



 **ST FRANCIS XAVIER**
2 Elms Street, Irymple

 **OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART**
20 Box Street, Merbein

 **SACRED HEART**
261 Eleventh Street, Mildura

 **ST JOSEPH'S**
8726 Calder Highway, Red Cliffs

 **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**
47 Werrimull South Road, Werrimull



Sts Anne and Joachim
CATHOLIC PARISH OF SUNRAYSIA

Parish Office: 257 Eleventh Street, Mildura. **Office Hours:** 9am - 4pm, Tue to Fri.

Postal Address: PO Box 10037, MILDURA VIC AUSTRALIA 3502

Office Phone: 03 5021 2872 **Presbytery:** 0417 862 082

E-mail: sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au **Website:** www.sunraysiacatholic.org

Sunday 1st December 2024 | Edition 48/2024

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

MASS TIMES

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday: St Francis Xavier

6pm Mildura

Wednesday

~~9:30am Mildura~~

Thursday

9:30am Merbein

9:30am Mildura

5:30pm Red Cliffs

Friday: St Nicholas

6pm Mildura

Saturday: St Ambrose

9:30am Mildura

6pm Mildura

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30am Irymple

9am Mildura

10am Red Cliffs

10:30am Merbein

5pm Mildura

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 4:30pm - 5:45pm

~~Friday 4:30pm - 5:45pm~~

Saturday from 10am

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 4pm - 5:15pm, Mildura

~~Friday 4pm - 5:15pm, Mildura~~

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Saturday 10am, Mildura

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



LET US PRAY

FOR THE SICK:

Madeline Nolen
Reynaldo Chan
Salvatore Suppa,
Mick Joslyn
David Adolph,
Maddison Smith

Please obtain permission if you are submitting another's name. Intentions are printed for one month only, but can be renewed each month.

RECENT DEATHS:

Lauro Llasus

ANNIVERSARIES:

Giovanni Bachetti

Mildura – Saturday 6pm:

Joseph, Peter, Maria & Lucy Tran
Maria Nguyen & All souls
Filomena Garreffa

Mildura—Sunday 9am:

Rocco Mammone
Pasqualina Grande
Ciriaco Valdezamo

Mildura—Sunday 5pm:

Frank Cirillo

Mildura –Tuesday 6pm:

Tony Leonardis (1yr anniversary)

Merbein:

Nancy McCarthy, Harry Farrell,
Barry Rowe, John Olden,
Laurie Smith, Ilario Cavallo,
Angela & Giuseppe Gentile,
Joe Piscioneri

If you have booked a memorial Mass please speak to the priest prior to the Mass.

FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRIEST

Advent literally means 'coming' or 'arrival.' It is a reminder that Jesus is coming to collect us. We are not made for this world. We must be ready to go to that place God has prepared for us. We travel light, with a measured pace, eyes on Heaven.

Medieval Christians often went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land or to Saint James' tomb. These long and arduous walks were a way to keep a promise, to perform penance, or to find the meaning of one's life. Over 250,000 people still walk the Camino de Santiago each year – including some Sunraysia parishioners. By the mere fact of walking every day for many hours, every *peregrino* comes back changed. We moderns have lost the sense of walking. We tend to drive or fly. We talk more about personal fulfilment, professional development, and financial goals.

Long walks remind us of our human condition: the important journey we are all of us embarked upon. What is really important is not career advancement or material possessions, but our end goal of Heaven, and the relationships we foster on the way.

This is also the purpose of Advent. To prepare well for Christmas we must *slow down*. Walk, don't race, to the finish line!

Fr John

UPCOMING IN DECEMBER

Tuesday 3rd - Finance Committee
7am Meeting

Wednesday 4th - Bereavement Team
1pm Bereavement Team Meeting Parish Office

Wednesday 11th - Baptism Preparation
6.30pm Meeting in Monaghan Centre

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th
Fr Cay will return for a Mass of Thanksgiving

ANOINTING MASSES

Tuesday 10th December, 1pm Princes Court
Thursday 12th December, 10.30am Chaffey
Thursday 12th December, 5:30pm Red Cliffs church
Tuesday 17th December, 10.30am, Jacaranda
Tuesday 17th December, 1.30pm Regis Tenth
Thursday 19th December, 10.30am Bupa
Thursday 19th December, 1.30pm Regis Ontario

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Reconciliation Service:

Wed 11th Dec – 7pm, Mildura

Christmas Eve Masses (Tue 24th Dec):

6pm Mildura 6pm Werrimull
10pm Mildura 8pm Red Cliffs
Midnight Mildura 8pm Merbein

Christmas Day Masses (Wed 25th Dec):

9am Mildura 8.30am Irymple

(Carols sung prior to all Christmas Masses)

Volunteers are required for all our ministry duties for the Christmas Season. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PLAY

Children are invited to attend and be part of the Nativity Play at the Sacred Heart Church Family Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Please note the two rehearsals:

Thursday 12th December at 5:30pm

Thursday 19th December at 5:30pm

For more details, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Office closure: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Wednesday 1st January 2025.

Modified operating hours, 9am to midday only:
Thursday 2nd January to Friday 24th January 2025.

