

Christine Slattery

Ellen Frauenfelder

Giuseppe Scopacasa

Reni Cheriyan

Irene Morello

Nancy Leonardis

Jacinta Macri

Maria Cirillo

Maria Scopacasa

Wendy Finn

Katy Quinlan

Elena Garreffa

Petelo Mafi

Anne-Maree Greville

Susan Lewis

Tony Finn

Taiana Fatai

Maryanne Modica

Anthony Banks

Volunteer Please

Minda Wright

Melanie Ransome

Maria Page

Johanna Bagacay

MUSIC

MUSIC

Sacred Heart Group

M Guthrie

Youth Group

Singing Group

Italian Choir

M Hammond

Leader

All welcome

Leader

M Sullivan

N Armsden

J Ljubic

M Fainga’anuku

K Mafi

J Macri

ALTAR SERVERS

ALTAR SERVERS

2 Servers required

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

2 Volunteers required

Baptism

Baptism

Joy Movell

Mary Gobbo

Joy Movell

READERS

READERS

Chris Carmichael

Sr Rosemary

Rosemarie Zalec

Anita Naray

Lyn Welsh

Greg Johnson

COUNTING TEAM 9

COUNTING TEAM 10

GEORGE DOLENCE 5023 7993

BRIAN GROGAN 5021 2099

IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM

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READER

EUCHARIST MINISTER

READER

EUCHARIST MINISTER

Grace McCracken

Ray Barbary

Margaret Hill

Ken Knight