



# 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 Damian Styles**

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues—Fri 9am—4pm

**Our Lady of Lourdes  
Werrimull**

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

**4th Sunday of Advent / Year A -  
17th & 18th December 2016**

## 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

**Christian Meditation:** Sat 11:30 am Parish Prayer Room

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 10:00am

**RECENT DEATH:** Gregory Snowdon,, Giovanni Iamarino, Justin McCarthy

### ANNIVERSARIES:

**Saturday 6pm:** Gabriela Zvonar (30 day mass)

**Sunday 9am:** Nick Mazza, Bruno & Vince Piscioneri

*(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. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.*

Yvonne Ash, Mary Grivec, Don Lewis, Moataane Vatuvei, Brian Ramsay, Graeme Lewis, 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, Judy Hunt, Hailey Crossan, Teresa Panuccio, Geraldine Brunner, Siliako Lolesio

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and friends and family". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us.



The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into Matthew's story of God-with-us in the person of Jesus and to live out the pattern of that story more fully in our own lives.

There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic annunciation in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

**Veronica Lawson rsm**

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE & LITURGY



### BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community, Cosimo Cirillo whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

### WEDDINGS

We congratulate Larry Circosta & Bernadette Timpano who were married this weekend.



### FIRST EUCHARIST 2017

All information pertaining to preparation for the reception of First Eucharist in 2017 is now available.

Please contact the Parish

Office on 5021 2872 for further information.

**RECONCILIATION** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
**FIRST EUCHARIST** Weekend 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June

*Please make a note of these dates now.*

### NATIVITY PLAY CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

All children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6:00pm. Dress rehearsal will be on Wednesday 21st December at 4pm in the Sacred Heart Church. "All participating children to meet inside the front of Church at 5.45pm Christmas Eve." Contact Lisa Cirillo 0408337297.



## COMMUNITY LIFE & OUTREACH

### PRINCES COURT AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 20th December at 10am. All welcome.

### BUPA AGED CARE MASS

Will be held on Tuesday 20th December at 10.30am.

**A farewell cuppa for Fr Damian will be held after the 9am Mass on Sunday 18th December. A plate to share would be greatly appreciated. Any donations towards a farewell gift can be left with Carmel at the Parish Office. Fr Damian will be leaving Mildura in early January where he will be posted to Kapooka in Wagga Wagga.**

### THE GIVING TREE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The members of the Sacred Heart Conference of St Vincent de Paul are very grateful to all those who contributed so generously to this year's toy appeal.



15 December 2016

Dear Father/Sister,

Christmas Appeal 2016

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your Parishioners. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal. The money was distributed as follows:

Loreto Vietnam Australia Programme	5,000
St Columban's Mission Society	5,000
Refugees in the Middle East (through Melkite Catholic Eparchy)	5,000
Catholic Education in Myanmar	5,000
Caritas Australia	5,000
Catholic Mission	5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	5,000
Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference Aboriginal Ministry	5,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree West	2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	2,000
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
3BA Christmas in July Appeal	2,000
	\$48,000

In anticipation I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2016 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution on or about Christmas Day.

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

*Paul Bird CSSR*

+ Paul Bird CSSR  
Bishop of Ballarat



## CHRISTMAS MASSES ROSTERS

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED  
PLEASE CHECK ROSTER  
SHEETS AT THE BACK OF  
CHURCH.**



### MILDURA CHRISTMAS MASSES 2016

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00pm Mildura  
8:00pm Mildura  
12 Midnight Mildura

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am Mildura

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR THE REGION  
PLEASE SEE NOTICES ON EACH CHURCH  
ENTRANCE**

## PARISH FINANCE

Last week's collections

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (support of Priests & Presbytery)	<b>\$1193.20</b>
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes DD, CC & EFT)	<b>\$2726.15</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 542.70</b>

**ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**OFFICE HOURS FOR THE NEXT 4 WEEKS**

**21st —22nd December: 9am—12.30pm**

**CLOSED FROM 23rd—30th December**

**3rd—6th January: 9am—12.30pm**  
**10th—13th January: 9am—12.30pm**

**FOR ALL AFTER HOURS ENQUIRIES**  
**PLEASE CALL— 5022 9959**

**RETURN TO NORMAL OFFICE HOURS FROM**  
**TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2017**



**Reflection - Can You Spot Yourself at the Manger?**

Of all the scripture passages that resist interpretation, the infancy narratives must lead the charge. Somehow we manage to sidestep addressing why the obligatory donkey, ox and camels creep into the scene while they remain obstinately absent from the Gospels accounts. As for the number of wise ones, the place of birth and questions of whether there was any flight to Egypt, these are all swept aside as we decide where to place the drummer boy. Yet maybe there is an invitation here to embrace the beauty and simplicity of the nativity scene. Which of the characters depicts us as we prepare for Christmas?

