

# Sunraysia Catholic Communities



Parish Office: 5021 2872  
 Parish Mobile : 0417 862 082  
 257 Eleventh Street Mildura  
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 mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 2

**Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas**  
**Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew**

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*

## The Baptism of the Lord / Year C 8th & 9th January 2022

### RECENT DEATHS

Grace Cox, Dorothy Lang

### Mildura

Anniversaries:

Tuesday 6pm: Pietro Cirillo

### Red Cliffs

Anniversaries: Cecilia & Domenico D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone, Francesco & Maria-Antonia Tassone, Adrianna Tassone

### Merbein

Anniversaries: Teresa Gadzinski, Emma Sedgman, Bob Berriman, Rita Tellefson

*(Immediate family members of the deceased are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)*

## Message from our Parish Priest

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. This will conclude the Christmas Season and then we commence Ordinary Time of the year. As we remember our own baptisms and the faith journey which begun for us as children or as adults we nurture God's love within ourselves and others. The symbolism of the Water washing clean and renewing life within us gives me hope of being able to grow as a person.

I ask that as we commence this new year that we spend time of prayer for each other and our community. We have so much to be grateful for and to give thanks. We are in a time of change and now more than ever we need prayerful assistance.

Masses this week will commence back to normal mass time table.

God bless you all.  
 Fr Matthew Thomas



Please note that if you have booked a memorial mass you are reminded to speak to the priest prior to the mass to let him know you are there.

## Advance Notice Sacramental Dates 2022

**Reconciliation (Grade 3)**  
 (TBC)

**Confirmation (Grade 3)**  
 Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th June

**First Eucharist (Grade 4)**  
 Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd Sunday 23rd October

**Reconciliation (Grade 2)**  
 Wednesday 23rd November



## Please abide by the COVID Staying Safe Rules

- . Masks to be worn in church from 8 years old & up
- . Use the QR Check in App when entering church
- . Use the hand sanitizer
- . If you are feeling unwell please stay home

# LOCAL NEWS

## Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours for January 2022

The Parish Office will be **closed** and reopened on Tuesday 18th January.

Please note that from **18th to 25th January** the Parish Office will be opened from **9am till 12noon only**. Normal operating hours will commence from Thursday 27th January.

## Communion to the Sick—All Parishes

If you have a family member who is house bound or aged care (because of COVID hospital visits are not allowed at the moment) and they would like to receive communion, please consider this opportunity for you to help with our Communion to the Sick. This list continues to grow in all parishes. We will organise a short training session for new ministers after a weekend Mass in January 2022.

For more information please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

## RCIY

If you are between the **ages of 12 and 18** and are yet to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist and /or Confirmation. We are looking at commencing a program when school returns in 2022. For further details please contact the Sacred Heart Parish office on 5021 2872.

## Highways and Byways Small Grants Program 2022

The 2022 Highways and Byways Small Grants Program is now open for applications. The theme is Healing the Land – Healing Ourselves-Together. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations, especially in rural and regional areas, for projects that focus on healing the land in holistic ways and increasing opportunities to build community through practical projects, leadership and skills acquisition, and knowledge transfer. For more information go to

<https://highwaysandbyways.org.au/grants/>

## Our Parish Schools

**Sacred Heart Mildura** Principal: Mark Gibson 5023 1204

**St Paul's Mildura** Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

**OLSH Merbein** Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258

**St. Joseph's Red Cliffs** Principal: Naomi Kennedy 5024 1654

**St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura**

Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

## Weekly Prayer Opportunities

### Sacred Heart Mildura

**Scripture Group:** Thursday 3:00pm – Monaghan Centre

**Devotions and Exposition:** Friday 4:00pm

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 10:00am—10:30am

**Christian Meditation:** Sat 11:30 am Monaghan Centre

## Looking Forward Booklet 2021-2025

The new “Looking Forward” pastoral planning booklet 2021-2025 is now available and can be accessed and/or downloaded from the diocesan Website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/looking-forward/>. Hard copies will be distributed to parishes in the new year. This new edition of “Looking Forward” provides principles to guide our pastoral planning, includes data about the diocese and offers information on changes to parishes over the next few years.

