



Our Lady of Sacred
Heart Merbein



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4th May 2023

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady's Merbein, Sacred Heart Mildura and St Joseph's Red Cliffs,

I am formally writing to you to inform you that after nearly ten years of working together as a region it is now time to conclude the preparation work that Fr Mick McKinnon, the Regional Gathering Committee and the three Parish Councils have commenced back in 2015. This work was commenced in line with the Looking Forward Document (from the Diocese Pastoral Planning Committee) in bringing the three parishes together as one.

In order for this to take place we need to formally close the three parishes and form a new parish. All of our faith communities Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimul will remain and have representation on the new leadership committee the structure of this committee would be Priests of the Parish, Administration x1, Irymple x1, Merbein x2, Mildura x2, Red Cliffs x2 and Werrimul x1. (Nominations and elections to appointment members would occur and person would be elected for 2-3 years) Each faith community will have a meeting each quarter (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) and then the new parish leadership committee will meet bi-monthly (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct and Dec) with the parish finance committee meeting monthly.

There will be some minor changes to formalize what is already in place with one bulletin, one office/Administration and sharing priests of the region will remain and the main changes will be mostly administration with things like a new letterhead, webpage, signage on the churches and new plan giving envelopes as one parish.

It is proposed that the new name will be –

St Joachim and Anne Parish, Sunraysia

(Joachim and Anne being the Grandparents of Jesus, this is a great link and honor to our own grandparents. We as a region celebrate Joachim and Anne already through the work of the school communities and parishes through Grandparent's Day activities and mass/liturgy.)

Feast Day is on the 26th July



The new Logo would look something like this
The Blue Arc represents the river
The Cross represents Christ being center of our lives
Green Hands represents the land in which we live
The people represent the diversity of the parishioners

Church Community Feasts

Ss Joachim and Anne (Parish Feast Day)		26 th July
Merbein -	Our Lady Sacred Heart	31 st May
Red Cliffs -	St Joseph the Worker	1 st May
Irymple -	St Francis Xavier	3 rd December
Mildura-	Sacred Heart of Jesus	24 th June
Werrimull-	Our Lady of Lourdes	11 th February

Feast Days

Tongan – St Peter Chanel
Filipino – Flores De Mayo
Italian - St Anthony (Mildura)
Italian - Our Lady of Rosary (Red Cliffs)
Christ the King
Knights of the Southern Cross – Mary Mackillop
Indian –Independence Day

This letter is to inform you of the proposal that has developed through the discussions over recent years. As a next step, I will write to Bishop Paul Bird to ask him to establish the new parish from 1st July 2023. Before making a decision about the proposal, Bishop Paul will consult the Council of Priests at our next meeting on 27th June.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr Matthew Thomas
Parish Priest