



 **ST FRANCIS XAVIER**
2 Elms Street, Irymple

 **OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART**
20 Box Street, Merbein

 **SACRED HEART**
261 Eleventh Street, Mildura

 **ST JOSEPH'S**
8726 Calder Highway, Red Cliffs

 **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**
47 Werrimull South Road, Werrimull



Sts Anne and Joachim

CATHOLIC PARISH OF SUNRAYSIA

Parish Office: 257 Eleventh Street, Mildura. **Office Hours:** 9am - 4pm, Tue to Fri.

Postal Address: PO Box 10037, MILDURA VIC AUSTRALIA 3502

Office Phone: 03 5021 2872 **Presbytery:** 0417 862 082

E-mail: sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au **Website:** www.sunraysiacatholic.org

Sunday 8th December 2024 | Edition 49/2024

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

MASS TIMES

Monday: Immaculate Conception
No Mass

Tuesday: Our Lady of Loreto
10:30am Funeral Mass, Mildura
1pm Princes Court Aged Care
6pm Mildura

Wednesday
9:30am Mildura

Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:30am Merbein
9:30am Mildura
10:30am Chaffey Aged Care
5:30pm Red Cliffs

Friday: St Lucy
10.30am Graveside, Nichols Pt
6pm Mildura

Saturday: St John of the Cross
9:30am Mildura
6pm Mildura

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
8:30am Irymple
9am Mildura
10am Red Cliffs
10:30am Merbein

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 4:30pm - 5:45pm

Friday 4:30pm - 5:45pm

Saturday from 10am

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 4pm - 5:15pm, Mildura

Friday 4pm - 5:15pm, Mildura

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Re commences in Feb 2025

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



LET US PRAY

FOR THE SICK:

Madeline Nolen
Reynaldo Chan
Salvatore Suppa
Mick Joslyn
Maddison Smith

Please obtain permission if you are submitting another's name. Intentions are printed for one month only, but can be renewed each month.

RECENT DEATHS:

David Adolph, May Okely

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mildura—Sunday 9am:

Mario Balistreri
Tony Modica

Mildura—Sunday 5pm:

Frank Roccisano (1yr anniversary)

Mildura –Tuesday 6pm:

KSC deceased members Mass

Mildura –Friday 6pm:

Natale Tassone (6 month Mass)

Merbein:

Joe Junyadi,
Tony Dimasi
Nick Mazza

Red Cliffs:

If you have booked a memorial Mass please speak to the priest prior to the Mass.

FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Is today's psalm response. As we journey through

Advent and with Christmas quickly approaching, we find ourselves rushing from one event to another and making contact with every person we have ever met in our lives. We do fill our cup of life with joy and love.

Do we stop and give thanks to God? Do we acknowledge his presence in our lives and the lives of our family and friends?

Wednesday evening we have our parish reconciliation service. This can be a time for collective and individual prayer and reconciliation. Sometimes there is great joy in our lives when we let things go, especially the things that are holding us back personally from totally experiencing the great things God has done and is doing for us,



As we focus on our advent wreath when we light the second candle, let us be open to "Peace". What does this look like and how can we make a difference in bringing that to our lives?

May God continue to bless you all,

Fr Matthew

UPCOMING IN DECEMBER

Wednesday 11th - Baptism Preparation
6.30pm Meeting in Monaghan Centre

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th
Fr Cay will return for a Mass of Thanksgiving

ANOINTING MASSES

Tuesday 10th December, 1pm Princes Court
Thursday 12th December, 10.30am Chaffey
Thursday 12th December, 5:30pm Red Cliffs church
Tuesday 17th December, 10.30am, Jacaranda
Tuesday 17th December, 1.30pm Regis Tenth
Wednesday 18th December, 2pm, Mildura
Thursday 19th December, 9.30am, Merbein
Thursday 19th December, 10.30am Bupa
Thursday 19th December, 1.30pm Regis Ontario

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Reconciliation Service:
Wed 11th Dec – 7pm, Mildura

Christmas Eve Masses (Tue 24th Dec):
6pm Mildura 6pm Werrimull
10pm Mildura 8pm Red Cliffs
Midnight Mildura 8pm Merbein

Christmas Day Masses (Wed 25th Dec):
9am Mildura 8.30am Irymple

(Carols sung prior to all Christmas Masses)

Volunteers are required for all our ministry duties for the Christmas Season. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PLAY

Children are invited to attend and be part of the Nativity Play at the Sacred Heart Church Family Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Please note the two rehearsals:

Thursday 12th December at 5:30pm
Thursday 19th December at 5:30pm

For more details, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Office closure: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Wednesday 1st January 2025.

Modified operating hours, 9am to midday only:
Thursday 2nd January to Friday 24th January 2025.

Normal operating hours, 9am to 4pm: From Tuesday 28th January 2025.

ADORATION THIS ADVENT

During Advent, Exposition and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament will occur at Sacred Heart Church in Mildura on Tuesday **and on Friday:** starting at 4pm; concluding 5:15pm.



LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Priest: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

PAUSE IN SILENCE

All: Lord God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: hope of the peoples, the Saviour of every nation. You ask us to be watchful and alert because we do not know when you will come.

Let this candle bring us light and call us to a new wakefulness. At those times when you ask us to act, give us strength to respond at once.

