

# 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	
SATURDAY	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: Antonia Cirottola, Pietro Cirillo

Anniversaries: Norm Smythe (1st year anniversary)

Saturday 6pm: Joseph Joseph (1st year anniversary)

Sunday 9am: Giuseppina Caia (1st year anniversary)

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Leopoldine Mimovich, Jenny Carracher, Greg Hogan

### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. Allan Bell, Eileen Mc Coy;  
 10<sup>th</sup> Teresa Gadzinski



*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

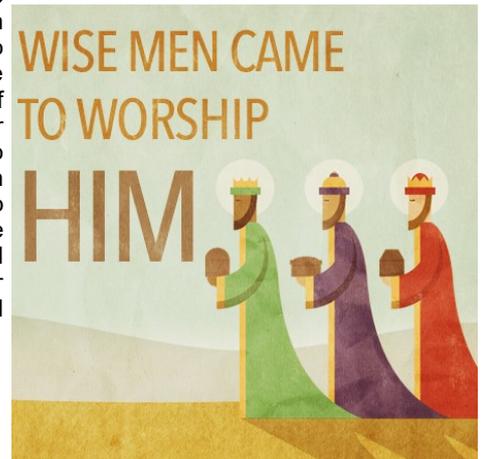
Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

## The Epiphany of the Lord / Year A 4th & 5th January 2020

The ancient feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the whole universe is in God and that God is in us. It celebrates the presence of God who is revealed to us in wondrous ways: in creation; in our dreams; in our day to day experience; in our sacred stories. Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways has nothing to do with naïve 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 more-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for the power of God's Spirit to lead us beyond ourselves towards a more profound encounter with the divine.

Epiphany has long been associated 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 attracts 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. They 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 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 people 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.



Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy

### ADVANCE NOTICE

#### RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2020

Parent Information Evening Wednesday

12<sup>th</sup> February 7:00pm

Sacred Heart Church

All families of children in Grade 4 and above due to celebrate First Eucharist in June this year need to attend this Parent Information Evening. Further information regarding the programs for **Reconciliation & First Eucharist** including Registration Forms can be obtained by contacting the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.



### 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:** Brian Weightman, Mary Flynn, Fr Denis Dennehy, Teresita Eliquen-Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuoniso, Lily Chung, Lorna Kearney, Dien Brown, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Vince Alicastro, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy

**Merbein:** Sr. Grace, Martin Rogers, Frank Chandler, Mary Avery, John Dorman

**Red Cliffs:** Maureen Lee, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Reynaldo Chan, Albis Dy, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Joe Cufari, Maurice O'Connor, Joe Mammone

### JOKE



A man is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?" God answers, "To me, it's about a minute." "God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny." "God, may I have a penny?" "Wait a minute."

### A FRIENDLY GUIDE TO MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

By Dorothy A Lee

Limited copies of the A Friendly Guide to Matthew's Gospel is now available at the Sacred Heart Parish Office for sale at \$30.00 each. Please call in.

### PLENARY COUNCIL THEMES FOR DISCERNMENT

Copies of each Theme are still available at the Sacred Heart Parish Office for those who attended the meetings and for those who wish to be a part of the discerning group.

## Community Life & Outreach

### PLANNED GIVING

If you have Planned Giving envelopes numbered 146 please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 as soon as possible.

### MUSICIANS

For Copyright purposes could all Music Leaders provide a copy of music used from July 2019—December 2019 to the Parish Office asap.

### LENTEN PROGRAM 2020

If you would like to order a book/s for Lent, please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 by Friday 25th January.

If you are wanting to organise/host or be part of a group please contact the Parish Office for further information.



### SHARED TABLE STALL & CUPPA

after 9am Mass next Sunday

All money collected goes directly to the Projects of The Shared Table in Lima, Peru. Cuppa in the Monaghan Centre. All welcome.



### 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

### ADVANCE NOTICE 2020

#### REGIONAL MISSION

- March 8th to March 13—Fr Ray Sanchez will again visit our Parish for a Mission.

#### RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

- April 20—May 16 CLC/Jesuit Tertian First Spiritual Exercises Retreat are organising an online/home Retreat for Mildura.

They will be offering the first retreat Inner Peace in Divine Love. The retreats are usually co-guided with a CLC member.

#### ADULT EDUCATION

- Fr Elio Capra will once again visit us in May/June for our Sacramental Program.

#### BULLETIN NOTICES

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

Email: [parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au](mailto:parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au) or call 5021 2872 during office hours .

