



# Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas

Edition: 09/2023

Assistant Priest Fr Shaiju Mathew

Visiting Priest Fr Anthony Nagothu (Robinvale)

1st Sunday in Lent (A) 26th February 2023

## Sacramental Statistics 2022

Please find below a copy of the sacramental stats for the region for the past twelve months. It is pleasing to see that we have had over 120 baptisms and 19 weddings and that we have been able to journey with 82 families with deaths of love ones with funeral services. Please note that the large number of Confirmations was due to combining a couple of year levels.

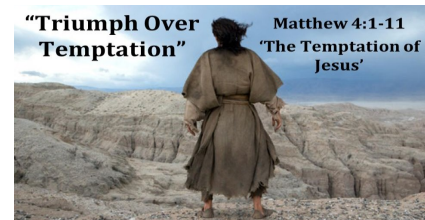
	Mildura	Red Cliffs	Merbein
Baptism	115	6	6
First Communion	53	5	15
Confirmation	167	13	22
Marriages	17	1	1
Funeral	70	4	8
RCIA	3	0	0

## Message from the Parish Priest

If we have a look at our Lenten observance and focus on Prayer for this week, I encourage us all to make special time during the day to focus on five minutes of silent prayer. Allowing God to speak to us through this time or to be present to things around us.

Please note a few changes for masses this week as Fr Shaiju is on retreat with some of the priests of the diocese, so we have some changes to mass times.

God Bless *Fr Matthew*



## Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community — **Tilila Pousini** whose baptism occurs this weekend.



## Anointing Masses - March 2023

**Red Cliffs** Thursday 9th March 5.30pm

**Merbein** Thursday 16th March 9.30am

**Mildura** Wednesday 22nd March 2pm

## Tap & Go

### Presbytery 1st Collection



The Sacred Heart Parish has purchased a Tap & Go unit to trial at the Sacred Heart Church for the Presbytery— 1st Collection during the next few months. Should the trial be successful units will then be installed at all churches for 1st Collection.

The unit is currently located on the bench near the Baptismal font.

## Parish Contact Details

**Administration Officer** Mrs Carmel Russo

**Office Hours** Tuesday – Friday 9am – 4pm

257 Eleventh Street Mildura

Po Box 10037 Mildura Vic 3502

**Phone** 03 50212872

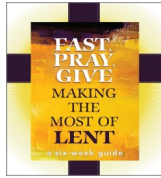
0417 862 082 (After Hours)

**Email:** mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au

## Finances

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1222.35	\$ 99.05	\$668.35
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$2720.25	\$160.00	\$239.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 349.95	\$ 42.30	\$ 96.70
<b>Special Collections</b> Trading Table - The Shared Table 12/2/23	\$428.00	\$	\$144.00
<b>Next weeks Counting Team</b>	Team 3 — P McDonald		

**Making the Most of Lent through Prayer, Fasting and Giving**



- Join a Lenten group
- Give up something you enjoy and/or love doing.
- Project Compassion envelopes packs are now available
- Giving of your time—visit a family member or friend
- Indian Community Stations of the cross Friday's 6.45pm, Sacred Heart Church



The Chosen - A TV Series about Jesus The Chosen is a new 'free to view', series, now in its third season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are

of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to: [watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen](http://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen) to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via The Chosen app (download) or for your Smart TV. Watch it on your own, or better still with family and friends.

**Sacramental Dates for 2023**

Parent meeting & celebration dates for the following Sacraments will take place on:

**Penance (Grade 3 and above)**

Celebration 5th April, 7pm SH Church



**RECONCILIATION**

**Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)**

Parent meeting 22nd March 7pm, SH Church  
Friday 26th, Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May.



**First Eucharist (Grade 4 and above)**

Parent meeting 6th September 7pm, SH Church  
Friday 20th, Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd October



**Penance (Grade 2 and above)**

Parent meeting 4th October 7pm, SH Church  
Celebration Wednesday 22nd November 7pm



**RECONCILIATION**

**World Day of Prayer 2023—Taiwan**

**Mildura**

Will be held on Friday 3rd March at the Salvation Army, 14th St, Mildura at 10am followed by morning tea. All welcome.

**Red Cliffs**

The World Day of Prayer in Red Cliffs will be held at Church of Christ, 53 Guava Street, Red Cliffs on Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm. All welcome.



