



Sacred Heart Parish Mildura

257—261 Eleventh Street Mildura

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Presbytery: 5022 9959

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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Sacred Heart Parish | Mildura

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues—Fri 9am—4pm

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull**

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

Feast of the Epiphany / Year A 7th & 8th January 2017

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

Tues: 7:00 pm

Wed: 9:10 am

Thurs: 9:30 am

Fri: 5:40 pm

Sat: 9.30 am

*If there is a Funeral Mass on
Wednesday or Thursday the
advertised Mass will be cancelled.*

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

God's presence is revealed to us in many different ways: we can read the "book" of God's creation; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can be attentive to the wisdom of our sacred scriptures. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and our kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all creation and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves.

Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

Matthew 2.2



Epiphany presents us with 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 questioning in Jerusalem about a new-born "king of the Jews" attracts the attention of the duplicitous Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews". Advised by the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, through the agency of Herod, they follow the star that leads them to the home of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, where they find 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 as Emmanuel, God-with-us, with the entire Earth community.

There is no indication in the story as to whether the wise ones are men or women or both. Nor are we told their number. The three earth gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings of diverse nationality and colour. 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. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with those of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

Veronica Lawson rsm

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: TharianParakkal, P.T. Devassy

Saturday 6pm:

Sunday 9am: Giuseppe Cavallo

Only immediate members of the deceased's 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, 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

BAPTISMS



We welcome into our Parish community Ivie Mazza, Ashton McDonald, Lacey Barker & Ilario Frasca whose Baptism occur this weekend

Hospital Visitation with Communion

Father Michael is seeking volunteers to provide communion to patients at the Base hospital on a Sunday morning after the 9am Mass.

An adequate amount of volunteers would ensure a monthly roster necessitating a commitment of one weekend per month.

Please contact the Parish Office after the weekend of January 21st & 22nd 2017.



JUST BECAUSE



Just - Because it is easier to live with the status quo, even when it is unjust or unfair to others - let us pray for **disturbance**.

Just - Because we can so easily become preoccupied with our own needs and problems - let us pray for **compassion**.

Just - Because it is so easy to hang tightly to whatever we have - let us pray for **generosity**.

Just - Because we often resist ideas that challenge or assumptions - let us pray for **openness** and the **freedom** to consider new knowledge and perspectives.

Just - Because social, economic, and political systems are so overwhelmingly complex - let us pray for **understanding**.

Just - Because we can feel paralysed when faced with difficult and complex problems - let us pray for **courage**.

Just - Because we can be wrong about what needs to change and how to change it - let us pray for **humility**.

Just - Because our own answers are not always the best ones - let us pray for the **willingness to listen to and work with others**, even with those whom we may disagree.

Just - Because trying to change an unjust economic or social structure can sometimes create unforeseen and even worse problems - let us pray for **wisdom**.

Just - Because real change is a very slow process - let us pray for **patience**.

Just - Because it is so easy to be selfish - let us pray for **forgiveness**

Just - Because it is always easier to see how others should change, rather than to see how we should change, - let us pray for **self-awareness and conversion**.

Lord, we trust that you will be with us each step of the way, to give light to our efforts and to lift us when we stumble.

With you we will not be afraid.

AMEN

The Journey Of The Magi



A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'

And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.

There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.

At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

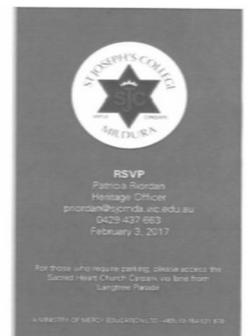
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down

This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

T.S. Eliot

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Invitation from College Principal, Marg Blythman
"A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon"
St. Joseph's College Mildura requests your company
at the Launch of our Heritage Book
Some Journeys Continue...
Sunday February 19, 2017
5:00pm - 8:00pm
Mass and Blessing
at 5:00pm in the Sacred Heart Church
Followed by
Concert in the Convent Courtyard
Cup of tea and finger food provided



PARISH FINANCE

Last weeks collections

1 st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1129.65
2nd Collection (not including DD, CC & EFT)	\$1255.00
Loose Plate	\$ 463.60

OFFICE HOURS FOR THE NEXT WEEK

OPEN: 10th—13th January:
9am—12.30pm

For all after hours enquiries please
call— 5022 9959

RETURN TO NORMAL OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2017



CHRISTMAS – AN OPEN DOOR OR EVEN A HALF-DOOR

Sophie and Zara had a very serious chat this time last year. These are my grandnieces. They aren't my grandchildren as one very brazen old lady (she was 70!) suggested recently! Sophie and Zara had a problem. Their brother Kyle was sad. His grandfather had died. Sophie explained to Zara that John had gone to heaven. But Zara wanted to know- where is heaven? Sophie was 5. She explained where heaven was. And then Zara asked – can we go there?

The story of the children is our story too. Where is heaven? Where is God? What is Christmas? The feast of Light. Who is the light? Jesus Christ. We had a swinging door last year as our symbol (suggested by Francis). Who opens the DOOR to God; to wonder; to beauty; to mystery? How can we open that DOOR into the heart of God? Into the poetry of faith?