#### UPDATING THE PARISH DATABASE

Red Cliffs, Merbein and Mildura

If your circumstances have changed: you have moved addresses, changed your postal address, have a new mobile phone number or updated your email address, please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872 so that we can update our Databases.

**THE LIGHT IN JOHN HENRY NEWMAN'S DARKNESS**



One blink and I am there, decades away and in another world: the hot Wimmera day gasps to a close, moving into evening as twilight begins to fall. Dad is out watering the garden, but all the front windows are open on to the veranda, so he can hear the piano and his wife and two daughters singing. He often hums along to our repertoire, which is a mixture of Anglo-Celtic songs such as 'On the Banks of Allan Water', and Australian numbers like 'The Road to Gundagai'. And then there are the hymns. We have our favourites: 'Onward, Christian Soldiers', 'To Be A Pilgrim', and 'Lead, Kindly Light'. This last has recently been brought to my attention again, and I realised I knew nothing about the writing of it, and certainly wouldn't have known, as a Protestant child, who the author of the hymn was, that it had been written by the recently canonised St John Henry Newman.

Nor would I have known that the hymn takes its inspiration from the biblical Old Testament book of Exodus 13, verses 21 and 22: the Israelites have left Egypt, and are wandering in the wilderness, but away from the darkness of exile in Egypt to the dawn and promise of a new, free life. God guides them all the way: a pillar of cloud leads them by day, and a pillar of fire lights their path at night.

The hymn was written in 1833, when Newman appears to have been in great need of inspiration and distraction. He had toured Italy with his Anglican priest friend Hurrell Froude, who suffered from tuberculosis, and was travelling in the Mediterranean for the sake of his health.

Froude and his father returned home, but Newman stayed on in Sicily, and in the event he was the one who became dangerously ill in Palermo, probably with typhoid fever. This was the third time he had fallen gravely ill, with his life in danger, and each time he attributed his recovery to his belief that God still had work for him to do.

But pity the traveller in 19th century Europe. I think it is still a trial to fall ill in a foreign land, for it is then that one most longs for home. So once even partially recovered, Newman was desperate to return to England, in order to keep on doing God's work. To his great frustration, however, he was stranded in Palermo for three weeks, as no westward-bound boats were available.

He finally obtained a passage on an orange boat that was destined for Marseilles. But more delay ensued, for the vessel was becalmed for a week in the Strait of Bonifacio, between the islands of Sardinia and Corsica. It was there, with even more time on his hands, that Newman wrote a poem called 'The Pillar and the Cloud', which became the very popular hymn.

It has nearly always been popular, apparently, and is the school hymn for several prominent establishments in Britain. As well, it has often been of great comfort to people in trouble, as when in 1909 a great disaster befell Durham coal miners: two underground explosions occurred at the West Stanley Colliery, killing 168 men and boys. But somehow 34 other men found a pocket of clean air and waited for rescue in almost total darkness.

They eventually began to sing 'Lead, Kindly Light': the lines 'the night is dark and I am far from home' must have seemed particularly apt. Rescue came to most of them after 14 hours. The hymn was also sung by the people in one of the lifeboats launched after the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912, and by troops in France before an assault in February 1915.

As well, I have learned the hymn was a particular favourite of Mahatma Gandhi. The friend who refreshed my memory also pointed out that the hymn is not specifically Christian, and can have meaning for Muslims, Jews, and those who have other beliefs. I can see the truth of this. Whatever our creed, and wherever we are, in whatever circumstances, there are always times during which we need to be comforted and guided, led on by a kindly light.

*Gillian Bouras is an expatriate Australian writer who has written several books, stories and articles, many of them dealing with her experiences as an Australian woman in Greece.*

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. [Matthew 2:11](#)



“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah. God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way. Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

*Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. (Pray three times and then prostrate yourself before the Lord) Jesus, I trust in You.*

**DROUGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVE**

The Australian Government have awarded the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia \$15 million dollars in drought relief funding under the Drought Community Support Initiative – Round 2 (DCSI) The project ends on 30 June 2020. Eligible applicants to the DCSI can receive a one-off cash payment of \$3,000. Farming community members can apply by going to the online application form, which can be found at [www.vinnies.org.au/droughtrelief](http://www.vinnies.org.au/droughtrelief)

Assistance with the application form can be obtained by phoning 1300 846 643.

Or direct donations to: **Millewa-Carwarp Farmers Fund.**

Funds that go direct to the farmer - BSB – 063520 Account – 10078126. Please put FD at the start of the reference.

