



# Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Parish, Sunraysia

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

**Parish Priest:** Fr Matthew Thomas  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr John Corrigan

**Visiting Priests:** Fr Shaiju Mathew  
Fr Jim McKay

Edition: 38/2023

24th Sunday Year A OT 16th & 17th September 2023

### Message from our Assistant Priest

Familiar faces return to the parish this weekend. We welcome back Fr Shaiju Mathew, who is celebrating Mass at Irymple and Red Cliffs, and Fr Jim McKay who is celebrating Mass at Mildura and Merbein.

The scriptural message in this Sunday's liturgy is a Christian staple: forgive, forgive, forgive! But Christian forgiveness is always an act of peace. There's an alternative model of forgiveness, which does violence to oneself, "willing forgiveness" in our mind, while repressing our emotions. Then a split occurs, between what we want and think is good, and what we actually feel. That's recipe for a vicious cycle of resentment and guilt and renewed offence. It's tempting then to conclude that forgiveness is impossible.

In fact forgiveness *is* impossible when we are in pain. Psychologists tell us that true forgiveness is accomplished only after we've named and processed the injury done to us. So where does that leave us while we're still hurting? Jesus shows us the answer. Hanging from the cross, convulsing with pain and gasping for air, he did not say to his assassins: "I forgive you." Instead he prayed: "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." (Lk 23:34)

When the memory of an offence causes us pain, and forgiving the offender feels like an act of violence against ourselves, it's enough to pray as Our Lord did: "Father, forgive them." Perhaps, in our humility we add, "I can't forgive; I'm weak. Forgive them for me."

*Godspeed, Fr John.*

**Catholicism 10-part TV documentary, by Bishop Robert Barron.** Screened at St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs every Wednesday afternoon at 5.30pm. One hour viewing, followed by informal discussion. All welcome.  
**This week: "Mary, the Mother of God."**

### Parish Contact Details

**Administration Officer:** Ms Carmel Russo  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday, 9am – 4pm  
257 Eleventh Street Mildura  
PO Box 10037, Mildura Vic 3502  
**Phone:** 03 5021 2872 or 0417 862 082  
**E-mail:** sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au

### Season of Creation

**September 1 - October 4, 2023**

Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels and biodiversity loss. Resources for the Season of Creation are online: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>



### Baptisms

We welcome into our Parish Community **Reuben Mathew** and **Violet Cirillo**.

### Weddings

We congratulate **Michael Brigante** and **Georgia Marciano** who were married this weekend.



### Tap & Go Presbytery

The parish has Tap & Go units with set amounts of \$5, \$10, \$20 & \$50 for the Presbytery (1st Collection). A unit will be placed at each Church entrance for Sacred Heart Church and a unit will be available at the main entrance of Irymple, Merbein & Red Cliffs churches.



### Finances

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	<b>\$1568.25</b>		
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	<b>\$1382.50</b>	<b>\$202.50</b>	<b>\$259.25</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 493.60</b>	<b>\$126.40</b>	<b>\$ 77.35</b>
<b>Special Collection</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Next week's Counting Team</b>	<b>Team 2—R Tongue</b>		

## Sacramental Dates for 2023

Celebrations and parent meeting dates for the following Sacraments will take place later this year:



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**  
(Gr 4 and above)  
**Friday 20th, Saturday 21st  
& Sunday 22nd October**

**PENANCE** (Gr 2 and above)  
**Wednesday 22nd November at 7pm**  
*Parent meeting: 4th October 7pm,  
Sacred Heart Church*



**RECONCILIATION**

### **Sacred Heart Church Piety Stall Opening Hours**

The Sacred Heart Church Piety Stall will now be available on the 3rd Sunday before and after all masses. All are most welcome to come look and see what is available or we are happy to help out if you require something different or special. For further information please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

### **Sacred Heart Family Group**

We'll be lunching at the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at noon. Please let Helen know your intentions on 0427 441 466. All welcome to join us.



**FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER  
TO MIGRATE OR TO STAY**

**109TH WORLD DAY OF  
MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

**SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2023**



### **Migrant & Refugee Sunday**

**September 24, 2023**

The Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office have provided materials for the World

Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will be held on September 24. Resources are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/109th-world-day-of-migrants-refugees-sunday-september-24-2023/>

## **BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

### **Collection for Sick and Retired Priests**

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. **All envelopes will need to be in by Friday 22nd September.**



**Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.**

*CARING FOR THOSE WHO  
CARED FOR US.*

### **In the footsteps of Mary MacKillop**

**Pilgrimage: October 17-28, 2023**

This unique Australian Pilgrimage will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The pilgrimage is operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place. It will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister of Saint Joseph and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. For more information and to register scan or click on the QR code.



**FORGIVE**  
*as you've been*  
**FORGIVEN**

*Matthew 18:21-35*

## **WEEKLY PRAYER & SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Sacred Heart Church Mildura**

**Exposition and Benediction:** Tuesday 4pm  
**Charismatic Group:** Tuesday after 6pm Mass  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday after 9:30am Mass

### **Monaghan Centre**

**Christian Meditation:** Saturday 11.30am  
**Scripture Reflection:** Thursday 2pm – 3pm  
**Children's Catechesis:** Saturday 10am – 11am

## **PARISH SCHOOLS CONTACT**

**Sacred Heart Primary School, Mildura**  
*Principal: Mr Mark Gibson. Ph: 5023 1204*

**St Paul's Primary School, Mildura**  
*Principal: Mr Vince Muscatello. Ph: 5023 4567*

**St Joseph's Primary School, Red Cliffs**  
*Principal: Mrs Naomi Kennedy. Ph: 5024 1654*

**Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Merbein**  
*Principal: Mrs Narelle Gallagher. Ph: 5025 2258*

**St Joseph's Secondary College, Mildura**  
*Principal: Mrs Marg Blythman. Ph: 5018 8000*

Sts Anne and Joachim Catholic Parish of Sunraysia adheres to the Child Safe Standards of Victoria.