## All Things New Ignatian Gathering 2022

The Society of Jesus (Australian Jesuits) invites you to its Ignatian Gathering for Young Adults (18-30 years) to take place in Melbourne from January 17 – 21 2022 at Newman College (<https://newman.unimelb.edu.au/about/architecture/>). This gathering is a chance for young to ‘reset, reconnect and re-engage’ through building friendships, sharing values, celebrating gratitude, offering service. As implied by the theme, ‘All Things New - 2022: spirituality + service + wellbeing’, the gathering will focus on these three areas. Cost is \$320.00 plus \$8.50 trybooking fee. Price includes all meals, program activities and individual rooms. All participants will need to comply with the venue’s COVID-safe and vaccination requirements at the time of the event, to be able to take part in the gathering. For more information please contact [magisaustralia@sjasl.org](mailto:magisaustralia@sjasl.org).

To register go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BUNRC>.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: ‘You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.’

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: “You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you.”

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

# LOCAL NEWS

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Changes to Weekday Mass times will be listed below

	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	6PM	9.30AM	
WEDNESDAY	NO MASS (FUNERAL SERVICE)		
THURSDAY	9:30AM	5:30PM	9.30AM
FRIDAY	6PM		
SATURDAY	9:30AM		

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	IRYMPLE	MILDURA	RED CLIFFS	MERBEIN
SATURDAY		6PM		
SUNDAY	8:30AM	9AM	10AM	10:30AM
		5PM		
WERRIMULL 11:00AM (5TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)				

## 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:** Rosemary Byrne, Nancy Panuccio,

**Merbein:**

**Red Cliffs:** Barry Crosbie

## SUNRAYSIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES FINANCE

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1546.15	\$ 81.75	\$184.55
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$1939.40	\$173.50	\$310.80
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 399.85	\$ 7.15	\$ 27.20

... the Holy Spirit descended on him [Jesus] in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

- Luke 3:22 -



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# ROSTERS ALL CHURCHES

This weekend - 8th & 9th January 2022

Next weekend - 15th & 16th January 2022

**Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am**

### Mildura

**Readers:** Sat 6pm: R Tongue  
Sun 9am: S Fatai  
Sun 5pm: S Hermans

**Eucharistic Ministers: 3**

Sat 6pm: A Naray, K Quinlan, V Pileggi  
Sun 9am: R Tongue, L Cirillo, L Fry  
Sun 5pm: J Willis, B Bunting, K Groves

**Music:** Sat 6pm: Filipino Choir, M Issanchon  
Sun 9am: M Guthrie, B Prescott, B Lewis, J O'Bryan  
Sun 5pm: No Music

**Counting Team:** Group 4—M Roper

### Irymple

**Reader:** P Riordan

### Merbein

**Reader:** F Sabo  
**Offertory:** Besgrove family

### Red Cliffs

**Readers:** M Bell, A Higham  
**Music:** Guitar  
**Offertory Procession:** N Orr  
**Altar Servers:** School Holidays  
**Eucharistic Minister:** G Brizzi  
**Church Cleaning:** Cleaner  
**Flowers:** J Cameron



**Werrimull 5th Sunday of each month 11am**

### Mildura

**Readers:** Sat 6pm: A Naray  
Sun 9am: S Opie  
Sun 5pm: T Finn

**Eucharistic Ministers: 3**

Sat 6pm: M Cirillo, C Carmichael, P Kerr  
Sun 9am: J Rocca, B Castillo, T Faingaanuku  
Sun 5pm: J Hall, M Rodi, M Irvin

**Music:** Sat 6pm: M Sullivan, J Ljubic  
Sun 9am: Tongan Choir, M Guthrie  
Sun 5pm: No Music

**Counting Team:** Group 5—Helen Kay

### Irymple

**Reader:** G Schmidt

### Merbein

**Reader:** E Piscioneri, Nemtsas family  
**Offertory:**

### Red Cliffs

**Readers:** J Cameron, T Gardiner  
**Music:** Guitar  
**Offertory Procession:** M Adams  
**Altar Servers:** School Holidays  
**Eucharistic Minister:** C Cavallaro  
**Church Cleaning:** Volunteers  
**Flowers:** J Cameron



**Next Weekends Readings: - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C — 15th & 16th January 2022**

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 95:1-3, 7-10  
**Response:** Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.  
**2nd Reading:** Corinthians 12:4-11  
**Gospel:** John 2:1-11



## First Reading

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers  
and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up:  
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

## Second Reading

Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

## Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;  
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

One is coming  
who is mightier  
than I, and I am  
not fit to untie  
the thong of His  
sandals

He will  
baptize  
you with  
the Holy Spirit  
and with fire.

Luke 3:16

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