



# Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas  
 Assistant Priest Fr Shaiju Mathew

Edition: 16/2023

2nd Sunday of Easter Year A / 16th April 2023

### Message from Fr Shaiju Mathew

The Gospel passage of this Sunday presents before us the narrative of yet another apparition of the risen Lord before his disciples with the highlight of the famous faith declaration " My Lord and my God" of Apostle Thomas. This testimony by St Thomas is very dear to me for he is the Apostle of India and moreover, he is the heavenly patron of my missionary society, The Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle. With this deep faith in his Master which he expressed in the above stated verse, St. Thomas travelled to more distant lands, sowed the seeds of the gospel and finally accepted martyrdom to glorify the name of his Master, Jesus Christ. Let's get inspired by the same Missionary Zeal and spirit of St. Thomas and spread the love of Jesus with the people around us.

As we celebrate this Sunday as Divine Mercy Sunday, I consider it as an opportune time to express my deep sentiments of gratitude and bid goodbye to Mildura community for everything you, as members of this parish community have been to me. You may have already come to know that I am on a transfer and I move to Robinvale on the 20th of April to take up new responsibilities there. At this juncture my heart is overwhelmed with gratitude and I sincerely thank all of you for your love, care, support and friendship. May I take this opportunity to thank in a very special way Fr Matt Thomas, collaborating with whom I was discharging my priestly duties for this community since two years. May I also remember with gratitude all of you my friends in Mildura, Irymple, Red Cliffs, Merbein, Werrimull and more specially Carmel Russo, Margaret McDonald, Gardening and Maintenance Crew, Parish council members, Sacristans, members of other different committees, Religious Sisters and many other kind- hearted people among you who made my life here very pleasant and enjoyable and made me to feel quite at home.

As I take leave of you from here, I solicit your prayers and support to accompany me in Robinvale to carry out my responsibilities diligently. I will definitely miss your joyful company there. But let's meet together virtually in our daily prayers and of course, face to face in our future gatherings. Thanking you all sincerely together with the assurance of my love and prayers,

Your beloved *Father Shaiju Mathew.*



### 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.



### Farewell Gathering for Fr Shaiju

As Fr Shaiju takes up his appointment in Robinvale on 20th April the Sacred Heart Parish in conjunction with Our Lady's Merbein, St Joseph's Red Cliffs parishes are organizing a farewell dinner after the 6pm Mass on Tuesday 18th April near the Monaghan Centre.

For catering purpose please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

A collection will also be taken up.

If you would like to donate towards a gift you can leave it at the Sacred Parish Office.



### Baptism

We welcome to our Sunraysia Parish Community — **Johnnie Adams, Lorenzo Fiorenza-Costa, Santari Hibbard, Olivia Lacia and Ava Panuccio** whose baptism occurs this weekend.

### 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
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> <small>(supporting Priests &amp; Presbytery)</small>	\$3589.90	\$433.70	\$240.50
<b>2nd Collection</b> <small>(includes all EFT, DD &amp; CC)</small>	\$2011.00	\$182.00	\$612.60
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 1443.00	\$ 166.85	\$ 64.55
<b>Special Collections</b> Project Compassion-Caritas—to date	\$3534.50		
<b>Next weeks Counting Team</b>	Team 10—H Kay		



### FEAST OF ST PETER CHANEL

The Tongan community will be celebrating the Feast of St Peter Chanel on Sunday, April 23 at 9am.

All welcome.



Thank You



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back asap or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

### Sacred Heart Family Group



The Sacred Heart Family group will be dining at the Irymple Hotel on Sunday 23rd April at 12 noon. Please let Denise or Gerry know your intentions on 0350211918. All welcome to join us.

