

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
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716
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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 51

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew
Retired Priest Fr. Pat Flanagan

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo
Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

Sacred Heart
Mildura

Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein

St. Francis Xavier
Irymple

St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs

*The Sunraysia Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care.
Child Safety Officers:- Mildura—Peter Issanchon, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

4th Sunday of Advent / Year B 19th & 20th December 2020

MILDURA

Recent Death: Sr Margaret Condon RSM (formerly Sr Annette) and Principal of Our Lady's School Merbein, Valeliano Ahovelo

Anniversaries:

Saturday 6pm: Frank Cirillo, Alessandro & Caterina Piscioneri

Sunday 5pm: Domenico Ficarra, Leo & Antoniette Demaria

Tuesday 6pm: Antonino Lenzi (30 day anniversary)

Friday 6pm:

RED CLIFFS

Anniversaries: Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna, Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone

MERBEIN

Anniversaries: Mark Seppings, Brian Deed, Betty Stirrat, Hazel Bell, Betty Clifford, Michael & Leanne Rogers, Richard McDonald, Ann Cox, Marcell Meredith, Jessie Manno, Thomas Murchie (Only immediate family members of the deceased are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)

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:

Merbein:

Red Cliffs: E Mammone, Barry Crosbie, Maurice O'Connor, Lou Grivec, Kaye Grivec, Faye Rhook, Frank Mammone

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

Message from our Parish Priest

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the theme for this Sunday is Peace. I hope that this time of the year bring you peace in your life. During this busy time we need to be able to stop and reflect about the important things in our life and who is important to you. Finding peace can often mean dis-guarding things or give new purpose to old habits, things.

As we prepare for Christmas let us remember those who are not as fortunate as we are and may need some assistance. We also need to acknowledge others and share what we have to enable all of us to have a very Merry Christmas.

Fr Matthew

Christmas Mass Times 2020

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

6pm	Sacred Heart Mildura
6pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Werrimull
7.30pm	Our Lady's Merbein
8pm	St Joseph's Red Cliffs
9.30pm	Sacred Heart Mildura
12pm Midnight	Sacred Heart Mildura

Christmas Day Friday 25th December

8.30am	St Francis Xavier Irymple
9am	Sacred Heart Mildura
10.30am	St Joseph's Red Cliffs
10.30am	Our Lady's Merbein

New Years Day

Friday 1st January 2021: 9am Sacred Heart Mildura
10am St Joseph's Red Cliffs

Please Note that due to COVID restrictions two extra Masses on Christmas Day are available at Merbein & Red Cliffs churches.

LOCAL NEWS



NATIVITY PLAY CHRISTMAS EVE

2020

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm.

A dress rehearsal will be held on Monday 21st December at 4pm at the Sacred Heart Church. For further information please call 50212872.

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

New CDFpay online payment portals are now available for Mildura, Merbein & Red Cliffs. Please follow the links below:

Mildura: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMildura>)

Merbein: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMerbein>)

Red Cliffs: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayRedCliffs>)

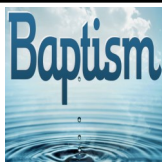
If you are contributing to the 2nd Collection please include your Planned Giving number in the comments section. **(Please do not use the Presbytery option when using the links above).**

The preferred & dedicated link for Presbytery (1st Collection) is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpaySunraysia>

Carmel will gladly help with any enquiries.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Sacred Heart Parish Community—Gianna Cupello who was Baptised this weekend.



MASS COLLECTIONS— COVID rules

Mildura: Two collection baskets clearly labelled 1st Collection and 2nd Collection are available for your use on either side of the sanctuary.

Irymple: Baskets left on offertory table

Merbein: Baskets left on offertory table.

Red Cliffs: Baskets left on offertory table.

Opportunities will be available before, during and after Mass for you to contribute.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Merbein Parish Council—Sunday 20th December after the 10.30am Mass.

WANTED

Small house or unit to rent—2 people. Please contact Claudine on 0455 369 219

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Next weekend there will be the special collection for the Bishop's Appeal, this will be a leaving collection.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Parish Office Hours Christmas through to end of January 2021

Please note the Parish Office will be **closed** from Christmas Eve Thursday **24th December 12noon** until **Tuesday 5th January at 9am.**

Please note that from 5th to 22nd of January the Parish Office will be opened from 9am till 12noon only.

Thank You!

