

# 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 4



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: Maria Longo

Anniversaries: Matteo Zema

Saturday 6pm: Mario Panetta and all deceased members of the Panetta family, Perpetua Escano, Margaret Lunn

Sunday 9am: Scott Umback (1st year anniversary), Steve Panuccio, Tina Baldwin (30 day anniversary), Mary Natale, Vincenza Natale, Filippo Natale, Giuseppina Manna

Sunday 5pm: Maria Carlucci, Tina Baldwin (30 day anniversary)

Friday 5.40pm: Pietro (Peter) Cirillo (30 day anniversary)

### RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Domenico Mammone

### MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Jan.27<sup>th</sup>: Vincenzo Piscioneri; 28<sup>th</sup> Noela Crosbie, Pat Penfold; 30<sup>th</sup> Katherine Nicholl, Kevin Rogers; 31<sup>st</sup> Ruth McKee, John Carruthers, Maria Scali.

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

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A 25th & 26th January 2020

Most of the gospel readings this year will be from the gospel of Matthew. As with any story, it is probably best to read Matthew's story of Jesus from beginning to end over a few days, entering into the drama and attending to all the elements in the story. Sr. Elaine Wainwright's eco-rhetorical commentary on Matthew's gospel invites us to read with attention to habitat as well as to the human and the holy. We need to realise that what we bring to the text will inform our reading of the text. What we notice will depend on our own social and cultural contexts and on our capacity to bring our particular interpretive stance into dialogue with the worlds that inhabit the text. While the main character in the story is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups, including other-than-human characters.

In the passage selected for today, Matthew's Jesus hears the news of John the Baptizer's arrest and "withdraws" to the safety of Capernaum in Galilee. Matthew thus grounds him in a familiar locale. He then symbolically presents him as a great light for a people who have lived in darkness and the shadow of death and oppression. In the context of Roman imperial rule, Jesus offers the hope of an alternative reign. We might focus for a moment on the gift of light. Without an appreciation of natural light, we cannot hope to understand this image.

Jesus invites his hearers to expand their horizons, for the all-embracing empire or kin-dom "of the heavens" has come near. He then calls four fishermen to follow him, to join him on his mission of proclaiming the empire or reign "of the heavens". The verb "to follow" is an invitation to live out in their lives/in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life. They "immediately" leave their boat and their father and follow him. Later in the story we find they still have their boat, an indication that, at some levels, the story is to be read symbolically. At times we need to distance ourselves from family expectations for the sake of the gospel. At times we have to decentre our material possessions even while we affirm the goodness of their materiality and their significance for the work of the mission.

One might get the impression that the alternative community that Jesus forms around him is all male. This impression is dispelled a few verses later when we learn that "great crowds followed him" (4:25). In Matthew 18, there is specific mention of children and, towards the end of the gospel, we find that women have "followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him" (27:55). There is a far more extended group around Jesus than today's reading might suggest. Women, men, and children, we are all invited to turn our lives around and to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm



# Sacred Heart Mildura REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Sacramental Life & Liturgy



### BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community **Dante Costa** whose Baptism occurs this weekend.

### RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST 2020

**Parent Information Evening**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 7pm**  
**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 Flinn, 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

## Community Life & Outreach

### SACRED HEART FAMILY GROUP

Will begin their year with brunch at the Mildura Workers Club on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 am. Please let Denise or Gerry know your intentions on 50211918. All welcome and join us.

### LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Vacancies exist in a Lenten Discussion Group which will meet during Lent. The group will meet in the Hillman Room on Thursdays from 10am until 11am following the 9.15am Mass, commencing on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

If you are interested in joining the group contact Wilma or George Schmidt on 5021 4953 or the Parish Office on 5021 2872. There is a once only cost of \$10 for the resource book.



### 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.

### 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

- Monday 16th March  
Fr Elio Capra—Sacrament of Reconciliation

### SOUP KITCHEN

Will commence on Monday 3rd February.

### CLOSURE OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL PIETY STALL—SACRED HEART CHURCH, MILDURA

The members of the Sacred Heart Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society will no longer be operating the Piety Shop in the Church. Piety items can be purchased at the St Vincent de Paul Opportunity Shop (Vinnies) 79 Lime Ave, Mildura and at the Sacred Heart Parish Office 5021 2872, though limited items.

### PLANNED GIVING STATEMENTS

Are now available at all churches. Statements are from 26/08/2019 to 31/12/2019. Please check your statements and should you find any discrepancies contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office on 5021 2872.



