



Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas

Edition: 08/2023

Assistant Priest Fr Shaiju Mathew Visiting Priest Fr Anthony Nagothu (Robinvale)

Message from the Parish Priest

The psalm response *The Lord is kind and merciful which reminds all of us of the love and compassion God has for us. It is quite fitting being at the start of Lent. On Wednesday we commence Lent with Ash Wednesday it's a day of prayer and fasting. Please note all the different mass times around the parish.*

Please collect your project compassion envelopes or boxes from the foyers of the churches.

Please note that over the past week we have had a couple of people try and break in to the presbytery again through the night so we have now added extra lights around the presbytery, the main gate near the carpark will also have the lock repaired and will be locked in the evening and opened in the morning.

God Bless *Fr Matthew*

Ash Wednesday mass times:

Wednesday 22nd February

- 9.30am St Joseph's Red Cliffs with the Primary School
- 10am Combines Mass St Paul's and Sacred Heart Primary School (SH Mildura)
- 12.30pm Our Lady's Merbein
- 2pm Sacred Heart Mildura anointing included
- 5pm St Joseph's Ouyen
- 6pm Sacred Heart Mildura
- 7pm St Mary's Robinvale



Anointing Mass February 2023

Mildura Wednesday 22 at 2pm
All welcome

Indian Community Stations of the Cross

Commencing Friday 24th,
6.45pm, Sacred Heart Church

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Matthew 5:43-48

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

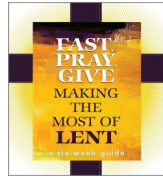
Finances

Last week's collections	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
1st Collection <small>(supporting Priests & Presbytery)</small>	\$1630.45	\$170.30	\$240.80
2nd Collection <small>(includes all EFT, DD & CC)</small>	\$ 883.00	\$130.00	\$294.00
Loose Plate	\$ 624.90	\$ 78.15	\$131.35
Special Collections <small>Trading Table - The Shared Table 12/2/23</small>	\$	\$	
Next weeks Counting Team	Team 2—Ross Tongue		

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 19th February 2023

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



Catechesium

The Sisters of Charity are running Catechesium classes here at Sacred Heart Church, Monaghan Centre every Saturday from 10am—11am. If you are aged 3-13 years old and would like to attend please come along and see what it is all about. All welcome.

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

Project Compassion Sunday 18 & 19 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”**

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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting 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 : 19th February 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	K Quinlan	A Greville, A Naray, K Quinlan		Filipino Choir M Issanchon
Sun 8.30am Irymple	M Hill			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	J O'Brien	P O'Donnell, E Mazza, Volunteer please	L & C Welsh	Tongan Choir M Guthrie
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	A Higham	C Russo	G Brizzi	T Lewis
Sun 10.30am Merbein	E Piscioneri	K Aston	E & S Iamarino	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	B Dolence	J Hall, M Rodi, K Groves		M Hammond, J Macri, J Ljubic
Next Weekend Roster: 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 Faita, 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

Dianne Jones

Anniversaries



Mildura:

Saturday 6pm:

Rosa & Grace Lamattina (50 yrs)

Sunday 8.30am: Nicola Alicastro, Angela Spadaccini

Sunday 9am: Rita Bowring

Friday 6pm: Maria Grace Cammisotto (1yr)

Merbein:

Christopher Matotek, Marguerite Berton, Annie Olden, Alice McCleary, Steve McCarthy, Anthony Callaghan, Lola Warbuton, Victoria Candida

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 Time Table this Week

Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs
	10am	Mildura
	12.30pm	Merbein
	2pm	Mildura Anointing
	5pm	Ouyen
	6pm	Mildura
	7pm	Robinvale
Thursday	9.30am	Mildura
	9.30am	Merbein
	5.30pm	Red Cliffs
Friday	10am	Funeral
	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

February 2023

Sun 19: OLSH Parish Council meeting after 10.30am Mass

Wed 22: Baptism Information meeting 7pm-Monaghan Centre

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

World Day of Prayer 2023—Taiwan

Mildura

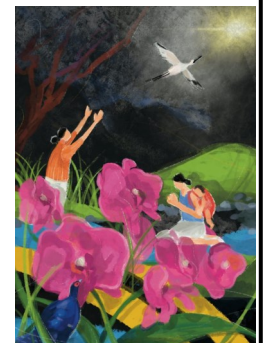
Will be held on Friday 3rd March at the Salvation Army, 14th St, Mildura at 10am followed by morning tea.

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 Reading Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

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. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.

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Next Weeks Readings:

1st Sunday in Lent Year A / 26 February 2023

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm: Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11