

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas
 Assistant Priest Fr John Corrigan

Edition: 18/2023
 Visiting Priest: Fr Shaiju Mathew

5th Sunday of Easter Year A / 7th May 2023

Mary, Mother of God is one of Our Lady's most ancient titles, and one of the earliest doctrines defined by the Church — at the Council of Ephesus, in 431 AD. But after all these years, it's still controversial!



Some Protestant Christians wince when they hear Catholics honour Mary as "Mother of God." It overemphasises the role of Mary, they say. "Jesus is our Saviour. Don't exaggerate Mary. Better to say, *Mary, Mother of Jesus* — not *Mary, Mother of God.*"

Except that this title is precisely about Jesus, and what Christians believe him to be. Recognising Mary as the mother of God — *Theotokos* in Greek — categorically defined the Christian belief that Jesus is true God and true man:

- God* was crucified at Calvary;
- God* was baptised in the River Jordan;
- God* was born in Bethlehem; and
- God* was incarnated in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We cannot separate Jesus of Nazareth: born of Mary, from God the Son: second person of the Trinity. When we honour Mary as "Mother of God" we recognise that Jesus is *Emmanuel* — God Himself, who became flesh and dwelt among us.

Message from the Parish Priest

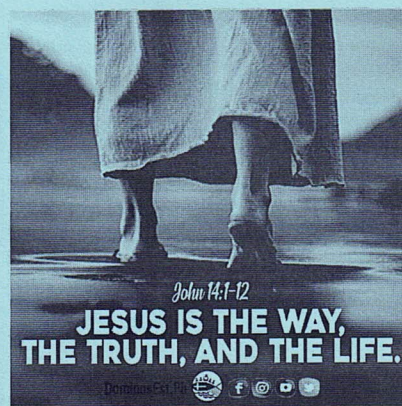
During the month of May we will be honoring Our Lady each week with a different focus upon different title and roles. This week is Mother of God, then Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of Heaven and Our Lady Help of Christians. During this month we are asking that all of us have a moment of private devotion and if able to pray the rosary and offer a private prayer to Our Lady.

Mass counts begin this weekend and will follow for the next few weeks.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Feast (Merbein Community) will be celebrated on Sunday the 21st May. We would like to organise a parish BBQ for after the 10.30am mass. Please RSVP on clipboard at the back of the church or contact the parish office.

Just a reminder to all of our confirmation candidates that your worksheets are all due by Sunday 14th May.

God Bless
Fr Matthew



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
1st Collection <small>(supporting Priests & Presbytery)</small>	\$1671.75	\$137.75	\$208.80
2nd Collection <small>(includes all EFT, DD & CC)</small>	\$2174.00	\$202.00	\$607.60
Loose Plate	\$ 811.40	\$ 81.85	\$
Special Collections <small>Project Compassion-Caritas—to date</small>	\$4818.20		
Next weeks Counting Team	Team 3—Peter McDonald		



Flores de Mayo

The Filipino Community of Sunraysia will be celebrating their annual Flores de Mayo (Flowers of May) with Mass on Sunday,

May 21st at 9am. All welcome.

Morning tea will be provided after Mass.

Any young girls and boys who would like to participate as angels in the procession are all most welcome. (Girls please dress in white, boys white shirt & black pants).

Please contact Anita 0418 537 959 for more information.

Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community —



Chase Mayr, Esme Taua'a, Pat Bozzi, Iris Kerr & Oakley Stacey whose baptisms occur this weekend.

Weddings

We congratulate **Antonio Blefari & Viviane Mosikon and Frank Rizzica & Jessie Chiera** who were married this weekend.



Memorial Mass for Gwen Hill

Will be held on Friday 12th May at 6pm.

Refreshments to follow in the Monaghan Centre.

All welcome.

Anointing Mass - May 2023

Red Cliffs Thursday 11th May 5.30pm

Merbein Thursday 18th May 9.30am

Mildura Wednesday 24th May 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—



TAP&GO

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.



Confirmation weekend dates

Celebration of Confirmation will be held on Friday 26th, Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May.

Mass Count for May

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over the 4 weekends in May:

6th & 7th, 13th & 14th, 20th & 21st & 27th & 28th.