Priest: Loving God, let your blessing come upon us gathered around this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE FIRST AND SECOND CANDLES ARE LIT

All: Loving God, You call us all to be your people united in faith. We thank you for this wreath, the evergreen sign of your faithful love.

We light these candles in hope – the hope of our coming Saviour, Jesus. Dispel the darkness of sin, that the light and peace of Jesus may shine in this waiting world.

Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP



Dear People of the Diocese,

You may have seen media coverage following a recent judgement of the High Court of Australia that involved the Diocese of Ballarat. This judgement has prompted renewed discussion about liability. I appreciate people's concern for those who have suffered abuse and people's questions about organisations accepting responsibility. I offer the following notes in response to people's concern and questions.

In cases where there is evidence that the Diocese of Ballarat has been negligent in the duty of safeguarding children, the Diocese accepts liability and provides compensation to victims.

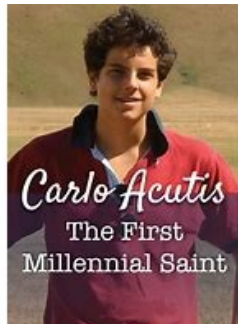
In the case considered by the High Court, Victorian courts had found that the Diocese of Ballarat was not negligent but still held that the Diocese was liable – vicariously. The High Court set aside this decision of the Victorian courts.

I would like to make it clear that the Diocese of Ballarat will continue to accept liability and provide compensation in cases where there is evidence that the Diocese has been negligent in safeguarding. In addition, the Diocese will continue to provide compensation through the Federal Government's Redress Scheme and through the state-wide Church process called Pathways Victoria. As well as providing compensation in these ways, the Diocese will continue to provide assistance to those who have suffered abuse by funding counselling and other pastoral help.

God bless you all. + Bishop Paul CSSR.

VISITATION OF THE RELIC OF BL CARLOS ACUTIS

Pope Francis recently announced his intention to canonise Carlo Acutis next April. A gamer and computer programmer who loved the Eucharist, he will be the Church's first millennial saint.



Later this month, the Buronga Latin Mass Community is organising a visitation of a relic of Blessed Carlo and a display of his *Eucharistic Miracles of the World* exhibition.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BURONGA Saturday 21st December 2024

8:00 am Display opens
8:00–8:45am Confessions available
8:30am Rosary
9:00–10:30am Sung Mass

An opportunity to be blessed by and venerate the relic follows Mass. The exhibition will remain open until midday. *Entry is free, but donations towards the restoration of the Wentworth church are welcome.*

SUNRAYSIA PIETY SHOPS

Mildura's piety table and Red Cliffs piety store are open every Sunday Mass. 2025 Columban Calendars are available, plus \$5 pk 8 Christmas Cards and a small range of lovely Christmas gift ideas. If you are after something in particular please call the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

If you know of someone who is sick or housebound and they would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

2025 WEEKEND ROSTERS

New rosters will be emailed mid December.

For a paper copy please call into the Parish Office.

COMMUNION TO RESIDENTS IN OUR AGED CARE CENTRES

Volunteers are needed to help give communion to residents in Aged Care. If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office for further information. Training will be provided if you would like to become a Special Eucharistic Minister.



HAMPER APPEAL

We are seeking assistance in creating hampers to assist people in need in the parish.



Next weekend 14th & 15th December we will be collecting the following items: Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Roll on Deodorant, Toilet Paper (6 packs), feminine hygiene products.

These items can be left in the baskets in the foyer of the churches.

ST VINNIES GIVING TREE

The members of the Sacred Heart St Vincent de Paul Society Conference are accepting gifts for children up to 12 years. They can be left under the St Vincent de Paul Society Giving tree.



VINNIES ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Located at 109 Pine Avenue, we can provide help for anyone wishing to apply for a NIL (no interest loan) to cover school expenses for 2025. The centre is open from **11am to 1pm Monday to Friday**. Ph 5023 4576.



STEWARDSHIP

Priest Support (Presbytery) Cash (1 st Collection); Tap & Go	\$2181.00
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC	\$2710.65
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Cash (2 nd Collection Loose Plate)	\$ 716.50

This week's Counting Team:
No. 8 – L Welsh

Next week's Counting Team:
No. 9 – G Macri

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every
nation under heaven,

since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through
devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has
remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide
shade

for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v.3

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,
remembering how you have helped to spread the Good
News from the day you first heard it right up to the
present. I am quite certain that the One who began this
good work in you will see that it is finished when the
Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I
miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My
prayer is that your love for each other may increase
more and more and never stop improving your
knowledge and deepening your perception so that you
can always recognise what is best. This will help you to
become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the
Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness
which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and
praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when
Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch
of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of
Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word
of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the
wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the
sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm: Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

Response: Cry out with joy and gladness: for
among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Fr Matthew Thomas

Assistant Priest:
Fr John Corrigan

Visiting Priest:
Fr Shaiju Mathew

Parish Secretary:
Carmel Russo

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Sts Anne and Joachim Parish of Sunraysia
is committed to a safe and nurturing culture
for all children, young people and vulnerable
adults. The parish adheres to Victoria's 11
Child Safe standards. Our policies can be
read in each church and on our website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Vince Pileggi