



Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Parish, Sunraysia

Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimull

Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas
Assistant Priest Fr John Corrigan

Edition: 35/2023

21st Sunday Year A OT / 26th & 27th August 2023

Message from our Assistant Priest

In June the Church celebrated the birth of St John the Baptist; on Tuesday we commemorate his death. It's an unusual honour. Saints normally get one feast day – the only exceptions are Our Lady, St Joseph, and St John the Baptist. This is as it should be, for as Our Lord himself said, "of all the children born of women, none is greater than John the Baptist." (Mt. 11:11)

None is greater, and perhaps none is more tragic. At the height of his career, John built up a popular movement which guaranteed his place in history. Even more was possible, but then it slowly unravelled, as many of his disciples left to follow Jesus. The devil would have him fight, to build his movement, to defeat this upstart whom he himself had baptised. But John did not. On the contrary, as John explained to his most loyal followers, "He must increase; I must decrease." (Jn 3:30)

When we consider our limitations, we envy the great and the talented. Sometimes we presume that they are different to us; that they are never envious. But when they come across someone with greater gifts, as one day all of them must, then they will know what it means to feel like us. Let's pray that they, like St John the Baptist, may pass that test.

*God Bless you all,
Fr John*

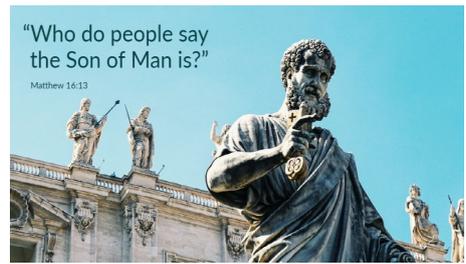
Baptisms

We welcome into our Parish Community **Sophia Rodi** whose baptism occurs this weekend.



New Planned Giving Envelopes

With our current Planned Giving year coming to and end this weekend, new envelopes will be available for collection from each of our Catholic Churches from 26th & 27th August. A statement dated from 4/9/022 to 20/8/2023 and letter from our Parish Priest will be included in each pack. Should there be any discrepancies please contact the Parish Office on 50212872. If you would like to contribute or change your contribution details please contact the Parish office. The new Planned Giving year will commence on the 3rd September.



Weddings



We congratulate **Michael Brigante & Ester Svrta** who were married this weekend.

Tap & Go Presbytery

The parish has Tap & Go units with set amounts of \$5, \$10, \$20 & \$50 for the Presbytery (1st Collection). A unit will be placed at each Church entrance for Sacred Heart Church and a unit will be available at the main entrance of Irymple, Merbein & Red Cliffs churches.



TAP&GO

Parish Contact Details

Administration Officer Ms Carmel Russo
Office Hours Tuesday – Friday 9am – 4pm
257 Eleventh Street Mildura
Po Box 10037 Mildura Vic 3502
Phone 03 5021 2872
0417 862 082 (**After Hours**)
Email: sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Finances

	Mildura	Merbein	Red Cliffs
Last week's collections			
1 st Collection (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	\$1522.35	\$120.85	\$128.00
2 nd Collection (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	\$1880.25	\$122.50	\$188.75
Loose Plate	\$ 661.80	\$ 49.20	\$ 79.55
Trading Table	\$		\$
Next week's Counting Team	Team 9—G Macri		

Sacramental Dates for 2023

Celebrations and parent meeting dates for the following Sacraments will take place later this year:



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (Gr 4 and above)
Friday 20th, Saturday 21st
& Sunday 22nd October

Parent meeting: 6th September 7pm,
Sacred Heart Church

PENANCE (Gr 2 and above)

Wednesday 22nd November at 7pm

Parent meeting: 4th October 7pm, SH Church



RECONCILIATION

A Prayer for Hope

God our Father. We praise you, bless you and thank you.
We have everything because of you. You are good and we love You.

Jesus our Brother, you came into this world to show us the way of love.

You bring good news to those who are poor and oppressed.
You are one with those who suffer.

You are one with the First Peoples of Australia.

Amidst all their pain, you give them hope that justice, reconciliation and peace will flow and that they will find their rightful place in our common home.

Creator Spirit, you have moved through this land since the beginning of time.

You bless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the wisdom that enables them to care for each other and to care for country.

Fill us all with humility and love so that we listen with respect to their wisdom and learn from them.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples invite us to journey with them towards a new day where there is healing and justice for them and for all Australians.

As we prepare to vote in the referendum on a Voice to Parliament, may we befriend them and listen to them with deep respect.

Shape us into a community of love which is a sign of your divine communion of love.

Help us to show all Australians how to build a civilisation of love in this land now and in the years to come.

