

## FIRST READING 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

## RESPONSORIAL Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

## SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'



**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



**Parish Office:** 257 Eleventh Street, Mildura. **Office Hours:** 9am - 4pm, Tue to Fri.  
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**Office Phone:** 03 5021 2872 **Presbytery:** 0417 862 082  
**E-mail:** [sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au) **Website:** [www.sunraysiacatholic.org](http://www.sunraysiacatholic.org)

23rd February 2025 | Edition 8/2025

# Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

## MASS TIMES

**Monday**  
No Mass

**Tuesday**  
No Mass

**Wednesday**  
No Mass

**Thursday**  
No Mass

**Friday**  
No Mass

**Saturday**  
~~9:30am Mildura~~  
6pm Mildura (TBC)

**Sunday**  
8:30am Irymple  
9am Mildura (TBC)  
10am Red Cliffs  
10:30am Merbein  
5pm Mildura (TBC)

**RECONCILIATION**  
~~Tuesday 4:30pm - 5:45pm~~  
~~Friday 4:30pm - 5:45pm~~  
~~Saturday 10am~~

**ADORATION & BENEDICTION**  
~~Tuesday 4pm, Mildura~~  
~~Friday 4pm, Mildura~~

**CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS**  
Recommences March 2025

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**  
Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



## LET US PRAY

### FOR THE SICK:

Julia Lewis, Giuseppe Scopacasa, Brendan Bell, Catherine Bell, Madeline Nolan, Reynaldo Chan, Salvatore Suppa, Pope Francis

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 DEATHS:

Angela Drum (Minyip)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Elena Callipari

### Saturday 6.30pm Merbein:

Carmela Fuda (1st yr anniversary)  
Jocelyn Tac-an  
Decoroso Tac-an  
Paulina Cabug  
Keanne Torino

### Sunday 8.30am Irymple:

Angela Spadaccini

### Sunday 5.30pm Red Cliffs:

Vincenza Appollini

### Merbein:

Anthony Callahan  
Victoria Candia  
Lola Warburton

### Red Cliffs:

Giuseppe & Domenico Mammone

If you have booked a memorial Mass please speak to the priest prior to the Mass to let him know you are present.

## FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

It is with sadness that I confirm that there was a fire in the Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday around lunchtime. I am so grateful for a couple of parishioners who saw the smoke and responded. Their actions saved the church from more damage. Thanks to the fire brigade and police for their quick response.

In the Gospel today Jesus tells us not to condemn. It is very easy for us to condemn the people who lit the fire, but trying to show compassion allows each of us to heal and move forward. We need to forgive but we don't have to forget.

The church will be closed this week as repairs are underway. Next weekend masses will depend on what stage the repairs are at. Hopefully we can be back in the church and back to some sort of normality.

I thank you all for your patience and consideration with changes for masses etc during this time.

With Fr John and myself on retreat next week in Halls Gap. Please pray for us as we will be praying for you. God bless,

*Fr Matthew*

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

#### EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Psalms: Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

Response: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

### 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



## EVENTS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

**Tuesday, 25 Feb, 6pm**  
St Anthony Committee Meeting,  
157 8th St, Mildura

**Wednesday, 26 Feb, 6:30pm**  
Baptism Preparation Evening  
Parish Office

**Monday, 10 Mar, 7.30pm**  
KSC meeting, Clubrooms

**Wednesday, 12th Mar, 1pm**  
Bereavement Team meeting, Parish Office

**Thursday, 13th Mar 8.30am**  
Communion Minister training, SH Mildura

**Friday, 14th Mar 6:30pm**  
Communion Minister training, SH Mildura

**Sunday, 16th Mar 3:00pm**  
Altar Servers training, SH Mildura

**Wednesday, 26 Mar 6.30pm**  
Baptism Preparation, Monaghan Centre

**Sunday, 30th Mar 5pm**  
Youth Mass

## LAY LED LITURGY *Advanced Notice*

Sunday 2nd March—Sacred Heart Mildura—9am

Sunday 2nd March—OLSH Merbein—10.30am

## ANOINTING MASSES

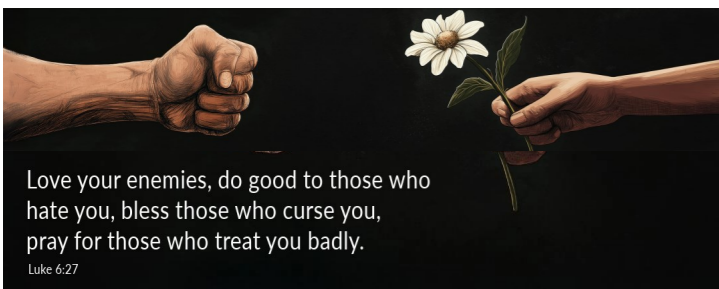
13 Mar 5.30pm, St Joseph's Red Cliffs

20 Mar 9.30am, OLSH Merbein

25 Mar 11am, Jacaranda Aged Care

25 Mar 2pm, Bupa Aged Care

26 Mar 2pm, SH Mildura



Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.

