



 **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](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au) **Website:** [www.sunraysiacatholic.org](http://www.sunraysiacatholic.org)

Sunday 12th January 2025 | Edition 2/2025

# The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

## MASS TIMES

### Monday

No Mass

### Tuesday

6pm Mildura

### Wednesday

9.30am Mildura

### Thursday

9.30am Merbein  
~~9.30am Mildura~~  
5.30pm Red Cliffs

### Friday

2.30pm Funeral Robinvale  
6pm Mildura

### Saturday -

9.30am Mildura  
6pm Mildura

### Sunday -

8:30am Irymple Lay Led  
9am Mildura  
10am Red Cliffs Lay Led  
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

Re commences in Feb 2025

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



## LET US PRAY

### FOR THE SICK:

Laura Parente  
Giuseppe Scopacasa  
Brendan & Catherine Bell  
Vicki Needham  
Madeline Nolan  
Reynaldo Chan  
Salvatore Suppa  
Mick Joslyn  
Maddison Smith

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

### RECENT DEATH:

Anne Roads  
Michelle Woosnam  
Pat Dudley (Bendigo)  
Dianne Rutherford

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Maria Raboteg

### Mildura Sunday 9am:

Mario Littore

### Tuesday 6pm:

Mario Littore

### Merbein:

Emma Sedgeman, Bob Berriman,  
Rita Tellefson, Jessica Barnes,  
Katie Cohrs

### Red Cliffs:

Cecilia & Domenico D'Anna,  
Vincenza Tassone  
Francesco Tassone  
Maria Antonia Tassone

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

## FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Today's psalm response. "The Lord will bless his people with peace". We need peace not only in others but in the world. For this to occur we need to have peace in our hearts. We need to wash away some old thoughts and patterns and allow new growth and life to begin. There is too much conflict and in some cases people just being to self centered and not thinking about others, which causes unrest. Today is a great day for change. When Jesus was Baptised by John the voice came from heaven, "This is my Son the beloved, listen to him" let us be open to listen to Jesus and follow in his footsteps. Love God and our neighbour.

There are a few changes for this coming week they are:

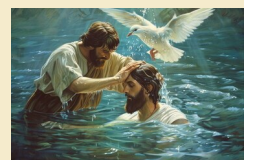
- **Thursday** there will be no mass at Mildura at 9.30am,
- **Friday** due to a funeral in Robinvale there will be no Adoration or Confession.

Today as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, let us give thanks for our own baptism and the journey of faith which we have had so far.

Monday commences Ordinary Time of the Church. During this time it allows us to experience God in the day to day activity of life. Let us spend sometime reflecting and admiring the beauty around us, in others, the environment and the beauty of creation.

God Bless,

Fr Matthew



## UPCOMING IN JANUARY

**Soup Kitchen Operating**  
from Monday 13th January take away only until  
Wednesday 29th January

**Baptism Preparation Meeting**  
Wednesday 27th, 6.30pm Monaghan Centre

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Lay Led Liturgy next weekend and times:

19th January: Irymple 8.30am and  
Red Cliffs 10am

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

### January 2025

Until **24th January** the operating hours for the  
Parish Office will be from **9am till 12noon only**.

The Office will reopen to normal operating hours  
from Tuesday 28th January 2025.

## 2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

*Combined Parent meeting for Confirmation and  
First Holy Communion* 2nd April 7pm, Sacred  
Heart Church.



### Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)

*The celebration dates are as follows:*  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May and  
Sunday 1st June.



### First Holy Communion (Grade 4 and above)

*The celebration dates are as follows:*  
Friday 20th Saturday 21st and Sunday  
22nd June.



### First Reconciliation (Grade 2 and above)

*Parent meeting:* 15<sup>th</sup> October 7pm, Sa-  
cred Heart Church.

*The celebration date:* Sacred Heart Church  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

## LENTEN PROGRAM 2025

We are now taking orders for those who wish to  
participate or organise a group for the 2025  
Lenten Program. For further information or to  
place an order please contact the Parish Office  
on 5021 2872.

## COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSE BOUND

If you know of someone who is sick and  
homebound within the parish and they would  
like to receive communion please contact the  
Parish Office on 5021 2872.