**First Sunday of Lent  
25 & 26 February**



After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old, **Laxmi** was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Weekly Prayer and Spiritual Opportunities**

**Sacred Heart Church Mildura**

**Charismatic Group** Tuesday after 6pm Mass

**Exposition and Benediction** Friday 4pm

**Reconciliation** Saturday 10am-10.30am

**Monaghan Centre**

**Christian Meditation** Saturday 11.30am

**Scripture Reflection** Thurs 2pm -3pm.

**Children's Catechesis** Sat 10am -11am

**Parish Schools Contact**

**Sacred Heart Primary School Mildura**  
Principal Mr Mark Gibson 5023 1204

**St Paul's Primary School Mildura**  
Principal Mr Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

**St Joseph's Primary School Red Cliffs**  
Principal Mrs Naomi Kennedy 5024 1654

**Our Lady of Sacred Heart Merbein**  
Principal Mrs Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258

**St Joseph's Secondary College Mildura**  
Principal Mrs Marg Blythman 5018 8000

Sunraysia Catholic Communities adheres to the Child Safe Standards of Victoria. Our policies are on display in each Church, and on our website. Parish Safeguarding Officers:

**Mildura**

Mr Peter Issanchon

**Red Cliffs**

Mrs Bernadette Gardner

**Merbein**

Mr Kevin Aston

This weekend Roster : 25th & 26th February 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	C Carmichael	M McDonald, M Cirillo, P Kerr		Singing Group M Sullivan
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G Schmidt			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	R Tam	N Fatai, B Castillo, J Cresp	M Gobbo	M Guthrie, B Prescott, B Lewis, M Bowring
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	P Hunt	C Tassone	Baptism Family	Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	F Cox	Vicki McCarthy	Vicki & Val McCarthy	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	G Johnston	S Hermans, J Jose, M Irvin		S Faitia, K Mapapalangi
Next Weekend Roster: 4th & 5th March 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	G Huxtable	K Quinlan, A Naray, M McDonald		M Guthrie All welcome
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G McCracken			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	L Welsh	L Belej, E Garreffa, T Faingaanuku	Baptism	Italian Choir M Sullivan
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	J Lewis	G Brizzi	Cameron Family	T Lewis
Sun 10.30am Merbein	F Sabo	Val McCarthy	C Knight, F Sabo	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	M Bowring	V & C Carlucci, T Cirillo		S Fatia K Mapapalangi

**Please Pray for the Sick**



Vince Addamo,  
Lindsay Willding,  
Teresa Camarotto,  
James Bowring,  
Rosemary Byrne, Jenny Boyd,  
Catherine Bell, Faye Cufari,  
Marie Adams, Barry Crosbie

*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.*

**Recent Deaths**

Florence Harding, Glenn McPhail

**Anniversaries**



**Mildura:**

**Saturday 6pm:**

Kevin Welsh (snr)

**Sunday 9am:**

Antonina Mammone (1yr), Pat Nolan

**Sunday 5pm:**

Vincenza Carlucci, Elena Callipari (20yrs)

Mary Antony (1 yr)

**Merbein:**

Helen McCarthy, Cos Piscioneri,

Frank Sylvia, Cosimo Ierace

**Red Cliffs:**

Giuseppe & Domenico Mammone,

Ivy Davis

*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.*

**Mass Time Table this Week**

Monday	10am	Funeral Merbein
	1.30pm	Chapel Funeral
Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs No Mass
	10am	Funeral Ouyen
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	Mildura
Thursday	9.30am	Mildura No Mass
	9.30am	Merbein
	5.30pm	Red Cliffs
Friday	4pm	Expo/Bened
	6pm	Mildura
Saturday	9.30am	Mildura
	6pm	Mildura
Sunday	8.30am	Irymple
	9am	Mildura
	10am	Red Cliffs
	10.30am	Merbein
	5pm	Mildura



**February & March 2023**

**Sun 26:** St Joseph's Red Cliffs Parish Council meeting after 10am Mass.

**Tue 28:** Finance Meeting 7.15am Parish Office

**Tue 28:** Sacred Heart Parish Council meeting after 6pm Mass, Monaghan Centre

Wed 8: Jacaranda Aged Care service 2pm.

**Thu 9:** Anointing Mass Red Cliffs

**Sun 12:** Cuppa & Trading Table 9am Mildura, 10am Red Cliffs

**Mon 13:** Knights of the Southern Cross meeting 7.30pm KSC clubrooms.

**Tues 14:** Princes Court Aged Care Service 1pm

**Wed 15:** Oasis Aged Care Service 1pm

**Thu 16:** Anointing Mass, Merbein

**Tue 21:** Northern Zone Meeting—Mildura

**Wed 22:** Anointing Mass, Mildura

**Wed 22:** Baptism Preparation Evening, Monaghan Centre 7pm

**Tue 28:** Sacred Heart Parish Finance meeting 7.15am, Parish Office

**Tue 28:** BUPA Aged Care Service 1pm

## First Reading

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
4. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare  
your praise. (R.)



### Next Weeks Readings:

2nd Sunday in Lent Year A / 5th March 2023

**First Reading:** Genesis 12:1-4

**Psalm:** Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

**Second Reading:** St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

## Second Reading

Rom 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of  
God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.