### 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

As staff and students prepare to return to school this coming week we ask God's Blessing upon all their preparations and their endeavours during the coming year.





**Vinnies: All donations will get to affected communities**

The appeal has so far raised \$12.5 million (St Vincent de Paul Society)

The St Vincent de Paul Society has assured Australians that every dollar raised for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal will be used to support the people affected by the fires.

In a statement released yesterday, the St Vincent de Paul Society said, "Vinnies will not, and has never kept funds from disaster appeals for any other work or cause".

"During the bushfire crisis, Vinnies volunteers are on the ground in hundreds of communities across the country, helping people as they deal with the immediate aftermath of fires. Our volunteers live and work in the impacted communities and will stay alongside those people affected for the long months of recovery ahead.

"Vinnies has from day one been in communities providing assistance from our own funds and over the past three weeks has been actively distributing assistance from the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. This includes financial packages; essential items such as food, water, clothing and bedding; and emotional support for those affected by the bushfires."

To date, the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal has raised \$12.5 million to support people affected by bushfires in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT. The charity said it had distributed more than \$2.4 million nationally with a further \$250,000 already processed for distribution in the coming days.

Vinnies said significant amounts of material goods including food, water, clothing and bedding had also been distributed.

"The process of assessing people and establishing their need does take some time but we are focused on helping as many people as possible as quickly as we can. As we access more communities and establish need, we are also accelerating the rate of response," the statement said.

"No administration fees are taken from this appeal, meaning the money raised goes directly to the relief and recovery effort.

"Vinnies is focused on doing what it has always done - assist people to rebuild their lives as they re-establish their homes, their livelihoods and their spirit. We will provide assistance now and during the difficult months ahead for those people who have lost everything."

A special collection will be taken in Catholic parishes throughout the country this Australia Day weekend for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal.

**Ongoing Australia Day debate is crucial**

*Discussion of relationships between Indigenous and largely European cultures in Australia could encourage humility and reconciliation (Eureka Street)*

The Australia Day date debate has some beneficial aspects by focusing attention on the relationships between Indigenous Australians and later arrivals.

Over recent years discussion of Australia Day has largely focused on how appropriate the date is for a national celebration. Many Indigenous Australians see the arrival of the First Fleet as an invasion which destroyed Indigenous nations and cultures and left their descendants disadvantaged strangers in their own land.

The obdurate refusal to consider changing the date inevitably makes the public holiday a symbol of exclusion as well as of national unity.



The inappropriateness of the date, however, has some beneficial aspects. It focuses attention on the relationships between Indigenous Australians and later arrivals, and between Indigenous and the largely European cultures in Australia.

Public discussion of these relationships often manifests prejudice and self-satisfaction. But it could also encourage humility and reconciliation, inviting a shared conversation about how our conflicted past has influenced the present Australian reality, and how reflection on it might shape a better future.

In what we hope is the aftermath of the catastrophic fires this conversation is particularly important. In addition to the reviews of the factors that made them so destructive and of how we might better prepare for future fire seasons, we need also to ask larger questions about how Indigenous Australians before European settlement managed the land and how our agricultural and economic practices have contributed to the perilous situation in which we now find ourselves.

Australia Day would be wasted if it were devoted simply to self-congratulation and technological wizardry with no care for the future. It is a time for hard thinking about both our Indigenous and our European heritage.

In Australia this kind of thinking meets strong opposition. It is often based in belief that the settler culture is shared by all Australians and that it is a superior and richer culture than that of Indigenous Australians. The claim of superiority attaches to the ability of settlers to develop the land. It insists that the new arrivals had much to teach and nothing to learn from the first Australians. These assumptions, however, are called into question by the challenges that now face Australia.

*Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ is consulting editor of Eureka Street.*



**AUSTRALIA DAY COLLECTION FOR BUSHFIRE RELIEF**  
The Australian Bishops have asked that a special collection be taken up during masses this weekend to donate towards the Bush Fire Relief

Fund. Thank you for your support.

**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) | \$1485.65 | \$129.55 | \$196.15   |
| 2nd Collection (includes all EFT)                            | \$1261.00 | \$261.25 | \$520.75   |
| Loose Plate  | \$ 548.15 | \$ 72.55 | \$ 34.75   |
| The Shared Table   | \$ 130.00 |          |            |

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

## PARISH NEWS

**Welcome Back to our School Community.** We pray that 2020 will be a year of many blessings. The opening of the school year Mass will be celebrated on Thursday February 6 at 9.15am. All welcome Mass next Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, will be an anniversary remembrance Mass for Vincenzo Piscioneri.