## PARISH DATABASE

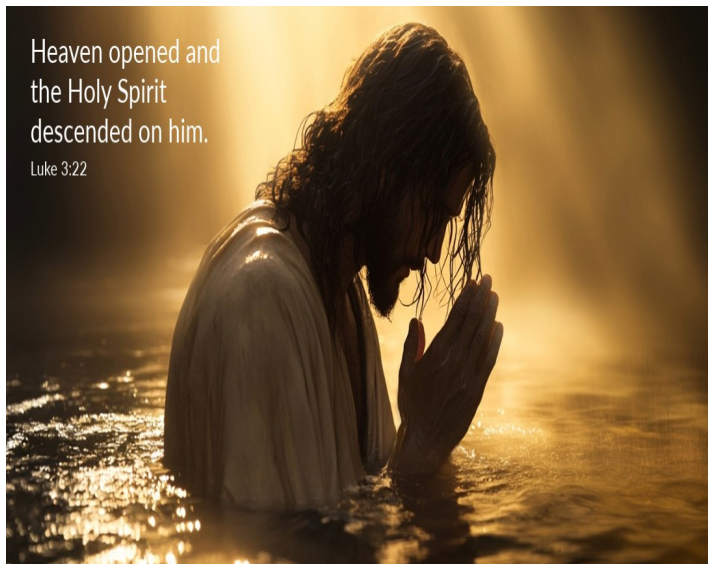
If your personal details have changed eg:  
change of phone number, email address,  
residential or postal address please contact the  
Parish Office so our database can be updated.

## ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Anniversary Masses may be celebrated at any  
scheduled parish Mass, on weekends and  
weekdays. Please contact the Parish Office to  
register your Mass Intention and a reminder to  
notify the priest prior to Mass.

## NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

Requests for notices in the weekend bulletin  
need to be sent by close of business each  
Thursday. Email notices to the Parish Office at  
[sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or  
call 5021 2872. Thank you.



# REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

## Historical context – Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrongdoing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

## Gospel focus – My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

Heaven opened and the  
Holy Spirit descended on him.

Luke 3:22

## Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

## Questions for Adolescents

Q. How might John's followers have reacted to news of someone much more powerful than John?

Q. Why might the expectations about the Messiah have grown as time went by?

Q. What might it mean for God to say of Jesus, 'my favour rests on you'?

Q. What are the implications of God saying to you, 'you are my beloved, my favour rests on you'?



## Learning moments

Compare the description of the baptism of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels (Mk 1:9-11; Mt 3:13-17; Lk 3:21-22). What do these short passages reveal about the nature of each of the gospels that is to follow?

Research the tradition of the Jewish Messianic expectation.

Why is the Baptism of the Lord celebrated as part of the Christmas season?

## STEWARDSHIP

### Priest Support (Presbytery)

Cash (1<sup>st</sup> Collection); Tap & Go

\$2121.90

### Mission, Admin & Maintenance

Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC

\$2678.50

### Mission, Admin & Maintenance

Cash (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Loose Plate)

\$ 936.55

### This week's Counting Team:

No. 3– P McDonald

### Next week's Counting Team:

No. 4– M Roper

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of  
right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people  
and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 28:1-4. 9-10. R. V.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
3. The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:  
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

## SECOND READING

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SEE MARK 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

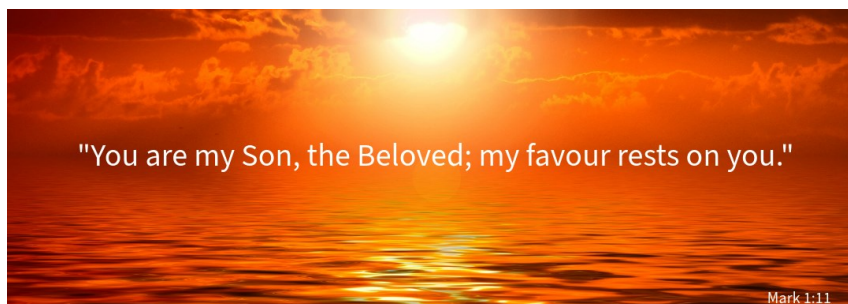
## GOSPEL

LUKE 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.'



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN OT – YEAR C

**First Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5

**Psalm:** Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

**Response:** Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

**Gospel:** John 2:1-11

### PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Matthew Thomas

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr John Corrigan

**Visiting Priest:**  
Fr Shaiju Mathew

**Parish Secretary:**  
Carmel Spagnolo

### 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