





 **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 St, Mildura **Opening:** 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

23rd March 2025 | Edition 12/2025

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

MASS TIMES

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

10am Funeral Prayers Mildura
6pm Mildura

Wednesday

9.30am Mildura
1pm Requiem Mildura

Thursday

9.30am Merbein
9.30am Mildura
5.30pm Red Cliffs

Friday

10am Funeral Prayers Mildura
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 10am

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 4pm, Mildura
Friday 4pm, Mildura

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Saturday 10am, Monaghan Centre

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

We have now commenced the third week of Lent. We are half way through and I am wondering how we are going? For some of us it might be a time to re-start on our Lenten Observances. Our Gospel today reminds us that sometimes giving something one more chance or another year can blossom fruit and new life. This could be my year and time for this to occur. Let's nurture our environment, our lives and those in our lives to allow his to happen.

The Lord is kind and merciful. In today's response to the psalm, I am wondering when are the times I need to show kindness and mercy to others. When I do it am I sincere in heart and is it coming from a good place, or am I just doing it because I feel that I need to?

I encourage you to find time to walk the journey of the stations of the cross and spend some time in prayer with each station.

The books are located in each of the churches so please take a copy home and pray in your own time.

God Bless.

Fr Matthew

LET US PRAY

FOR THE SICK:

Barry Crosbie
Julia Lewis
Rocco Fotia

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:

Michelina Diano
Eli Maddern-Andrews
Bruno Dichiera

ANNIVERSARIES:

Tim & James Bowring

Mildura:

Sunday 5pm:
Harold Green (10 yr anniversary)

Tuesday 6pm:

Caterina De Maria (30 day Mass)

Friday 6pm:

Irene Golobic (30 day Mass)

Merbein:

Vincenzo Bardieri
Carlo Longeri
Terry Rowe
Domenico Manno

Red Cliffs:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 25th March 7.15am
Finance Meeting, Parish Office

Wednesday 26th March 6.30pm
Baptism Preparation, Monaghan Centre

Sunday 30th March 5pm
Youth Mass



ANOINTING MASSES

25th Mar 11am, Jacaranda Aged Care
25th Mar 2pm, BUPA Aged Care, Mildura
26th Mar 2pm, SH Mildura

HOLY WEEK AND TRIDUUM

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK (14th April)
Mass of the Holy Oils (Chrism Mass)

1pm St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Mass of the Lord's Supper

5pm Merbein
6pm Robinvale
7pm Mildura, Red Cliffs, Ouyen



GOOD FRIDAY
Stations of the Cross

9:30am Mildura

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3pm Merbein, Robinvale,
Mildura, Red Cliffs,
Ouyen, Manangatang



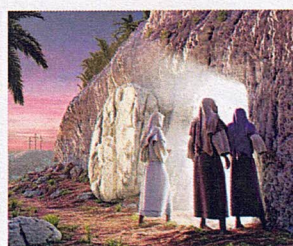
HOLY SATURDAY
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

5pm Manangatang
6pm Red Cliffs
7pm Mildura, Ouyen, Robinvale



EASTER SUNDAY
Mass of the Lord's Resurrection

8:30am Irymple
9am Mildura
10am Ouyen (TBC)
10:30am Merbein
11am Werrimull
5pm No Mass



2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

Combined Parent meeting for Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be held on Wednesday 2nd April, 7pm at Sacred Heart Church.



Confirmation (Gr. 3 and above)

Friday 30th May
Saturday 31st May
Sunday 1st June.



First Communion (Gr. 4 and above)

Friday 20th June
Saturday 21st June
Sunday 22nd June

ADVANCE NOTICE

Lay Led Liturgy: Irymple and Red Cliffs

Sunday 6th April, Sunday 4th May, Sunday 8th June
Sunday 13th July, Sunday 14th September

Lay Led Liturgy: Mildura and Merbein

Sunday 29th June, Merbein only
Mildura: 6pm Sat 19th July & 9am Sun 20th July
Merbein: Sunday 20th July

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD MARCH 28, 2025

The "24 Hours for the Lord" was introduced by Pope Francis in 2014 and has been held every year since. It is a Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation. It is celebrated on the eve of the Fourth Sunday of Lent each year. Its intention is to put the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre of the pastoral life of the Church. Parishes and communities can implement this initiative taking care to adapt it according to local needs and customs. Further resources for 24 Hours for the Lord is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

***Prayer for 24 Hours for the Lord:** Gracious God, we come before you with open hearts to be healed by your love and mercy. Look with compassion on us as we acknowledge our failures; heal our wounds and stretch out your hand of love to save us and raise us up. Keep us free from harm as members of Christ's body, as sheep of your flock, as children of your family. Hear the prayer we offer you O God. Lead us back to the way of holiness and protect us now and always. May we ever keep safe in all its fullness the gift your love once gave us and your mercy now restores. We pray in Jesus' name, he who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Third Sunday of Lent

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



PLEASE DONATE TODAY

You can support Project Compassion through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

MAKING THE MOST OF LENT

Praying, Fasting, Volunteering, Almsgiving.

Project Compassion Envelopes are now available from all church entrances.

Way of the Cross:

Commencing Friday 7th March at Sacred Heart Church Mildura:



- Friday 5.15pm, followed by 6pm Mass.
- Friday 6.30pm Indian Community-led.
- Friday 7.30pm Tongan Community-led.

Communal celebration of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 9th April 6pm at Sacred Heart Church Mildura. All welcome.

SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUPS

Our 2025 Lenten Program is *Metanoia*, produced by the Diocese of Wollongong. Booklets cost \$5 and are available from the Parish Office. They are suitable for private reading, and for study groups:

Group 1: Red Cliffs (Monday, 10am). For details, call Janine Cameron: 0438 730 976.

Group 2: Mildura (Thursday 10am - 11am) Sacred Heart Church. Led by Fr John Corrigan.

Group 3: Mildura (Friday 6.30pm to 7.30pm) Sacred Heart Church. Led by Fr John Corrigan.

COMMUNION PRACTICES

Thank you to all volunteers who attended our recent training sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. Our Diocese has a number of standards which all parishioners are asked to observe at Communion time:



COMMUNION FOR THE GLUTEN INTOLERANT. Please go to the priest to receive Communion.

COMMUNION FOR THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED. Parishioners who wish to receive Communion at their place are encouraged to sit in the designated areas. If you are seated elsewhere, the Minister may miss you.

RECEIVING IN THE HAND. Please consume the host immediately. If someone is observed walking away with the host, a Minister will follow and ask that you consume the host promptly.

RECEIVING ON THE TONGUE. Please go to the priest to receive Communion.

NO SELF-INTINCTION. "Intincting the host" – that is, dipping the host into the chalice – is not accepted Catholic practice. There is a danger that the Precious Blood is spilled. Please consume the host before receiving the chalice.

NEW ROSTER. An updated Communion Ministers roster has been sent to all new and existing ministers via email. If you would like a hard copy please collect from the Parish Office.

STEWARDSHIP	
Priest Support (Presbytery) Cash (1 st Collection); Tap & Go	\$2317.90
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC	\$2371.00
Mission, Admin & Maintenance Cash (2 nd Collection Loose Plate)	\$ 896.90
Project Compassion	\$ 290.00
This week's Counting Team: No. 4—M Roper	
Next week's Counting Team: No. 5—H Kay	

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. 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 does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YR C

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm: Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

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

St Anne & St Joachim Catholic Parish of Sunraysia is a Child Safe Parish which adheres to Victoria's eleven Child Safe Standards.

Policies are on display in each church and on our website.

Parish Safety Officer:
Vince Pileggi