Luke 6:27

## LENTEN GROUPS

Our Lenten Program for 2025 is *Metanoia*, produced by the Diocese of Wollongong. Booklets cost \$5 and include daily reflections suitable for individual prayer. You are also welcome to join a weekly prayer meeting which focuses on the Sunday readings.

Books have arrived and if you ordered a book please pick up from the Parish Office.

**Group 1:** Red Cliffs (**Monday 10am**), commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Call Janine Cameron: 0438 730 976.

**Group 2:** Mildura (**Thursday 10:30am**), Monaghan Centre commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March. Call the office.

**Group 3:** Mildura (**Friday 7pm**) Monaghan Centre, commencing 5<sup>th</sup> March. Call the parish office.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses on 5th March 2025:



- 10am: Combined schools Mildura
- 12.30pm: Merbein (Liturgy of the Word)
- 5.30pm: Red Cliffs
- 6pm: Mildura

## WAY OF THE CROSS

Commencing from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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



Congratulations to Jim and Kitty O'Brien who will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary this coming week.

## JUBILEE OF HOPE 2025



**Jubilee of Deacons: February 21-28**

The Jubilee of Deacons has a theme: 'Deacons: Joyful Witnesses of Hope', reminding us that Deacons help bring the hope and love of Christ to a world which has lost hope. Further resources for the Jubilee of Artists is available from the Ballarat diocesan website [www.tinyurl.com/jubilee-of-hope](http://www.tinyurl.com/jubilee-of-hope) and from the National Centre for Evangelisation, [www.tinyurl.com/pilgrims-of-hope-2025](http://www.tinyurl.com/pilgrims-of-hope-2025)

**Prayer for the Jubilee of Deacons**

*Loving God, May deacons today help bring awareness of the Good News of Jesus to a world in need of hope. May deacons today be given the grace of God to hold to exemplary ideals.*

**WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.**

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>. Collect your competition sheet, highlight the winner for each round and pay at the Parish Office by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Completed competition sheet need to be handed in to the Parish Office by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

St Mary's Church in Swan Hill is pleased to host a Marriage Encounter team next weekend who will make a fun and informative presentation called "VOW." This one hour presentation is designed to help couples explore the marriage vows they have made to each other and to God (or the vows a couple is planning to make in the future).

**11:30am, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Swan Hill**

The presentation follows 10:30am Mass, and will conclude with a light luncheon at 12:30pm. To register your interest e-mail the Holy Family Parish at [northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or call the parish office: 5032 4144.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



This year, the World Day of Prayer focuses on the Cook Islands. You are welcome to one of the two ecumenical services within our area on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March:

**10am at Church of Christ, Mildura** Cnr 10th St & Deakin Ave. **7pm at Anglican Church, Red Cliffs** 25 Heath St.

## COMMUNION MINISTERS

All existing and aspiring Ministers of Communion are invited to attend one of two formation sessions at Sacred Heart Church next month:

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**, 8.30am to 9:15am

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**, after 6pm Mass

These sessions are suitable for *all* communion ministries – whether at Mass, or at aged care residences, or visiting people at home.

## ALTAR SERVERS' GUILD

All existing and aspiring Altar Servers are invited to a meeting at Sacred Heart Church next month:

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**, 3pm to 5pm

Altar servers need to have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and made their First Communion. They will attend a two hour guild meeting every month, but their Sunday Mass roster will be negotiable. See registration forms in church for more detail.



## STEWARDSHIP

<b>Presbytery</b> Cash (1 <sup>st</sup> Collection); Tap & Go	\$2479.00
<b>Mission, Admin &amp; Maintenance</b> Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC	\$2164.00
<b>Mission, Admin &amp; Maintenance</b> Cash (2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection Loose Plate)	\$ 859.00

**This week's Counting Team:**  
Team 9: G Macri

**Next week's Counting Team:**  
Team 1: G Lavery