Our policies are on display in each church, and on our website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Vince Pileggi.**

This Weekend Roster: 16th & 17th September 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	R Tongue	R Tongue, P Kerr, Volunteer please		M Sullivan, J Macri, J Ljubic
Sun 8.30am Irymple	W Schmidt			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	T Fainga'anuku	R & R Op't Hoog, E Mazza	M Gobbo	Tongan Community M Guthrie
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	A Higham	S Orr	C Cavallaro	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	N Prevedello	K McCarthy	F Cox, Val McCarthy	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	M Bowring	M Rodi, M Irvin, S Hermans	Baptism Family	S Fatai, K Mapapalangi
Next Weekend Roster: 23rd & 24th September 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	A Naray	A Greville, M Cirillo, M McDonald		M Sullivan, J Macri
Sun 8.30am Irymple	D Knight			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	L Welsh	K Mapapalangi, R O'Callaghan, J Rocca	L Welsh	M Guthrie, B Lewis, B Prescott, J O'Bryan
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	P Hunt	V Pileggi	Baptism Families	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	E Piscioneri	K Aston	E & S Iamarino	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	B Bunting	J Jose, T Cirillo, C Carlucci		T Fainga'anuku

**Please Pray for the Sick**  
 Christian Mira, Dolly Ridings  
 Catherine Bell  
 Natalina D'Anna  
 Morgan Dias-Jones

*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**  
 Kathleen McLaren

**Anniversaries**

**Mildura:**  
**Saturday 6pm:**  
 Teresa Scopacasa (30 yr anniversary),  
 Nick Rodi (30 day Mass),  
 Danilo Pancho (Philippines)

**Sunday 5pm:**  
 Peter Nguyen

**Tuesday 6pm:**  
 Maria Manno (30 day Mass)

**Merbein:**  
 Edmund Betlinski, Mervyn Farnsworth,  
 Claudia Rayner, Anne Burke and  
 Roy Fellows


**Red Cliffs:**  
 Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico &  
 Caterina D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna,  
 Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Vincenza  
 Tassone,


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 SCHEDULE THIS WEEK**

Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs—No Mass
	10.30am	Funeral Mildura
	4pm	Expo/Benediction
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	Mildura
	1pm	Oasis Aged Care
Thursday	9.30am	Merbein Anointing
	9.30am	Mildura
	5.30pm	Red Cliffs
Friday	6pm	Mildura
Saturday	9.30am	Mildura
	6pm	Mildura
Sunday	8.30am	Irymple
	9am	Mildura
	10am	Red Cliffs
	10.30am	Merbein
	5pm	Mildura





Matthew 18:21-35  
 When is Enough Enough?

**What's Happening** September 2023

**Wed 20 Sep:** Oasis Aged Care Service – 1pm

**Thu 21 Sep:** Anointing Mass, Merbein – 9.30am

**Wed 20 Sep:** *Catholicism*, ep. 4: *Mary, the Mother of God* – 5.30pm, Red Cliffs

**Tue 26 Sep:** Parish Finance – 7.15am, Parish Office

**Tue 26 Sep:** BUPA Aged Care Service – 1pm

**Wed 27 Sep:** Anointing Mass, Mildura – 2pm

**Wed 27 Sep:** Baptism Preparation Evening, Monaghan Centre – 7pm

**A Prayer-Cath Fry 26/6/44-19/9/13**

A beautiful gentle kind modest lady who devoted her life to her family faith friends flowers animals and birds. Lord let us live our lives as Cath lived hers. Cath loved without condition; she talked without intention; Cath listened without judgement and gave without reason. Cath cared without expectation and remembered without regret. Lord help us to live that way.

## First Reading Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance will experience the  
vengeance of the Lord,  
who keeps strict account of sin.  
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?  
Showing no pity for a man like himself,  
can he then plead for his own sins?  
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death, and live by the  
commandments.  
Remember the commandments, and do not bear  
your neighbour ill-will;  
remember the covenant of the Most High, and over-  
look the offence.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.)** The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west so far does  
he remove our sins. **(R.)**

## Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on  
others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die,  
we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong  
to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and  
came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of  
the dead and of the living.

## Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often  
must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As of-  
ten as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I  
tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared  
to a king who decided to settle his accounts with  
his servants. When the reckoning began, they  
brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents;  
but he had no means of paying, so his master gave  
orders that he should be sold, together with his wife  
and children and all his possessions, to meet the  
debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his  
master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will  
pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt  
so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled  
the debt. Now as this servant went out, he hap-  
pened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one  
hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat  
and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me",  
he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and im-  
plored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay  
you." But the other would not agree; on the contra-  
ry, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay  
the debt. His fellow servants were deeply dis-  
tressed when they saw what had happened, and  
they went to their master and reported the whole  
affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You  
wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt  
of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not  
bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just  
as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master  
handed him over to the torturers till he should pay  
all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father  
will deal with you unless you each forgive your  
brother from your heart.'



Next Weeks Readings: / 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th September 2023

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**Psalm:** Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

**Second Reading:** St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24, 27

**Response:** The Lord is near to all who call him.

**Gospel:** Matthew 20:1-16