Normal operating hours, 9am to 4pm: From Tuesday 28th January 2025.

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

Priest: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

PAUSE IN SILENCE

All: Lord God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: hope of the peoples, the Saviour of every nation. You ask us to be watchful and alert because we do not know when you will come.

Let this candle bring us light and call us to a new wakefulness. At those times when you ask us to act, give us strength to respond at once.

Priest: Loving God, let your blessing come upon us gathered around this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE FIRST CANDLE IS LIT

All: Loving God, You call us all to be your people united in faith. We thank you for this wreath, the evergreen sign of your faithful love.

We light this candle in hope, the hope of our coming Saviour, Jesus. Dispel the darkness of sin, that the light and joy of Jesus may shine in this waiting world.

Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT WITH SCROOGE

Christmas shouldn't be exhausting! It's easy to let the season's stress and anxiety afflict us. How will we pay for the presents? Do we attend every party? When are we travelling?



Christmas should be a time of joy, not stress. A time to connect with God, family, and friends. Make the Audio Advent Calendar of *A Christmas Carol* an antidote to seasonal pressure. Each day, listen to a 10 minute segment of Charles Dickens' classic story. Sign up at:

www.adventwithscrooge.com

ONLINE CARMELITE RETREAT



Join an online program of prayer and prepare for Christmas with the Discalced Carmelites and St Thérèse. Every Friday of Advent, you will be emailed:

- A meditation on the Sunday Gospel
- A quote from St Thérèse of Lisieux
- Practical suggestion to enrich your prayer
- A brief video on the weekly theme

Sign up at: tiny.cc/carmelite-advent

ADORATION THIS ADVENT





During Advent, Exposition and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament will occur at Sacred Heart Church in Mildura on Tuesday **and on Friday:** starting at 4pm; concluding 5:15pm.





BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church:

-  **Ioannis Bellas**
-  **Erica Cinco**
-  **Sienna Cirillo**
-  **Valli Duscher**
-  **Jay Monssen**
-  **Domenico Zappia**

baptised at Sacred Heart Church this weekend.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE REFLECTION DAY IN SWAN HILL

The CWL is helping to organise a reflection day in Swan Hill with a special focus on Servant of God Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. **It is this Thursday, 5th December.**

The day will start with 10:30am Mass in Swan Hill, at St Mary's Church, and conclude about 3pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. There is no cost for the day, but donations are welcome.

RSVP: email northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 5032 4144. We hope to see you there!

SUNRAYSIA PIETY SHOPS

Mildura's piety table and Red Cliffs piety store are open every Sunday Mass. 2025 Columban Calendars are available, plus \$5 pk 8 Christmas Cards and a small range of lovely Christmas gift ideas. If you are after something in particular please call the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

Volunteers are desperately needed to help operate the Piety table during December. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

If you know of someone who is sick or housebound and they would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

2025 WEEKEND ROSTERS

All rosters are now due for updates: Readers, Ministers of Communion, and Money Counters. New-comers are most welcomed to join a roster.

New rosters will be emailed early December. For a hard copy please call into the Parish Office.



They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud

HAMPER APPEAL

We are seeking assistance in creating hampers to assist people in need in our parish. We are working with the Parish Office, Presbytery and Soup Kitchen.



Next weekend 7th and 8th Dec:

Tinned foods: fruit, tomatoes, baked beans, spaghetti, veggies, soups.

These items can be left in the baskets in the foyer of the churches or the Parish Office.

ST VINNIES GIVING TREE

The members of the Sacred Heart St Vincent de Paul Society Conference are accepting gifts for children up to 12 years. They can be left under the St Vincent de Paul Society Giving tree.



VINNIES ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Located at 109 Pine Avenue, we can provide help for anyone wishing to apply for a NIL (no interest loan) to cover school expenses for 2025. The centre is open from **11am to 1pm Monday to Friday**. Ph 5023 4576.

FR GREEN SCHOLARSHIP

The Fr Green Scholarship is for any baptised member of our Parish in Year 6 who is going into a Catholic secondary school in 2025. The scholarship winner receives around \$250 towards the costs of Year 7.

Eligible students attending St Joseph's Primary School are automatically assessed for this scholarship however baptised Red Cliffs students attending other schools can apply by contacting Naomi Kennedy at St Joseph's Primary 03 5024 1654.

STEWARDSHIP

Priest Support (Presbytery)
Cash (1st Collection); Tap & Go

\$1998.50

Mission, Admin & Maintenance
Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC

\$2266.00

Mission, Admin & Maintenance
Cash (2nd Collection Loose Plate)

\$ 949.60

This week's Counting Team:
No. 7 – B Collins

Next week's Counting Team:
No. 8 – L Welsh

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 24:4-5,8-9,10,14

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)



SECOND READING

1 Thess 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

First Reading: Baruch 5:2-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125. R. v.3

Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Fr Matthew Thomas

Assistant Priest:
Fr John Corrigan

Visiting Priest:
Fr Shaiju Mathew

Parish Secretary:
Carmel Russo

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Sts Anne and Joachim Parish of Sunraysia is committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children, young people and vulnerable adults. The parish adheres to Victoria’s 11 Child Safe standards. Our policies can be read in each church and on our website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Vince Pileggi