Vinnies' Red Cliffs wish to thank all parishioners who donated presents for children of the needy of the district. A special word of thanks to the teachers and the pupils at St Joseph's school. Their effort was again outstanding.

Thanks also to Topui, Doug & Setefano Mapapalangi who assisted Grace Brizzi in getting all of the church pews back into their right places, ready for Mass today. *PJF*

FR PAT'S FAREWELL MASS

Will be held 10.30am on Sunday, January 24, 2021, when we celebrate our Mass for Australia Day. A luncheon will follow. Further details in coming weeks.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING MASS

As there will be no overall limit on the number of people who can attend religious gathering and ceremonies. The **number of people** will depend on the **size of the church.**

Parishes are still required to keep a record of the first name and contact phone number of each person who attends.

If we register manually (using pen and paper), the density quotient will remain at **1 person per 4 square metres.** If we keep the record electronically, using a QR code, the density quotient can be **1 person per 2 square metres.** Obviously using the QR code system is the preferred method.

Approximate people to church size:

Mildura: 450 people

Merbein: 150 people

Irymple: 50 people

Red Cliffs: 250 people



At the time of printing this bulletin people attending the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses at Merbein, Irymple and Red Cliffs are to register with the Parish Office on 5021 2872. People wishing to attend the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day mass at Mildura are required to register using the QR Code as they arrive at the Church.

LOCAL NEWS

Sunraysia Parishes Mass Times for December

Weekdays

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	6pm Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am Mildura 9.30am Red Cliffs
Thursday	See Christmas Timetable
Friday	See Christmas Timetable
Saturday	No Mass

Sunday Masses from 19th & 20th December

Saturday	6pm—Mildura
Sunday	8.30am—Irymple 9am—Mildura 10.30am—Red Cliffs 10.30am Merbein 5pm Mildura

Parishioners from all Parishes are encouraged to use the QR Code displayed in all churches.

Please note there will be no MASSES from Tuesday 29th December to Thursday 31st December.

QR CODE

All churches have been registered with a QR (Quick Response) code and will be in place for use at all Masses until further notice.

Using a QR code requires people to scan the code using their smart phone camera. The QR code takes the person to a website where they enter their details. Please install a QR Code reader/scanner app on your phone prior to scanning this code. Make sure the app is for free.

For parishioners who don't have a mobile phone, a parish volunteer with an IPAD will help you register and please arrive at least 15-20 minutes prior to mass starting to avoid congestion.

COVIDSafe requirements continue to apply and if you are sick or unwell please do not attend Mass and get tested.



SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$ 832.50	\$ 44.00	\$146.85
2nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$2567.30	\$148.80	\$130.00
Loose Plate	\$ 145.45	\$ 40.30	\$ 55.20

ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend — 19th & 20th December 2020

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Katy Quinlan
Sunday 9am: Rebecca Tam
Sunday 5pm: Peter Hammond
Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.
Music: Sat 6pm: M Sullivan, B Lewis, B Prescott
Sun 9am: Mary Issanchon
Sun 5pm: S Fatai, K Mapapalangi, L Duy
Counting Team: Team 9 - George Dolence 5023 7993
Irymple Reader: Mary Hoy

MERBEIN

Reader: Jeanette Ellis

RED CLIFFS

Readers: D Eagle, J Vines, M Slater
Music: Tongan Choir
Counting Team: B Gardner, S Williams
Eucharistic Minister: 1 volunteer
Flowers: J Cameron
(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

Next weekend — 26th & 27th December 2020

MILDURA

Readers: Saturday 6pm: Mary Jackson
Sunday 9am: Laurie Fry
Sunday 5pm: Rose-Marie Zalec
Eucharistic Ministers: 2 volunteers at each Mass.
Music: Sat 6pm: Sr Helen Holen
Sun 9am: M Hammond, J Macri
Sun 5pm: Soane Fatai, am Duy
Counting Team:
Irymple Reader: G McCracken

MERBEIN

Reader: Frances Sabo

RED CLIFFS

Readers: K Hawkes, M Bell, J Cameron
Music: Guitar
Counting Team: C Russo, T Gardiner
Eucharistic Minister: 1 volunteer
Flowers: J Cameron
(If you are rostered on please contact Office to book in for Mass)

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and *God's Spirit hovered over the water*. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.' © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in

which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



4th Sunday Of Advent

