



# Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas

Edition: 03/2023

Assistant Priest Fr Shaiju Mathew Visiting Priest Fr Anthony Nagothu (Robinvale)

## Message from the Parish Priest

This weekend we commence Ordinary Time of the Church's year. This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ. Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ.

What do I do in my ordinary day that can become a prayer for and to God? What are the celebrations I have each day that I take for granted that all of a sudden I can celebrate and give thanks for?

Today's Gospel reading has Jesus being baptized in Water and the Holy Spirit descending on him as this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. How has Jesus influenced my life by taking away my sins and being an example to me of how to forgive and move forward with others in life.

Please note that I am away next week from Monday to Saturday. So there will be no 9.30am Mass at Mildura on Thursday.

God Bless *Fr Matthew*

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 15th January 2023

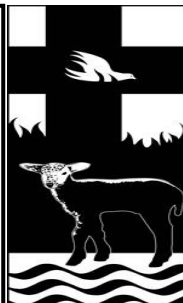
### Tap & Go—Presbytery 1st Collection

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.

### Notices for the Bulletin

All requests for notices for the weekend bulletin need to be in by 12noon each Thursday.

You can either email:  
[mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
or call 5021 2872.



### Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours

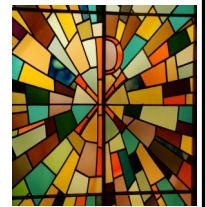
January 2023

Please take note of the Office hours for January.

From: 3rd January till 25th January  
**9am - 12noon only.**

**Thursday 26th January Office closed Public Holiday.**

The return to normal office hours will commence from Friday 27th January.



### 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](mailto: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>	\$1371.55	\$126.30	\$189.40
<b>2nd Collection</b> <small>(includes all EFT, DD &amp; CC)</small>	\$1369.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 34.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$515.50	\$ 56.50	\$ 49.15
<b>Special Collections</b>	\$ 193.15	\$ 92.05	\$
<b>Next weeks Counting Team</b>	Team 7—Jim Farrelly		

### WERRIMULL MASS BUS TRIP

Our first Werrimull Bus trip for 2023 will be held on Sunday 29th January.

To make a booking, please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.



### Lenten Program 2023

We are now taking orders for those who wish to participate or organise a group for the 2023 Lenten Program.



For further information or to place an order please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

### Advance Notice

**Ash Wednesday:** 22 February

**Rite of Election 2023:** Saturday, 25 February, 2023 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**Mass of the Oils 2023:** Monday, 3 April, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

### Food for thought!

What image is generated by the description of Jesus as the 'lamb of God'?

What emotions might John have felt in the situation described in this passage?

How might the crowd have initially reacted to John's declarations about Jesus?

Who has been a John the Baptist in your life and 'pointed the way' for you in your faith?

### Sacramental Dates for 2023

**Parent meeting & celebration dates for the following Sacraments will take place on:**

#### Penance (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 15th February 7pm, SH Church.

Celebration 5th April, 7pm SH Church



RECONCILIATION



#### Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)

Parent meeting 22nd March 7pm, SH Church

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May.

#### First Eucharist (Grade 4 and above)

Parent meeting 6th September 7pm, SH Church

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd October



RECONCILIATION

#### Penance (Grade 2 and above)

Parent meeting 4th October 7pm, SH Church

Celebration Wednesday 22nd November 7pm

### Made for Each Other Summer School 2023

The Archdiocese of Hobart are hosting the fifth annual "Made for Each Other Summer School!" The theme for 2023 is 'Him & Her: Vive La Difference', which celebrates and explores the undeniable differences and complementarity of the sexes. The event is an overnight retreat with engaging speakers, opportunity for prayer, reflection, and social interaction on January 27 & 28, 2023 in Launceston, Tasmania and is for 18+ who are discerning marriage and forming relationships. Register at [www.himandher.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.himandher.eventbrite.com.au) For more information email [rachel.bradley@aohtas.org.au](mailto:rachel.bradley@aohtas.org.au)



