



 **ST FRANCIS XAVIER**
2 Elms Street, Irymple

 **OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART**
20 Box Street, Merbein

 **SACRED HEART**
261 Eleventh Street, Mildura

 **ST JOSEPH'S**
8726 Calder Highway, Red Cliffs

 **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**
47 Werrimull South Road, Werrimull



Sts Anne and Joachim
CATHOLIC PARISH OF SUNRAYSIA

Parish Office: 257 Eleventh Street, Mildura. **Office Hours:** 9am - 4pm, Tue to Fri.

Postal Address: PO Box 10037, MILDURA VIC AUSTRALIA 3502

Office Phone: 03 5021 2872 **Presbytery:** 0417 862 082

E-mail: sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au **Website:** www.sunraysiacatholic.org

Sunday 2nd February 2025 | Edition 4/2025

Presentation of the Lord (Year C)

MASS TIMES

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

6pm Mildura

Wednesday

9.30am 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

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 4:30pm - 5:45pm
Friday 4:30pm - 5:45pm
Saturday from 10am

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 4pm - 5:15pm, Mildura
Friday 4pm - 5:15pm, Mildura

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Recommences in March 2025

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



LET US PRAY

FOR THE SICK:

Laura Parente
Giuseppe Scopacasa
Brendan & Catherine Bell
Vicki Needham
Madeline Nolan
Reynaldo Chan
Salvatore Suppa
Maddison Smith

Please obtain permission if you are submitting someone else's name. Intentions are printed for one month only, but these can be renewed each month.

RECENT DEATH:

Mick Joslyn
Sr Lesley Dickinson

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mildura Saturday 6pm:
Jack Quinlan

Mildura Sunday 9am:

Mary Natale
Maria & Francesco Cua
Zio Domenico Parente
Teresa Rizza in Copozza
Filomena Luca in Scandale

Wednesday 9.30am:

Betty Drewry

Merbein:

Jacqui McGill
Myrtle Clifford
Maurie Power
Peter Currie
Vera Fletcher

If you have booked a memorial Mass please speak to the priest prior to the Mass.

FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Today is the presentation of the Lord, where Jesus was presented to the temple in following the Jewish traditions. Anna and Simeon were so blessed to be present and witnessing the ritual. What rituals and practises that we experience give us great joy and happiness?

In the bulletin I have also included a special note about Clergy Appointment's, these moves announced by Bishop Paul have an impact on us here in the Sunraysia and greater region.

This week will see a full return to the normal roster of masses and events, I thank everyone for their patience and understanding for the previous changes over the past month.

This week we saw the students return to all the schools here in Victoria and NSW next week. I hope that everyone had a good break. To the Prep students enjoy the beginning of your education journey and to the year 12 students, wishing every blessing for your final year.

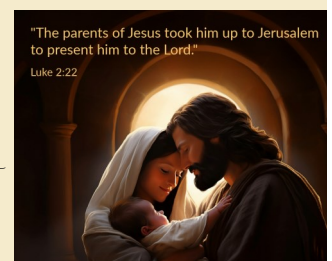
Today's response to the psalm is

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Let us open our hearts and our minds to welcome the lord into our lives and be open to journey with him through life.

God Bless,

Fr Matthew



EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Monday, 10 Feb, 7:30pm

KSC Meeting, KSC Clubrooms

Tuesday, 25 Feb, 7.15am

Parish Finance Meeting, Parish Office

Wednesday, 26 Feb, 6:30pm

Baptism Preparation Evening

ANOINTING MASSES



4 Feb 10:30am, Regis Sunraysia

13 Feb 10.30am, Chaffey Aged Care

13 Feb 5:30pm, St Joseph's, Red Cliffs

18 Feb 1:30pm, Regis Ontario

19 Feb 2pm, Sacred Heart

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church:



Gisele Piscioneri

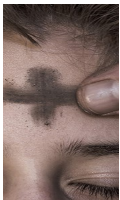
Aisha Tessier

Austin Timms

baptised at Sacred Heart Church and St Joseph's Church this weekend.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses on 5th March 2025:



- 9.30am, Red Cliffs

- 10am, Combined schools Mildura

- 12.30pm, Merbein

- 6pm, Mildura

WAY OF THE CROSS



Commencing from Friday 7th March at Sacred Heart Church Mildura:

- Friday's 5.15pm Stations, followed by 6pm Mass
Friday's 6.30pm Indian Community-led
- Tuesday's 7.30pm Tongan Community-led

NEW CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Dear Parishioners of Ouyen, Robinvale and Sunraysia

I am writing to notify you of some changes which will happen in our parishes in the coming months.

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Shaiju to become Co-Pastor with Fr Justin Driscoll of the parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon, which collectively form a Ministry District of eight local church and school communities.

