



# Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas

Edition: 11/2023

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

3rd Sunday in Lent (A) 12th March 2023

## Sunraysia Easter Services

### Holy Thursday

6pm Merbein  
6pm Red Cliffs  
7.30pm Mildura

### Good Friday

9am Stations of the Cross Mildura  
3pm Red Cliffs  
3pm Mildura  
3pm Merbein

### Holy Saturday

6pm Red Cliffs  
6pm Mildura

### Easter Sunday

8.30am Irymple  
9am Mildura  
10.30am Merbein  
11am Werrimull  
No 5pm Mass

## Message from the Parish Priest

This weekend we celebrate the King's Birthday Long Weekend I welcome any visitors to the region and I hope you all have a lovely time here in the Sunraysia.

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.* Is the response to the psalm and this was very evident in the Gospel when Jesus talks to the woman at the well. For us too if we hear the voice of Jesus we need to be open to the message he is telling us.

Please note we have a couple of slight changes for the Easter ceremonies times.

This coming we have two great feast days Friday is St Patrick's Day and Sunday is St Josephs

God Bless *Fr Matthew*



## Weddings

We congratulate **Michael Tsivoglou & Ashley Niutta** who were married this weekend.



## Anointing Masses - March 2023

**Merbein** Thursday 16th March 9.30am

**Mildura** Wednesday 22nd March 2pm

## 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.

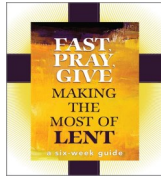
## Parish Contact Details

**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>	\$1808.35	\$162.75	\$206.15
<b>2nd Collection</b> <small>(includes all EFT, DD &amp; CC)</small>	\$2589.50	\$130.00	\$1350.75
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$ 736.30	\$ 73.35	\$ 108.40
<b>Special Collections</b> <small>Project Compassion-Caritas—to date</small>	\$1020.05		
<b>Next weeks Counting Team</b>	Team 5—H Kay		

**Making the Most of Lent through Prayer, Fasting and Giving**



- Join a Lenten group
- Give up something you enjoy and/or love doing.
- Project Compassion envelopes packs are now available
- Giving of your time—visit a family member or friend
- Indian Community Stations of the cross Friday's 6.45pm, Sacred Heart Church.
- Tongan Community Stations of the cross Friday's 7.30pm, Sacred Heart Church.



**Trading Stalls Mildura & Red Cliffs 12th March 2023**

This Sunday, a Cuppa and Trading stalls will be held in Mildura after the 9am Mass & Red Cliffs after the 10am Mass.

Proceeds from both trading stalls will go to Project Compassion.



**Feast of St Patrick—17th March**

*May the Strength of God guide us  
May the Power of God preserve us  
May the Wisdom of God instruct us  
May the Hand of God Protect us  
May the Way of God direct us  
May the Shield of God defend us  
May the Angels of God guard us  
Against the snares of the evil one.*



*May Christ be with us!  
May Christ be before us!  
May Christ be in us!  
Christ be over all!  
This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen*

**Lenten Retreat—**

**By His wounds we are Healed Isaiah 53:4**

at St Michael's Church Buronga

3rd April—5 April 2023 from 6pm –8.30pm

- Holy Mass . Healing Adoration
- Praise & Worship . Confession & counselling

**Feast of St Joseph—19th March**

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted His Only Son;  
In you Mary placed her trust;  
With you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
Show yourself a father  
And guide us in the path of  
life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy  
and courage,  
And defend us from every evil. Amen*



**St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs**

Will be celebrating the Feast of St Joseph on Sunday 19th March with a cuppa and nibbles after the 10am Mass. All welcome. If you would like to attend please put your name down on the form provided in the church or contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

**Sacred Heart Family Group**

will be having brunch at the Mildura Workers on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am.

Please let Clive or Lyn know your intentions on 0350211422 or 0429437041.