At John's funeral (& all funerals), at the foot of the Comeraghs – the **door** also swung **open**. The mountains spoke. Nature is a **door** to God. If we let it swing open. If we stop, stare and are awed. The sense of loss at John's funeral – that too is a **door** into humanity and goodness. The wandering into many doors of homes (families), and stories. The openness, goodness and wonder of a home and family is that **Open door**. I am reminded of the **half-door** at home in years gone by; the **Table** and the **Range**. The **Kettle** of hospitality was always boiling. **Food** was for sharing. Chat was for **nourishment**. That was the altar. Here was the **Eucharist** of life.



The Open door – of laughter and argument; the **Open door** of insight and inspiration; the **Open door** of friendship and love. The **Open door** to God, happens in such hospitality. **The Open Door** – is a touch of God. It gives us a glimpse of something beyond. We shudder with surprise, delight and humility.

And now I return to the little ones: Sophie and Zara. 'Can we go there?' All of us can go there -To heaven and heaven is very close. It is when we let the fresh air of God into our minds, hearts and imaginations and don't stop learning, listening and loitering. Dark minds, dull hearts, dreary imaginations make no room for **open doors**. **An Open door** – happens when we let a baby, (the helplessness and mystery of a baby), tell us, how God relies on us and needs us. (Christmas).

I think of Medellin; a City described as 'soaring into the heavens.' That City links our minds, with the recent crash of the Chapencoense team. A City which connects with a Meeting of Latin American Bishops in '68 where the 'option for the poor' was declared and where 'liberation theology' woke up. If those links are suggestive and if we can 'soar into the heavens' we may catch something of the 'City of God' of which St Augustine speaks. Where is that City of God, for us just now?

But where does the codology of Brexit fit into this? Or Trump (named as person of the year)? Or the limiting counterfeit view of God sometimes peddled by Church people? These are crass, crude and reduced versions of humanity where the soaring sense of Godliness is lost and where the half-door is shut and where little fearful minds take over. There is no poetry in Brexit or in Trump or in some Church propagandists. There is nothing that 'soars into the sky.' There is only the flatness of closed minds, closed doors and closed imaginations. And I wonder how infected we all are, by our neglect of a God, who throws open doors, and who explodes in our hearts, with enthusiasm, exuberance and excitement. It is the **Feast of Good News**. It is the **Feast of Wonder**. It is the **Feast of God's Foolishness**. It is the **Feast of Beauty**. It is the **Feast of Poetry**. It is the **Feast of God inside us**. It is the **Feast of Love**. It is the **Feast of the Open Door** or the Half Door. It is expansive, extraordinary & wonderful.

Seamus Ahearne. OSA.

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

7th & 8th January, 2017

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

First Reading: Isa 60:1-6
Resp Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-13 R. v. 11
Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

6PM

9AM

5PM

6 Ministers required

7 Ministers required

6 Ministers required

Irene Morello

Maureen Speed

Petelo Mafi

Anne-Maree Greville

Alicia Tindall

Paula Cox

Taiana Fati

Lily Tindall

Jennifer Boord

Margaret McDonald

Peter O’Donnell

Reni Cheriyan

Trish McNamara

Filomena Carbone

Wendy Finn

Morris Henderson

Gina Raiti

Tony Finn

Anna Vartuli

MUSIC

Filipino Group

M Guthrie

Mafi Family

N Armsden

B Lewis / B Prescott

J O’Bryan

ALTAR SERVERS

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

2 Volunteers required

2 Volunteers required

2 Volunteers required

Baptism

Baptism

READERS

Katy Quinlan

Sonia Opie

Clare Sheahan

COUNTING TEAM 3

PETER MCDONALD 5022 1531

IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM

READER

EUCHARIST MINISTER

J Kearney

Malcolm Hoy

14th & 15th January 2017

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

First Reading: Isa 49:3, 5-6
Resp Psalm: Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9
Response: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.
Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-3
Gospel: Jn 1:29-34

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

6PM

9AM

5PM

6 Ministers required

7 Ministers required

6 Ministers required

Anita Naray

Nada Zudetich

Melanie Ransome

Maria Cirillo

Sara Visona

Bill Dolence

Christine Carmichael

Juliet Cresp

Jacqui Willis

Ellen Frauenfelder

Robert Tindall

Barbara Bunting

Jacinda Deacon

Louise Belej

Katrina Groves

Katy Quinlan

Nancy Leonardis

Judy Hall

Elena Garreffa

MUSIC

Youth Group

Tongan Choir

NO MUSIC

K Mafi

M Guthrie

ALTAR SERVERS

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

Please volunteer

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

2 Volunteers required

2 Volunteers required

2 Volunteers required

Colin & Lyn Welsh

READERS

Jen Ditchfield

Cathy or Paul

Christine Slattery

McErvale

COUNTING TEAM 4

KEVIN SCHULTZ 5023 8778

IRYMPLE - SUNDAY - 8.30AM

READER

EUCHARIST MINISTER

D Nichols

G Schmidt