



*Sts Anne and Joachim*  
CATHOLIC PARISH OF SUNRAYSIA

IRYMPLE, MERBEIN, MILDURA, RED CLIFFS AND WERRIMULL

**Parish Priest:** Fr Matthew Thomas

**Assistant Priest:** Fr John Corrigan

**Sunday Bulletin:** Edition 51/2023

**Website:** [www.sunraysiacatholic.org](http://www.sunraysiacatholic.org)

4th Sunday of Advent Year B / 24th December 2023

**Message from our Parish Priest**

This is a strange sort of weekend Saturday and Sunday morning are 4th Week of Advent where we light the Peace candle. We pray for peace in our world and lives. The Sunday night and Monday we have Christmas. The celebration of the birth of Christ, what a wonderful gift.

A reminder that the office will be closed from Friday 22nd until Tuesday 2nd January at 9am until 12 noon. These will be the office hours for January.



Please note that all the churches will be closed from Christmas Day until Saturday 30th December. There will also be no services during this period of time.

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.** Is today's response to the psalm what a great way to celebrate this time of year, honouring and giving praise to God.

God Bless,  
Fr Matthew.

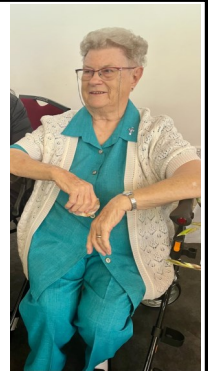


**Thank You From Sr Rosemary**

Sincere thanks to all who gathered to wish me well last Sunday. It has been a privilege to live and work among you for so many years And I thank you for the trust, kindness and hospitality of so many.

I ask forgiveness for anyone I may have offended and I will continue to pray for the people of Sunraysia. Love and blessings to you all.

SR Rosemary Graham RSM



**Thanks**

We would like to thank all those very special people who have volunteered over the past few weeks to clean the churches and also to tidy the grounds and gardens. All of our churches look amazing.

**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](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Presbytery Tap & Go Units**

These Units are located at all church entrances, this enables us to support our Priests.



**Fourth Advent Candle  
Peace**

The final Advent candle marks the beginning of the final week before Christmas and is a time of prayer. It is also called the Angel's Candle and is a white candle representing purity, peace and justice brought to the world by Christ. The white candle also reminds us that Christ is sinless and pure.



**Finances – last weekend's Collections**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	<b>\$1915.70</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	<b>\$1592.00</b>
Loose Plate	<b>\$ 977.15</b>
This Week's Counting Team	Fr Matthew
Next week's Counting Team	Team 5—H Kay

### Bulletin Rosters 2024

The rosters for Sacred Heart Church—Counting Teams, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers were sent out via email. If you would like a printed copy please call into the Parish Office.

### Reminder

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

## Advance Notice

### Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours for December 2023 & January 2024

Please note from **22nd December 2023 2pm to 2nd January 2024** the Parish Office will be closed.

From **2nd January till 25th January** the operating hours for the Parish Office will be from **9am till 12noon only**.

**Friday 26th January Office closed Public Holiday.**

The Office will reopen to normal operating hours from Tuesday 30th January 2024.

## CHRISTMAS SEASON

### Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sun 24 Dec)

Sat 23 Dec: 6pm Mildura Mass

Sun 24 Dec: 9am Mildura Mass

Please note other Sunday Masses are cancelled in lieu of Christmas Eve Mass.

### Christmas Eve (Sun 24 Dec)

6pm Mildura

6pm Werrimull

8pm Red Cliffs

8pm Merbein

10pm Mildura

Midnight Mildura

### Christmas Day (Monday 25 Dec)

8.30am Irymple

9am Mildura

(Carols sung prior to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)



### Sr Helen's Golden Jubilee

We as a parish congratulate Sr Helen on having reached her Golden Jubilee last Saturday.

We pray that Sr Helen may have many more years of dedicated love and service to those she ministers to and journeys with in faith and life not only here in our community but within the wider world, and among the Sisters of Mercy.



Let us welcome God's bright and shining morning star,  
A child born in a manger,  
A son sent to redeem the world,  
A saviour come to renew all things.  
May his light shine on you,  
May his light shine in you,  
May his light shine through you,  
The light of God's Christmas star be with you,  
in this season of new birth.

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## 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  
**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: 23rd, 24th & 25th December 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
<b>Sat 6pm Mildura</b>	A Naray	A Greville, P Kerr Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	M Guthrie M Bowring
<b>Sun 9am Mildura</b>	R Op't Hoog	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	T Fainga'anuku B Lewis, B Prescott
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster
<b>Christmas Day</b>	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster

**Please Pray for the Sick**  
 Vincent Tripodi  
 Tess Kerr  
 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.*

Next Weekend Roster: 30th & 31st December 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
<b>Sat 6pm Mildura</b>	G Huxtable	M Cirillo, R Tongue, A Naray		M Hammond, J Ljubic
<b>Sun 8.30am</b>	M Hill			M Smith
<b>Sun 9am Mildura</b>	T Fainga'anuku	L Belej, E Garreffa, C Howell	L Belej	T Fainga'anuku Group
<b>Sun 10am Red Cliffs</b>	M Slater	V Pileggi	Baptism	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
<b>Sun 10.30am Merbein</b>	N Prevedello	Val McCarthy	C Knight, Val McCarthy	K East
<b>Sun 5pm Mildura</b>	G Johnston	G Johnston, P Cox, J Boord		S Fatai, K Mapapalangi

**Recent Deaths**  
 Robin Paech, Emmanuel Sammut

**Anniversaries**



**Mildura:**

**Saturday 6pm:**  
 Maria Primarano (30 day Mass)  
 Peter, Maria, Joseph & Lucia Tran,  
 Maria Nguyen and all souls,  
 lolanda Dimasi (5 year anniversary)  
**Sunday 9am:**

**Merbein:**  
 Betty Clifford, Hazel Bell, Marcel Meredith,  
 Michael & Leanne Rogers, Jessie Manno, Mary Barling, Charlie Cook and Rodney Nokes.

**Red Cliffs:**



*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
	6pm	Mildura No Mass
Wednesday	9.30am	Mildura No Mass
Thursday	9.30am	Merbein No Mass
	9.30am	Mildura No Mass
	5.30pm	Red Cliffs No Mass
Friday	6pm	Mildura No Mass
Saturday	9.30am	Mildura No Mass
	6pm	Mildura
Sunday	8.30am	Irymple
	9am	Mildura
	10am	Red Cliffs
	10.30am	Merbein
	5pm	Mildura



**What's Happening**

**December 2023**

**Sun 31 Dec:** Feast Day of the Holy Family

**January 2024**

**Mon 1st Jan:** Mary Mother of God 9.30am

**Sat 6 Jan:** Marian Mass—Mother of the Saviour 9.30am

**Sun 7 Jan:** The Epiphany of the Lord

**Thu 11 Jan:** Anointing Mass, Red Cliffs 5.30pm

**Thu 18 Jan:** Anointing Mass, Merbein 9.30am

**Wed 24 Jan:** Anointing Mass, Mildura Church 2pm

**Wed 24 Jan:** Baptism Preparation Evening 7pm, Monaghan Centre

**Fri 26 Jan:** Australia Day, Mass 6pm

## First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

## Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Next Weeks Readings: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year B / 31st December 2023

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Psalm: Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

Response: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