We thank Fr Shaiju for his Priestly Ministry across the Ouyen, Robinvale and Sunraysia Region over the past four years. We will have the opportunity to formally express our appreciation to him in the coming months.

With the appointment of Fr. Shaiju I have been appointed the Parish Priest of the Ouyen, Robinvale and Sunraysia Parishes which together form a Ministry District of fourteen local church and school communities. Fr Bill Lowry currently the Assistant Priest in South West Coast Parish (Warrnambool etc) has been appointed Assistant Priest in the Sunraysia, Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes.

Whilst residing in Mildura, Fr. Bill will join Fr. John and myself as we continue the rotational roster for weekend worship that is already in place across our communities.

These appointments, together with the other appointments of priests, Bishop Paul has announced will take effect from Sunday 1st May 2025. As a Ministry District, may we continue to work closely together to build upon and strengthen the relationships that exist between the different communities across our Ministry District.

With every blessing

Fr Matthew

Other Appointments by Bishop Paul

Fr Matthew Restall moving from Ballarat East to South West Coast Parish.

Fr George Kuruvilla moving from Western Boarder to Camperdown, Timboon, Terang

Fr Cay Trinh moving to Western Boarder Parish.

FOOTY TIPPING COMP.

The Parish will be running a footy tipping comp this year. Entry fee is \$25 for the round games commencing Thursday March 6th. Collect your competition sheet, highlight the winner for each round and pay at the Parish Office by Friday 28th February. Completed competition sheet need to be handed in to the Parish Office by Wednesday 5th March. If it's a draw – you get a point. If any round is unmarked the away team wins. Prize money for First, Second, Third and Last.

To make it more interesting for \$5, choose who you think will win the 2025 Grand Final. All nominations need to be recorded at the Parish Office by the Opening Round Thursday March 6. All money collected will be shared by all who picked the winning AFL Grand Final winner.



Good luck.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: FEBRUARY 8

Pope Francis has designated February 8, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. The theme for 2025 is "Ambassadors of Hope: Together Against Human Trafficking". ACRATH invites you to join the online "Marathon of Prayer" to help end human trafficking and slavery <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/world-day-of-prayer/>

PRAYER

God of freedom, we pray that all people can journey through life with dignity. We pray especially for those who are forced to live in slavery and captivity, people who are treated as objects, people whose humanity is crushed day in and day out. We remember St Josephine Bakhita who died on February 8, 1947. She was stolen by people traders from her home in Darfur at the age of 8 and forced to live for years as a slave. She said, "The Lord has loved me so much; we must love everyone. We must be compassionate." Josephine's story draws our attention to the thousands, if not millions, who live as slaves in our time. May our compassion lead us to action. As Moses led slaves to freedom, may we too listen, dream and act, for an end to human trafficking and for peace and justice to reign on earth. Amen.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/prayer-against-human-trafficking/>

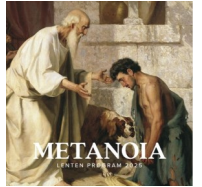
TRADING STALL & CUPPA



Next Sunday the cuppa and trading stall will be held after the 9am Mass in Mildura, and cuppa only after 10am Mass in Red Cliffs. Proceeds from the stall will go to The Shared Table.

LENTEN BOOKS & LEADERS

Our Lenten Program for 2025 is *Metanoia*, produced by the Diocese of Wollongong.



If you would like to purchase a Lenten book and if you are interested in leading a group please contact the Parish Office so that we can advertise when and where your group will meet.

SUNRAYSIA PIETY SHOPS

Both Sacred Heart Church and St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs both feature well-stocked piety shops.

Mildura's "pop-up" piety stall now operate on the **first and third weekend of each month at all Masses**. If you wish to purchase something we don't have in stock, please inform the parish office. The Mildura and Red Cliffs piety shops are not-for-profit services equipped for cash and card. (Card transactions attract a 1.6% surcharge.)

This month the Mildura stall will be selling preloved religious items.

STEWARDSHIP	
Priest Support (Presbytery) Cash (1 st Collection); Tap & Go	\$3167.45
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC	\$2803.50
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Cash (2 nd Collection Loose Plate)	\$1984.30
This week's Counting Team: No. 6– W Carmichael	
Next week's Counting Team: No. 7– B Collins	

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

1. O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
2. Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)
3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
4. Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. (R.)

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN OT – YEAR C

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm: Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1

Response: In the sight of the angels I will
sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Fr Matthew Thomas

Assistant Priest:
Fr John Corrigan

Visiting Priest:
Fr Shaiju Mathew

Parish Secretary:
Carmel Spagnolo

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Sts Anne and Joachim Parish of Sunraysia is committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children, young people and vulnerable adults. The parish adheres to Victoria's 11 Child Safe standards. Our policies can be read in each church and on our website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Vince Pileggi