### 'Our Parish' Newsletter

Hopefully everyone has taken their copy of 'OUR PARISH' Newsletter which Bernadette Wells so capably and generously produces for us each year - Many, many thanks Bernadette!

### Plenary Council

Just a reminder to anyone who would like to add anything to the Plenary Council Statement (which is in 'Our Parish' Newsletter ) before it is sent in before Easter. Please let Nancy Prevadello or Sr. Carmel know of your wishes.

### Lenten Program

We need to order the books for anyone who would like to take part in the Lenten Program. It is one of the few opportunities we have to reflect upon and share our faith and hopefully grow in our understanding of what it means to be an active Christian in today's world. The program would be for 1 hour a week for the 6 weeks of Lent - either afternoon or evening sessions. Please let Sr. Carmel know ASAP if you are interested in taking part.

## WEEKDAY MASSES

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

## CALENDAR

**Sunday 26th Jan:** Australia Day & Cuppa & Trading Table after Mass.

**Monday 3rd Feb:** Students first day back to school

**Wednesday 26th Feb:** Ash Wednesday

## RED CLIFFS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020

The meeting of parents to launch our program will be on Wednesday evening, February 19. The classes will commence at 9.00 am on Sunday, February 23.

As I need to order books for the program, if any of you know of children at State Schools, Year 4 or above, please have them get in touch with me as soon as possible on 5024-1966. If I don't answer, ask them to leave a clear message for me. *Fr Patrick J Flanagan*

## AUSTRALIA DAY

As usual I will talk at the Australia Day Mass on national matters. This year I will be trying to contribute to the discussion on 2 very important matters: 1. Irrigation water & 2. Readiness to fight bushfires in the future.



## CUPPA & TRADING TABLE

Please join us for a CUPPA and Trading Table after Mass today. Proceeds this month go to CATHOLIC MISSION.



## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTERS AND READINGS / 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st & 2nd February 2020

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4  
Responsorial: Ps 23:7-10  
Response: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!  
Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18  
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



| Werrimull<br>Last Sunday of<br>each month 11am | Sacred Heart<br>Saturday 6pm | Sacred Heart<br>Sunday 9am  | Sacred Heart<br>Sunday 5pm      | Irymple<br>Sunday 8:30am | Red Cliffs<br>Sunday 10:00am  | Merbein<br>Sunday 10:30am     |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Leader /<br>Reader                             | Anita Naray                  | Mary Jackson                | Tony Finn                       | D Knight                 | T Lewis<br>M Cavallaro/M Duck | K Wagner                      |
| Music  | M Guthrie<br>All welcome     | Italian Choir<br>M Sullivan | M Hammond<br>J Macri / J Ljubic |                          | Guitar                        |                               |
| Offertory                                      |                              | Lyn & Colin Welsh           |                                 |                          | L Bugno                       | Besgrove Family               |
| Children's<br>Liturgy                          |                              | To start March 2020         |                                 |                          |                               |                               |
| Altar Servers                                  | Volunteer Please             | Volunteer Please            | Volunteer Please                |                          | GROUP 2<br>B Williams         | Volunteer Please              |
| Eucharist<br>Ministers                         | Maria Cirillo                | Rose Op't Hoog              | Wendy Finn                      | M Jensen                 | M Matotek                     | Natalie Besgrove              |
|  | Christine Carmichael         | Rink Op't Hoog              | Tony Finn                       |                          | N Morello                     | Adam Lawence                  |
|  | Jacinda Deacon               | Cora Howell                 | Bill Dolence                    | OASIS AGED CARE          | M Monteleone                  | CHAFFEY AGED<br>CARE          |
|  | Katy Quinlan                 | Narie Lewis                 | Jacqui Willis                   | M Hoy                    | CUPPA'S                       | i Barling<br>Margo Farnsworth |
|  | Vince Pileggi                | Renata Byra                 | Barbara Bunting                 |                          |                               |                               |
|  | Volunteer please             | Kapeli Mapapalangi          | Volunteer please                | LAY LEADERS              |                               | LAY LEADERS                   |
|  | Catherine McErvale           |                             |                                 |                          | FLOWERS<br>Volunteer          |                               |
| Counting Team                                  | TEAM 3                       | PETER MCDONALD 5022 1531    |                                 |                          | F & M Dominelli               | As per arrangement            |
| Church Cleaning                                | As per arrangement           |                             |                                 |                          | Volunteers                    | As per arrangement            |