In You we place all our trust and hope. Amen

Social Justice Statement 2023-2024

The Australian bishops' have launched the 2023-2024 Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples". Copies of the statement and resources are available from the diocesan website:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>.

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on August 27.

Sacred Heart Church Piety Stall Opening Hours

The Sacred Heart Church Piety Stall will now be available on the 1st Saturday before and after the 6pm mass, 3rd Sunday before and after the 9am mass and the 4th Sunday before and after the 5pm mass. All are most welcome to come look and see what is available or we are happy to help out if you require something different or special. For further information please contact the Parish Office on 5021 2872.

Season of Creation Resources 2023

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow", drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>



A Mighty River
Amos 5:24

Weekly Prayer and Spiritual Opportunities

Sacred Heart Church Mildura

Exposition and Benediction Tuesday 4pm

Charismatic Group Tuesday after 6pm Mass

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

Sts Anne and Joachim Catholic Parish of Sunraysia adheres to the Child Safe Standards of Victoria.

Our policies are on display in each church, and on our website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Vince Pileggi**.

This Weekend Roster: 26th & 27th August 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	R Tongue	A Greville, M Cirillo, M McDonald		T Fainga'anuku Group
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G Schmidt			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	T Fainga'anuku	N Fatai, B Castillo, R O'Callaghan	L & C Welsh	M Guthrie, J O'Bryan, B Lewis, B Prescott
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	M Duck	P Hill	Baptism Family	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	N Baby	J Dannatt	N Baby & Isabel	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	G Johnston	P Cox, J Boord, G Johnston		S Fatai K Mapapalangi
Next Weekend Roster: 2nd & 3rd September 2023				
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
Sat 6pm Mildura	A Naray	R Tongue, P Kerr, Volunteer please		M Guthrie
Sun 8.30am Irymple	G McCracken			M Smith
Sun 9am Mildura	L Welsh	L Belej, E Garreffa, C Howell	M Gobbo	Italian Choir M Sullivan
Sun 10am Red Cliffs	D Eagle	P Hunt	Cameron Family	T Lewis & Tongan Choir
Sun 10.30am Merbein	K Wagner	N Prevedello	Karen McCarthy Val McCarthy	K East
Sun 5pm Mildura	J Thomas	T Finn, B Dolence, M Bowring		S Fatai J Macri, J Ljubic

Please Pray for the Sick

Barry Crosbie, Kerry-Anne Crosbie,
Christian Mira, Dolly Ridings
Nada Zudetich
Catherine Bell
Natalina D'Anna
Morgan Dias-Jones

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
Maria Manno, Ilario Petrolo

Anniversaries

Mildura:
Sunday 9am:
All Souls, Peter, Maria, Joseph & Lucia Tran, Joseph & Helen Grivec, Tony & Joseph Habjan, Claire Schorback (1yr anniversary)

Sunday 5pm:

Fri 6pm:
Carmelo Lando (10 year anniversary)

Merbein:
Michael Matotek

Red Cliffs:
Giuseppe and Domenico Mammone
Lance Davis

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

Monday	11.30am	Funeral Mildura
Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs
	4pm	Expo/Benediction
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	10.30am	Funeral Mildura
Thursday	9.30am	Merbein
	9.30am	Mildura
	5.30pm	Red Cliffs
Friday	6pm	Mildura
Saturday	9.30am	Mildura
	6pm	Mildura
Sunday	8.30am	Irymple
	9am	Mildura
	10am	Red Cliffs
	10.30am	Merbein
	5pm	Mildura

What's Happening August/September 2023

August

Tue 29 Aug: Parish Finance Committee meeting, Parish Office 7.15am

September

Tue 5 Sep: Jacaranda Aged Care Service 2pm

Wed 6 Sep: First Holy Communion, Parent Information evening, 7pm, Sacred Heart Church

Thu 7 Sep: Anointing Mass, Red Cliffs 5.30pm

Mon 11 Sep: Knights of the Southern Cross monthly meeting 7.30pm, Clubrooms

Tue 12 Sep: Princes Court Aged Care Service 1pm

Wed 20 Sep: Oasis Aged Care Service 1pm

Thu 21 Sep: Anointing Mass, Merbein 9.30am

Tue 26 Sep: Parish Finance meeting 7.15am, Parish Office

Tue 26 Sep: BUPA Aged Care Service 1pm

Wed 27 Sep: Anointing Mass, Mildura 2pm

Wed 27 Sep: Baptism Preparation Evening, Monaghan Centre 7pm

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

- (R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.
1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
 2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
 3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my
Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build *my* church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about '*my* church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild *my* church'.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity. © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Next Weeks Readings: / 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 3rd September 2023

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalm: Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27