**Joseph**

Are you a Joseph, feeling the weight of responsibility? Perhaps you are bewildered by the way events have changed so dramatically during the year. Are you looking for security for those you serve, yet experiencing knock backs and closed doors? Have you settled for something other than what you hoped for despite good planning?

**Humble donkey or ox**

Do you feel like the humble donkey? Have you patiently carried the precious gift of God's community on a long journey this year? Have you finally arrived, feeling worn out yet at the same time fulfilled, knowing that soon your efforts will be rewarded? Maybe you are a bit like the ox, and circumstances have been thrust upon you. *Artwork by artist Dona Gelsinger, [www.donagelsinger.com](http://www.donagelsinger.com)*

**Wise ones**

Suddenly your community has encountered something holy at a time and in a way you could never have anticipated. Has it been a year of asking searching questions of yourself and others? Like the wise ones, have you found yourself on a journey of discovery, searching for enlightenment? Perhaps, at times you have taken the wrong advice, as when the wise ones turned to King Herod. Are you eager to share your gifts with the Lord? The innkeeper and Herod are both notably absent from the nativity scene.

**Innkeeper**

Like the innkeeper, have we needed to shut the door, overcome by the amount of need out there? Or have we shunted new initiatives into some back room, only to have them blossom without any real effort from ourselves? Have we locked Jesus away fearful of what he is calling to birth in our own heart? With King Herod, have we felt threatened by something new? Have we been guilty of stifling a fledgling dream because we perceive it may undermine our own agenda? Have we confused the truth seekers, the wise ones, giving them mixed messages out of our own insecurity?

**Shepherd or angel**

Are we a shepherd, transfixed with the wonder of what is happening in our midst? Do we feel unworthy of all the attention or clumsy in our efforts to serve? Or perhaps we are an angel, confidently sharing the Good News to all that we meet?

**Mary**

And then there is the Mary in us, patiently awaiting the birth of Christ who has already found a home in our heart. Are we eager to bring forth the Word to our needy world, despite the darkness of our surrounds, the perceived inappropriateness of the setting? Do we live in joyful expectation, quietly confident that God's promise will be fulfilled?

Perhaps we are a little of all these characters. The star beckons, what will we find on our arrival?

*Author Fr John Frauenfelder - Originally published in the Broken Bay Institute eNewsletter December, 2015*

***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: Marg Blythman 5018 8000**

**17th & 18th December, 2016**

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

**First Reading: Isa 7:10-14**  
**Resp Psalm: Ps 23:1-6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10**  
**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**  
**Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7**  
**Gospel: Mt 1:18-24**

**EUCCHARIST MINISTERS**

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6PM	9AM	5PM
6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required
Anne-Maree Greville	Kapeli Mapapalangi	Greg Johnston
Taiana Fatai	Sonia Opie	Naomi Kennedy
Margaret McDonald	Philip Opie	Mario Zema
Trish McNamara	Catherine McErvale	Josie Zema
Morris Henderson	Elvira Mazza	Trish Cirillo
Anita Naray	Jill Joslyn	Volunteer Please
	Lisa Cirillo	

**MUSIC**

Youth Group	Tongan Choir	M Sullivan
K Mafi	M Guthrie	J Macri
		J Ljubic

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION**

2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
	Baptism	

**READERS**

Christine Carmichael	Maureen Speed	Peter Hammond

**COUNTING TEAM 10**

**BRIAN GROGAN 5021 2099**

**IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM**

READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER
M Hill	W Smith

**24th & 25th December, 2016**

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS**

**First Reading: Isa 9:1-7**  
**Resp Psalm: Ps 95:1-3, 11-13**  
**Response: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**  
**Second Reading: Tit 2:11-14**  
**Gospel: Lk 2:1-14**

**EUCCHARIST MINISTERS**

SATURDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6PM /8PM	MIDNIGHT	9AM
6 Ministers required	7 Ministers required	6 Ministers required
	Louise Belej	Lyn Welsh
AS PER	Mary Gobbo	Ross Tongue
CHRISTMAS	Vittorio Carlucci	
ROSTER	Clem Carlucci	
	Elina Garreffa	
	Bobby Castillo	
	Terresa Parente	

**MUSIC**

N Arsmden 6pm	Meg Sullivan	M Guthrie
K Mafi 8pm		All Welcome

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION**

2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required	2 Volunteers required
AS PER ROSTER	AS PER ROSTER	AS PER ROSTER

**READERS**

AS PER CHRISTMAS	Gary Huxtable	Maureen Speed
ROSTER		

**COUNTING TEAM 1**

**GERRY LAVERY 5021 1918**

**IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM**

READER	EUCCHARIST MINISTER
P Riordan	R Hill