Around the Table Lunch Group

Is a local parish group who gather every second Saturday of each month at Mildura RSL in the Wirraway Bistro. Bookings a must.

For further information contact

Althea Mitting on 0488 474 948. All welcome.

Pray for Me—Prayer Group

A new Prayer Group is forming in the Sacred Heart Parish called "Pray for Me" if you would like to be a part of this group or if you would like further information, you can contact

Althea Mitting on 0488 474 948. It will be held on Monday's from 10am to 11am in the Monaghan Centre. All welcome.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.

This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.

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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 : 6th & 7th May 2023

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	G Huxtable	M Cirillo, A Naray, P Kerr	Baptism	M Guthrie All welcome
Sun 8.30am Irymple	D Knight			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	R Op't Hoog	L Belej, E Garreffa R O'Callaghan	Baptism	Italian Choir M Sullivan
Sun 10am	P Hunt	T Gardiner	Russo Family	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	K Wagner	Val McCarthy	Pelasio Family	K East
Sun 5pm	B Dolence	C Carlucci, T Finn, B Dolence		T Fainga' Anuka, Group

Next Weekend Roster: 13th & 14th May 2023

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	R Tongue	M McDonald, A Greville, Volunteer		M Issanchon, Filipino Choir
Sun 8.30am Irymple	M Hill			
Sun 9am Mildura	T Fainga' Anuku	Rini & Rose Op't Hoog, R Byra	M Gobbo	Tongan Community, Khadeja
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	J Lewis	A Higham	M Bell	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	K Aston	N Prevedello		R Anthony & family
Sun 5pm Mildura	G Johnston	J Hall, B Bunting, K Groves		M Sullivan, J Ljubic, J Macri

Please Pray for the Sick

Natalina D'Anna
Denis Pasut
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

Ilina Heller,
Cosimo Pezzaniti



Anniversaries

Mildura:

Saturday 6pm:

Maria Gallo (1 yr anniversary)

Sunday 9am:

Helen & Joseph Grivec, Maria Dichiera,

Melina Piscioneri (30 day Mass),

Maria Munro (30 day Mass)

Sunday 5pm:

Magdaletha John

Wednesday 9.30am:

Val Drewry (1 yr anniversary)

Merbein:

Cosimo Dichiera, Ramon Deed,

Jack Lang, Colleen Hill, Connie Croft and

June Jewell

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 Time Table this Week

Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	No Mass Mildura
	10am	Funeral Red Cliffs
Thursday	9.30am	Mildura
	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



What's Happening

May 2023

Mon 8: KSC monthly meeting 7.30pm

Tue 9: Princes Court Aged Care Service 1pm

Thu 11: Anointing Mass Red Cliffs 5.30pm

Fri 12: Memorial Mass Gwen Hill

Sun 14: Trading Table Mildura after 10am Mass

Wed 17: Oasis Aged Care Service 1pm

Thu 18: Anointing Mass Merbein 9.30am

Thu 18: St Anthony Committee meeting 7.30pm KSC Clubrooms

Sun 21: Red Cliffs Parish Council meeting after 10am Mass

Sun 21: OLSH Parish Council meeting after 10.30am Mass

Tue 23: Sacred Heart Finance Meeting 7.15am Parish Office

Tue 23: BUPA Aged Care Service 1pm

Tue 23: Sacred Heart Parish Council meeting after 6pm Mass, Monaghan Centre

Wed 24: Anointing Mass Mildura 2pm

Wed 24: Baptism Preparation evening 7pm Monaghan Centre

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

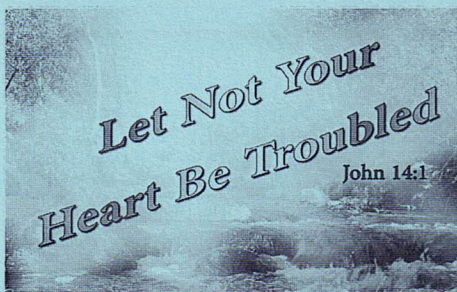
The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)



Next Weeks Readings: Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A /
14th May 2023

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

Psalm: Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20

Response: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading: Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Second Reading

1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'