J.Close'08

### 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 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

This weekend	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	A Naray	M Cirillo, P Kerr, A Greville		M Sullivan Singing Group
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G Schmidt			
Sun 9am Mildura	R Tam	N Fatai, B Castillo, R O'Callaghan	L Belej	Tongan Choir M Guthrie
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	M Bell J Cameron	P Hill	F Dominelli	T Lewis
Sun 10.30am Merbein	N Baby		N Baby & Isabel	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	B Dolence	S Hermans, M Rodi, M Irvin		S Fatai
Next weekend	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	C Carmichael	M McDonald, A Naray, R Tongue	Carlin Family	M Hammond, J Ljubic
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G McCracken			
Sun 9am Mildura	L Welsh	L Belej, E Garreffa, C Howell	Baptism	M Guthrie & singers
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	J Cameron D Eagle	P Hunt	Lewis Family	Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	M Bowring		J & A O'Connor	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	G Johnston	C Carlucci, J Jose, T Cirillo		S Fatai

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

**Please Pray for the Sick**  
*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.*  
**Teresa Camarotto, James Bowring, Caleb Bowers, Margaret Mottram, Rosemary Byrne, Jenny Boyd, Catherine Bell, Faye Cufari, Marie Adams, Barry Crosbie**

**Upcoming Events January 2023**  
**Anointing Masses**  
 Merbein Thu 19 Jan 9.30am  
 Mildura Wed 25 Jan 2pm  
**Australia Day Masses**  
**Thursday 26 January**  
 Mildura 9.30am  
 Merbein 9.30am  
 Red Cliffs 5.30pm

**Mass Time Table this Week**

Monday	9.30am	Funeral
Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	Mildura
Thursday	9.30am	Merbein
	No Mass	9.30am Mildura
	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

**No Mass on Thursday at 9.30am Mildura**

**Recent Deaths**  
 Marilyn Foley (Ballan), Maria Raboteg, George Cardinal Pell,  
**Anniversaries**  
**Mildura:**  
 Saturday 6pm  
 Sunday 9am: Mario Littore (1yr)  
 Tuesday 6pm: Maria Piscioneri (5yrs), Domenico & Rosa Scali, Vincenzo & Teresa Piscioneri  
**Merbein:**  
 Jesse Barnes, Katie Cohrs, Giuseppe Manno, John Dorman, Steve Panuccio  
**Red Cliffs:**  
 Una Jean Paramanathan, Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina 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.



**Feast Days this coming week**

Tuesday: St Anthony  
 Friday: St Fabian & Sebastian  
 Saturday: St Agnes

St Agnes

## First Reading Is 49:3. 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified';  
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,  
my God was my strength.  
And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the  
survivors of Israel;  
I will make you the light of the nations  
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of  
the earth.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

(R.) Here I am, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

## Second Reading 1 Cor 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:14. 12

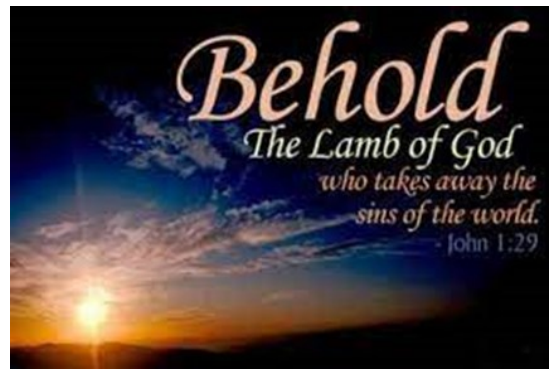
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.  
He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Jn 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'



### REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of people: 'Holier than thou'! It means being so close to God that God's holiness rubs off.

We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.

Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'You are my beloved son/daughter'. We have been adopted into God's family and that brings us into close proximity to God.

So, if St Paul were writing to us today, as he did to the Corinthians, this is how it would run: '... to the church of God that is in [your town], made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'

But, we are not alone. In a multitude of places there are people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. How is the 'togetherness' held together? By being in communion with the Bishop of Rome, currently Pope Francis. We might pause for a moment to thank God that we are amongst the baptised who can receive St Paul's greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

### Next Weeks Readings:

First 1 Cor 1:4-15      Psalm: 39:2-3,  
Second: Is 49:3, 5-6      Gospel : Jn 1:29-34