

Sunraysia Catholic Communities

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Christmas Newsheet

Parish Priest Fr. Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr. Shaiju Mathew
Retired Priest Fr. Pat Flanagan

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo
Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

**Sacred Heart
Mildura**

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Werrimull**

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Merbein**

**St. Francis Xavier
Irymple**

**St. Joseph's
Red Cliffs**

*The Sunraysia Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care.
Child Safety Officers:- Mildura—Peter Issanchon, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

**Christmas Day / Year B
25th December 2020**

Message from our Parish Priest

On behalf of Fr Shaiju, Fr Pat and myself we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and that 2021 brings you all many blessings from God.

This year has seen so many changes and has become for some of us something strange, while trying to understand and follow the COVID restrictions. However, we are very fortunate to still be able to travel and have Christmas together with family and friends. Let us be grateful for this opportunity.

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 2021,
may God's blessing be with you now during this Christmas time
and into the new year.*

*God Bless
Fr Matthew*



First Reading

Is 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

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 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. (R.)



Second Reading

Ti 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

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

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

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.'