

 **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](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au) **Website:** [www.sunraysiacatholic.org](http://www.sunraysiacatholic.org)

30th March 2025 | Edition 13/2025

## Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

### MASS TIMES

#### Monday

2pm Requiem Mildura

#### Tuesday

10:30am Regis Sunraysia  
6pm Mildura  
(In Monaghan Centre)

#### Wednesday

9:30am Mildura  
(In Monaghan Centre)

#### Thursday

9:30am Mildura  
(Maybe in Monaghan Centre)  
9:30am Merbein  
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, MILDURA

~~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, Mildura

#### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Saturday 11:30am, Mildura



### 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:

Peter Coffey (Melbourne)  
Sam Cammisotto  
Giuseppe Scopacasa

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

George and Mary Lipic

#### Mildura:

**Sunday 9am:**  
Maria Munro

#### Merbein:

Isabell Russell  
Joy Andrews  
Cosimo Ierace  
Molly Callahan  
Paul Desmond

#### Red Cliffs:

Domiano Brizzi  
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 there.



### FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*** we respond in today's psalm. There is so much goodness in our relationships and places. How often do I sit and allow the goodness of God to enfold and embrace me? The food I eat; the flowers I smell; the people I spend time with: all are reminders of God's love.

#### CHURCH REPAIRS

Works will begin to repair some of the damage from the fire this week. The church will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, and maybe Thursday as well.

Mass on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning will be in the Monaghan Centre. Doors will be opened one hour prior to the commencement of Mass.

Please note there will be no access to the church, including the toilets, during these times. Your support and cooperation in remaining out of the church is greatly appreciated.

#### FAREWELL TO FR SHAIJU

This Sunday at the 5pm Mass we as a parish will farewell and thank Fr Shaiju who has been with us for the past four and a half years. We wish him all the best as he commences his new appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Please stay for a bite to eat, or feel free to arrive at the end of Mass to share our farewell meal for Fr Shaiju.

God bless,

Fr Matthew

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1pm Meeting**  
Bereavement Team, Parish Office

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7pm Meeting**  
Confirmation and First Holy Communion  
Parents Information Meeting, Mildura

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Ouyen & Robinvale Meetings**  
Parish Councils, Frs Matt, John, Bill, & Vicar General

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm Liturgy**  
Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Mildura

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm Meeting**  
Knights of the Southern Cross, Club Rooms

## HOLY WEEK AND TRIDUUM

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK** (14<sup>th</sup> 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 this Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm in Mildura.**



**Confirmation (Gr. 3 and above)**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June.



**First Communion (Gr. 4 and above)**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

## ADVANCE NOTICE

**Lay Led Liturgy: Irymple and Red Cliffs**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Lay Led Liturgy: Mildura and Merbein**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Merbein only

Mildura: 6pm Sat 19<sup>th</sup> July & 9am Sun 20<sup>th</sup> July

Merbein: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

## SACRED HEART FAMILY GROUP

Family Group are having lunch at the Irymple Hotel on Sunday 13th April at 12 noon. Elayne and Frank are the hosts. Let your intentions be known for booking on 0442 206 917. Or Denise & Gerry 03 5021 1918

## HOLY WEEK ROSTERS

Holy week rosters are now available in all churches for you to fill in, from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Cooks and Waiters are needed for Soup Kitchen on Monday and Wednesday nights. If you can help please contact Paula on 0428 560 663 or [pcox@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:pcox@sjcmda.vic.edu.au)

## EMAILS TO GMAIL USERS

As you may be aware, it has become difficult to send group emails to gmail accounts. We are working very closely with the Ballarat Diocese to find a solution which allows gmail account users to receive our group emails, bulletins, rosters, etc.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Irene** lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



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](https://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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## COMMUNION PRACTICES

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.

**Please allow time for the rostered ministers to proceed to the altar. Unrostered volunteers are welcome to come forward after the Lamb of God is complete.**

## STEWARDSHIP

**Priest Support (Presbytery)**  
Cash (1<sup>st</sup> Collection); Tap & Go

\$2228.85

**Mission, Admin & Maintenance**  
Envelopes, EFT, DD and CC

\$2354.10

**Mission, Admin & Maintenance**  
Cash (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Loose Plate)

\$ 895.10

**Project Compassion**

\$ 150.00

**This week's Counting Team:**  
No. 5—H Kay

**Next week's Counting Team:**  
No. 6—



## FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YR C

**First Reading:** Isaiah 43:16-21

**Psalm:** Ps 125. R. v.3

**Response:** The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 3:8-14

**Gospel:** John 8:1-11

### 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

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