



*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

**Christmas Bulletin:** 2023

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

**Christmas Day Year B / 25th December 2023**

***Message from our Parish Priest***

*On behalf of Fr John, and myself we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and that 2024 brings you all many blessings from God.*

*We pray that under the guidance of Saints Anne and Joachim we may feel God's grace when ever we gather or spend time with others. That we also have the blessing of God in our hearts with all encounters with others.*

*I hope that this year, whatever you are doing allows you time to spend with family and friends and enjoy being with the people who are important to you.*

*I ask the Lord to send his blessings upon you and your families as we celebrate Christmas remembering those who are unable to be with loved ones, or those who have experienced a death recently that we are able to feel God's loving embrace in our lives.*

*The birth of Christ gave us a beautiful gift from God, and we pass that on to others when we gather and give them the gift of ourselves or a small gift.*

*One of the best gifts we can give is being present to others, it costs nothing, sometimes hard to wrap but always appreciated by those who receive it.*

*Looking forward to seeing you all in 2023, may God's blessing be with you now during this Christmas time and into the new year.*

*God Bless*

*Fr Matthew*

**Parish Contact Details**

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**Presbytery Tap & Go Units**

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



**TAP&GO**



**"We saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father."**

John 1:14

## First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.  
For all the footgear of battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
is burnt  
and consumed by fire.  
For there is a child born for us,  
a son given to us  
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;  
and this is the name they give him:  
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,  
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.  
Wide is his dominion  
in a peace that has no end,  
for the throne of David  
and for his royal power,  
which he establishes and makes secure  
in justice and integrity.  
From this time onwards and for ever,  
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth.



## Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'