**SUNRAYSA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE**

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1350.15	\$113.25	\$238.25
2nd Collection (includes all EFT)	\$2588.00	\$128.00	\$433.00
Loose Plate	\$ 593.15	\$ 74.15	\$ 63.30
The Monaghan Centre	\$ 100.00		

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

## PARISH NEWS

### Plenary Council:

Bishop Paul Bird is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter are available through parishes and through our diocesan website at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter and Nomination Forms can be viewed on the notice Board.

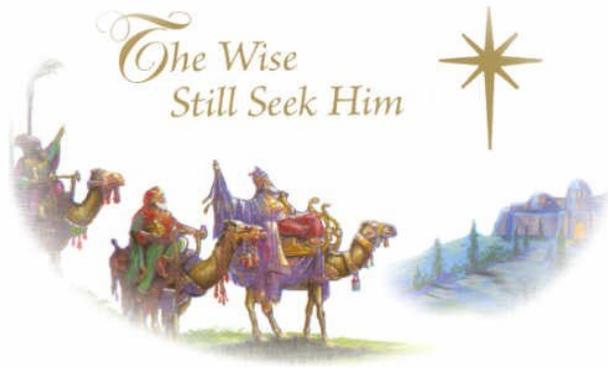
## BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community **William Cory** whose baptism occurs today.



## PARISH BLESSING

May this coming year be a year of blessings for our faith community and may it be a year that brings each one of us much joy and personal fulfilment.



## WEEKDAY MASSES

Unit 9—Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9.30am Tue, Thu: 5.30pm

## CALENDAR

**Sunday 5 Jan:** Today Feast of the Epiphany

**Sunday 12 Jan:** The Baptism of the Lord

## HELPED NEEDED.

After Mass next Sunday, January 12, Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and the last day of Christmas time, help is needed putting away all the accoutrements of the Advent & Christmas seasons.

## JOKE

A senior Catholic Priest was dying in a hospital and for his death wish he asked to see the local MP and the State Premier. Within hours, the two arrived. He asked them to sit on either side of the bed. The priest held their hands and kept quiet. The politicians were so touched and at the same time felt very important for being summoned by a senior and well respected priest in his dying moment. Out of anxiety, the Premier asked, 'But why did ask for me and the local MP?' The priest gathered all his strength and held their hands even tighter. Then with his eyes still closed, he mumbled 'Jesus died between two thieves. My only wish is to die the same way.' Minutes later as the silence enveloped the hospital room, the priest took his last breath.



## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS The Baptism of the Lord 4th & 5th January 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial: Ps 28:1-4, 9-10

Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17



Werrimull Last Sunday of each month 11am	Sacred Heart Saturday 6pm	Sacred Heart Sunday 9am	Sacred Heart Sunday 5pm	Irymple Sunday 8:30am	Red Cliffs Sunday 10:00am	Merbein Sunday 10:30am
Leader / Reader	Katy Quinlan	Laurie Fry	Peter Hammond	M Duck	J Cameron C Markham / M Monteleone	Bernadette Wells
Music	Filipino Group M Issanchon	M Guthrie / B Lewis J O'Bryan / B Prescott	NO MUSIC		Guitar	
Offertory		Baptism			M Adams	O'Connor Family
Children's Liturgy		To start March 2020				
Altar Servers	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please		<b>GROUP 7</b> E Papanicolaou	Volunteer Please
Eucharist Ministers	Anne-Maree Greville	Jean Rocca	Katrina Groves	Mal Hoy	M Cavallaro	Vi Barling
	Taiana Fatai	Bobby Castillo	Judy Hall		M Dominelli	Margo Farnsworth
	Margaret McDonald	Talia Faingaanuku	Myrna Rodi	<b>OASIS AGED CARE</b>	A Higham	<b>CHAFFEY AGED CARE</b>
	Paul Kerr	Michael Faingaanuku	Maree Irvin	M Duck	<b>CUPPA'S</b>	<b>Sr Carmel Setford</b>
	Anita Naray	Nancy Fatai	Sue Hermans		To commence	
	Ryan O'Callaghan	Peter O'Donnell	Naomi Kennedy	<b>LAY LITURGY LEADERS</b>	January 26th—2020	<b>LAY-LED LEADERS</b> B Wells K Wagner
	Volunteer Please				<b>FLOWERS</b> Volunteer	
Counting Team	<b>TEAM 10</b>	<b>BRIAN GROGAN 5021 2099</b>			<b>M Mapapalangi Family</b>	As per arrangement
Church Cleaning	As per arrangement				<b>Volunteers</b>	As per arrangement