### Extract from Bishop Paul's Easter letter

*I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.*

*In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.*

*May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.*

*God bless you all.*

*Bishop Paul*



### Werrimull Mass Bus Trip

The next Werrimull Bus trip will be held on Sunday 30th April. To make a booking, please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

### Confirmation weekend dates

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



### Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans Online National Gathering: May 3, 2023

ACRATH invites you to join their national gathering (online) on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 "Hearts stirred to action - The Call of the Human face of trafficking." Details of the event available at <https://acrath.org.au/hearts-stirred-to-action/will>

### ABC Q & A Program

Will be filmed live in Mildura on Monday 17th April at 9.35pm. Joining **Stan Grant** on the panel: **John Williamson**, Iconic singer and songwriter, **Emma McBride**, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, **Michael McCormack**, Nationals member for Riverina, **Bob Katter**, Independent member for Kennedy, **Darlene Thomas**, CEO of Mallee District Aboriginal Services

### Trading Stalls Red Cliffs

Sunday 16th April—Cuppa and Trading stall will be held after the 10am Mass.

Proceeds this month go towards Project Compassion.



### 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 : 15th & 16th April 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	R Tongue	M Cirillo, K Quinlan, Volunteer	Baptism	Singing Group M Sullivan
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G McCracken			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	R Tam	N Fatai, B Castillo, E Mazza	L Belej	Filipino Choir
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	D Eagle	C Cavallaro	Lewis Family	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	M Bowring	K McCarthy	J & A O'Connor	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	M Bowring	S Hermans, J Jose, T Cirillo	Baptism	S Fatai, K Mapapalangi
Next Weekend Roster: 22nd & 23rd April 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm	A Naray	A Greville, P Kerr, M McDonald	Baptism	S Fatai, K Mapapalangi
Sun 8.30am Irymple	M Duck			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	Feast of St Peter Chanel	P O'Donnell, J Cresp, T Fainganuku	Feast of St Peter Chanel	M Guthrie Tongan Choir
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	T Gardiner	M Dominelli	Volunteer	T Lewis / Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	B Collins	Vicki McCarthy	B Collins, K McCarthy	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	J Thomas	V & C Carlucci, M Bowring	Baptism	M Guthrie, J Ljubic

**Please Pray for the Sick**



**Denis Pasut  
Morgan Dias-Jones  
Teresa Camarotto,  
James Bowring, Rosemary Byrne,  
Catherine Bell, 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**

Inez Sullivan,  
Filippo Morabito (Holland)  
Domenica Treccasi (Adelaide)



**Anniversaries**

**Mildura:**  
Saturday 6pm: Leonor Anchez  
Sunday 9am: Joyce Ribarits  
Sunday 5pm: Francesca pelle  
Fri 6pm: Girolima Scopelliti

**Merbein:**

**Red Cliffs:**  
Antonina DeMaria, Giuseppe & Maria  
D'Anna, Domenico & Caterinia 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
	10am	Funeral Mildura
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	Mildura
Thursday	9.30am	Mildura
	9.30am	Merbein
	1.30pm	Regis Ontario
	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



**April 2023**

**Mon 17:** KSC monthly meeting 7.30pm, KSC Clubrooms  
**Thu 20:** Anointing Mass—Merbein 9.30am  
**Thu 20:** Regis Ontario Aged Care Service 1.30pm  
**Wed 26:** Anointing Mass—Mildura 2pm  
**Wed 26:** Baptism Preparation evening, 7pm Monaghan Centre  
**Thu 27:** Chaffey Aged Care Service 10.30am

**The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine**

God of peace and justice,  
 who change the hardened heart  
 and break the power of violence,  
 we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.  
 Protect them in this time of peril;  
 let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.  
 You are Father of all;  
 we are brothers and sisters.  
 Give us the strength to live that truth in love,  
 choosing peace not war.  
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

**Divine Mercy Chaplet Holy hour** will be prayed at 3pm on  
Sunday 16th April at St Michael's Church, Buronga.

### Next Weeks Readings:

**Third Sunday of Easter Year A / 23rd April 2023**

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-23

**Psalm:** Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

**Response:** Lord, you will show us the path of life.

**Second Reading:** Peter 1:17-21

**Gospel:** Luke 24:13-35

## Second Reading

1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter  
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'  
After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you