


 **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 15th December 2024 | Edition 50/2024

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

MASS TIMES

Monday:

9.30am OLSH

Tuesday:

10.30am Jacaranda
6pm Mildura

Wednesday

2pm Mildura (Anointing)

Thursday:

9:30am Merbein
9:30am Mildura
10.30am Bupa
1.30pm Regis Ontario
5:30pm Red Cliffs

Friday

6pm Mildura

Saturday

9:30am Mildura
6pm Mildura

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30am Irymple
9am Mildura
10am Red Cliffs
10:30am Merbein
5pm Mildura

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

Recommences 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:

Joan Doherty

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mildura - Saturday 6pm:

Vincenzo & Caterina Monteleone
Leo & Giuseppe Monteleone
Peppina Timpano, Nick Mazza

Mildura - Sunday 9am:

Juanita Pancho (40 day mass)
Giuseppe Mazza

Mildura - Sunday 5pm:

Jacob Nemtsas
Mariano Tira

Merbein:

Jacob Nemtsas, Regina Dolenc, Sid Wells, Rocco Di Mase, Vincenzo & Angela Taglierini

Red Cliffs:

Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina D'Anna, Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone

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

FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

'Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.' This is the response to today's psalm. When we light this third candle its also known as the candle of Joy. The Rose (Pink) candle reminds of the of the joy which is not far away the birth of Christ.



Who are the people in my life that give me great joy when I am with them?

This weekend as a parish we welcome back Fr Cay. He will be celebrating Mass on Saturday evening 6pm, Sunday at Irymple 8.30am and Red Cliffs 10am. We welcome him back with great joy and thanksgiving.



On Christmas Eve the Pope will open the Holy Doors at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. For us here in the Diocese of Ballarat the Holy Year of 'HOPE' will commence on the 28th December. More information will follow about our local celebrations.

In this last week of school, we wish all our school communities every blessing for the holidays.

May God continue to bless you all,

Fr Matthew

ANOINTING MASSES

Tuesday 17th December, 10.30am, Jacaranda
Wednesday 18th December, 2pm, Mildura
Thursday 19th December, 9.30am, Merbein
Thursday 19th December, 10.30am Bupa
Thursday 19th December, 1.30pm Regis Ontario
Tuesday 21st December, 1.30pm Regis Tenth

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

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 or complete the roster located in each church.

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 dress rehearsal:

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.



BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church:

-  **Athan Fernandez**
-  **Sienna Pileggi**
-  **Franco Zappia**
-  **Scarlett Caristo**
-  **Santino Sergi**

baptised at Sacred Heart Church this weekend.

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.**

THREE 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 joy 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.

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

When St Boniface evangelised the German people in the eighth century, he took an axe to Donar's Oak to break the pagan reverence for 'sacred trees.' According to legend, an evergreen tree grew overnight in place of the felled oak, symbolising the Trinity with its triangular shape pointing to heaven.



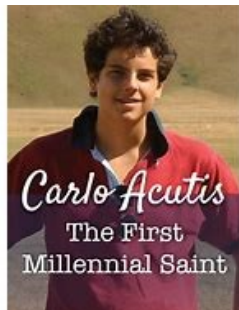
Many centuries later, Christians in central Europe revived the old Roman custom of bringing an evergreen tree into the home each December. The Romans' pagan beliefs were supplanted by the legend of St Boniface and the Trinitarian tree. An angel, representing Gabriel at the Annunciation, or a star, representing the Star of Bethlehem, was placed at the top of the tree. What began as a Protestant custom was soon adopted by Catholics too. In 1982, Pope St John Paul II inaugurated the now annual practice of erecting a Christmas Tree in St Peter's Square to accompany the Vatican Nativity Scene.

In some places the Christmas Tree is erected at the start of Advent; in others on Christmas Eve. Traditionally, it is not removed until 6th January – the Feast of Epiphany, and the twelfth day of Christmas.

VISITATION OF THE RELIC OF BLESSED CARLO 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 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.*

NEW PRIEST'S FIRST BLESSING

It is an old tradition of the faithful to request "a first blessing" from a newly-ordained priest. People often queue up after an ordination or a new priest's Mass of Thanksgiving to receive the blessing, which affords special graces.



Robin Sharrock Photography, Warrnambool

The first blessing can be ministered any time in the first 12 months after a priest's ordination. Fr Cay is happy to minister the blessing to anyone who asks.

Traditionally, a person kneels for the first blessing, and then kisses the palms of the priest's consecrated hands afterwards. But it is also fine to stand and bow your head to receive the blessing, and you don't have to kiss Fr Cay's hands.

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 in the new year to those who would like to become an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

HAMPER APPEAL

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



This 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 or the Parish Office.

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.

SUNRAYSIA PIETY SHOPS

Mildura's Piety Table will be open at all Masses this weekend and next weekend. Red Cliffs Piety store is open every Sunday after Mass.

2025 Columban Calendars are available \$9 each, Christmas Cards at \$5/pk 8 and each have a small range of lovely Christmas gift ideas.

If you are after something in particular please call the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

STEWARDSHIP

Priest Support (Presbytery) Cash (1 st Collection); Tap & Go	\$2205.00
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC	\$2562.60
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Cash (2 nd Collection Loose Plate)	\$1076.90

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

Next week's Counting Team:
No. 1 – G Lavery

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
 Israel, shout aloud!
 Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
 daughter of Jerusalem!
 The Lord has repealed your sentence;
 he has driven your enemies away.
 The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
 you have no more evil to fear.
 When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
 Zion, have no fear,
 do not let your hands fall limp.
 The Lord your God is in your midst,
 a victorious warrior.
 He will exult with joy over you,
 he will renew you by his love;
 he will dance with shouts of joy for you
 as on a day of festival.

RESPONSORIAL

Isaiah 2:2-6 R. v.6

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

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
 I trust, I shall not fear.
 For the Lord is my strength, my song,
 he became my saviour.
 With joy you will draw water
 from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
 Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
 Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
 for he has done glorious deeds,
 make them known to all the earth!
 People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

Someone is coming,
 someone who is more
 powerful than I am,
 and I am not fit to undo
 the strap of his sandals.

Luke 3:16



SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1/Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

Response: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

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