All welcome to join us.

**Confirmation (Grade 3 and above)**

Parent meeting 22nd March 7pm, SH Church  
Friday 26th, Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May.



**Third Sunday of Lent 11th & 12th March**



Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**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 : 11th & 12th March 2023**

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	R Tongue	V Pileggi, R Tongue, A Greville		Singing Group M Sullivan
Sun 8.30am Irymple	M Duck			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	P Issanchon	M Modica, L Welsh, R O'Callaghan	M Gobbo	Filipino Choir M Issanchon
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	M Milani	J Cameron	C Cavallaro	T Lewis
Sun 10.30am Merbein	K Wagner	J Dannatt	N & B Prevedello	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	J Thomas	M Bowring, P Cox, G Johnston		M Hammond, J Macri

**Next Weekend Roster: 18th & 19th March 2023**

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	A Naray	K Quinlan, A Naray, M McDonald	Baptism	Filipino Choir M Issanchon
Sun 8.30am Irymple	W Schmidt			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	R Op't Hoog	R & R Op't Hoog, C Howell	Baptism	Tongan Choir M Guthrie
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	M Slater	C Cavallaro	F Dominelli	T Lewis
Sun 10.30am Merbein	N Gallagher	N Prevedello	K McCarthy, Val McCarthy	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	B Bunting	T Finn, B Dolence, J Boord	Baptism	S Fatai, K Mapapalangi

**Please Pray for the Sick**



Lindsay Willding,  
Teresa Camarotto,  
James Bowring,  
Rosemary Byrne, Jenny Boyd,  
Catherine Bell, Faye Cufari,  
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**

Dawn Nowak, Franc Strubelj

**Anniversaries**

Brian Weightman

**Mildura:**

Saturday 6pm:

Lawrence Naray, Flordecita Sagal

Sunday 9am:

Mary O'Bryan

Tuesday 6pm:

Tony Rogers



**Merbein:**

Larry Dichiera, Mary Weeks,  
Gilia Dichiera, Colleen Piscioneri, Ilario Mazza, Keith Flenly and Cassie Weinert

**Red Cliffs:**

Tom Smith, Cecilia & Domenico D'Anna,  
Vincenza Tassone, Francesco & Maria-Antonia Tassone, Adrianna 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
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	9.30am	Mildura
	1.30pm	Funeral
Thursday	9.30am	Mildura
	9.30am	Merbein
	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



**March 2023**

**Sun 12:** Cuppa & Trading Table 9am Mildura, 10am Red Cliffs

**Mon 13:** Knights of the Southern Cross meeting 7.30pm KSC clubrooms.

**Tues 14:** Princes Court Aged Care Service 1pm

**Wed 15:** Oasis Aged Care Service 1pm

**Thu 16:** Anointing Mass, Merbein

**Tue 21:** Northern Zone Meeting—Mildura

**Wed 22:** Anointing Mass, Mildura

**Wed 22:** Baptism Preparation Evening, Monaghan Centre 7pm

**Tue 28:** Sacred Heart Parish Finance meeting 7.15am, Parish Office

**Tue 28:** BUPA Aged Care Service 1pm

**Next Weeks Readings:**

**4th Sunday in Lent Year A / 19th March 2023**

**First Reading:** Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

**Psalm:** Ps 22

**Second Reading:** St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41





## First Reading

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

## Second Reading

Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

## Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering  
and who it is that is saying to you:  
Give me a drink,  
you would have been the one to ask,  
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'

Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water  
will get thirsty again:  
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give  
will never be thirsty again:  
the water that I shall give  
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming  
when you will worship the Father  
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.  
You worship what you do not know;  
we worship what we do know;  
for salvation comes from the Jews.  
But the hour will come – in fact it is here already –  
when true worshippers will worship the Father in  
spirit and truth:  
that is the kind of worshipper  
the Father wants.  
God is spirit,  
and those who worship  
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'