



SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

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 www.milduracatholicchurch.org.au

Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9.00am to 5.00pm
St Francis Xavier Church, Elms Street, Irymple

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:
 Fr Tom Brophy, Fr John Monaghan,
 Gladys Abriani, Jen Ditchfield, Rebecca Hogan
 Fr. Frank Monaghan P.E.

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 5.00 pm and Irymple 8.30 am
Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 11.00 am or by appointment

9th December 2007 Second Sunday of Advent - Year A

<p>THIS WEEK: Second Sunday of Advent -Year A First Reading Is 11:1-10 Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7 <u>Justice shall flourish in his time and fullness of peace for ever.</u> Second Reading Rom 15:4-9 Gospel Mt 3:1-12</p>		<p>NEXT WEEK: Third Sunday of Advent - Year A First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10 Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4 <u>Lord, come and save us.</u> Second Reading Jas 5:7-10 Gospel Mt 11:2-11</p>
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Recent Deaths: Rhonda Drake(W'bool)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sat 8th Dec 6.00pm. Katina & Michael Sarrou and Antonia de Maria.

Sun 9th Dec 10.00am. Bernard Meredith, Timothy Farrelly. 5.00p.m. Giuseppe Ficarra

Tues 6.00pm.Knights of Southern Cross, Antonio Scullino.

Anniversaries: Geoff Murton, Marie Scally, Phillip White.

Note to Families requesting special Masses:

Please let celebrant know you are present before Mass.

Weekly Prayer Opportunities

Monday Prayer Group: 2-4 p.m.

Rosary: Monday 6.00 p.m.

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Fri. 8.40 a.m.

Meditation: Thursday 7 a.m. Church prayer room

Charismatic Prayer Group: Tues. 7.30 p.m.

Scripture Readings: Thurs 2/177 12st -10.30a.m.

Devotional Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3.00 p.m.

Weekday Mass Times

If there is a Funeral Mass the advertised Mass will be cancelled

Tue: 6.00 p.m.
 Wed: 9.10 a.m.
 Thu: 9.30 a.m.
 Fri: 5.40 p.m.
 Sat: 10.00 a.m.

We pray for the sick

Sharon Chambers, Rose Dichiera, Leonie Prentice, Sr. Kathleen (Ireland), Vonnie Bennett (Nudgee Qld) Frs. Denis Ryan and Gerry Prunty.

VOLUNTEERS' MASS

We would like to thank all those parishioners who gathered for Mass and the refreshments that followed in the church grounds. It was wonderful to be able to recognise your presence and contribution to the life of the parish in so many areas. Thank you also for the hospitality you extended to the local Turkish-Muslim community. To have them with us helps us to understand their beliefs, traditions and customs, as well as break down any barriers that may exist between

a chair for the study of Islam and Catholic-Muslim relations has been set up at the Australian Catholic University it is only natural we do all we can to foster our relations at occasions such as this.

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Daniela Caristo & Robert Albanese who celebrated their wedding on Saturday 8th December.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To save out trees, shrubs and plants in the church grounds we need your on-going assistance. We would like you to nurture our garden by filling a bucket and watering a tree, shrub or plant whenever you come to Mass or visit the church. Buckets can be found on the front veranda of the presbytery near a tap. Please ensure you replace the bucket after use and the tap is turned off. Your assistance is appreciated.

SELECT YOUR FAVOURITE TREE, SHRUB OR PLANT IN THE CHURCH GARDEN AND SAVE IT!

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

We thank the organists who have offered their services for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you can play an instrument and would like to be part of the liturgy, please inform Marion Guthrie -- 5025 4559 so you can be accommodated. We also need choirs at each Mass and if you can sing and/or lead and would like to be part of the choir just turn up before the Mass so you can get the music beforehand. Before the Masses there will be carol singing so be early if you can. The more we have in the choirs the better the liturgy will be. So come along and enjoy yourself as we sing the traditional carols. We look forward to having you with us.



All our VOLUNTEERS

Thank You

for your dedication, kindness, and precious gift of time.

Today, O God, we are full of gratitude for all you have given us.



OUR VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- *Altar Servers
- *Baptism Parish Sponsors
- *Baptism Preparation
- *Basic Christian Community – Walnut Group
- *Bereavement Support Group
- *Catholic Ladies Social Group
- *Charismatic Prayer Group
- *Children’s Liturgy
- *Church Banners
- *Collectors and Counting Teams
- *Communion to the Sick and housebound
- *Eucharistic Ministers
- *Meet and Greet group
- *FOCUS Marriage Preparation Couples
- *Filipino Community
- *Funeral Ministry Team
- *Hospital Visitation
- *Gardeners & Maintenance
- *God Start Program
- *Indian Community
- *Knights of Southern Cross
- *Liturgy Groups
- *Musicians and Singers
- *Parish Catering
- *Parish Financial Group
- *Parish Pastoral Council
- *Parish Pastoral Team
- *Parish Schools
- *Passionist Family Group
- *Piety Stall
- *Planned Giving Helpers
- *Play Group
- *Prayer Groups
- *Readers
- *Religious Education in State Schools
- *Rite of Christian Initiation
- *Sacristans
- *Sacramental Program Team
- *Sacred Heart Tennis Club
- *Social Justice Group
- *St Anthony (Italian Community)
- *St Pauls Meet and Greet
- *St Vincent de Paul
- *Tongan Community

What’s on this Week

Christmas Masses will be held at
Mildura Nursing Centre
Mon 10th Dec 1.00p.m.
Regis Aged Care Home
Tues.11th Dec 2.00p.m.
Princes Court Nursing Home
Tues.18th Dec 11.00a.m.
Oasis Aged Care- Irymple
Thurs 20th Dec 1.30p.m.

All family and friends are cordially invited to attend.

12th Dec Baptism Preparation 7.30pm. - Hillman Room
13th Dec Godstart meeting will be 4.00pm.- Hillman Room.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MASS

Will be celebrated at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve, Monday, 24th Dec.
 Any children who would like to be involved in the Nativity Play please come to the first practice on **Thursday 13th December at 4pm** in the Church.
 If you would like more information please contact Jen Ditchfield at the Parish Office on 5021 2872 or at home on 5021 5966.

Children’s Liturgy

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with Children’s Liturgy throughout the year. Children’s Liturgy will finish for the year next Saturday night, **December 15th**, at the 6pm Mass and will recommence in Term 1, 2008.

Sun 23rd Final practice for the Nativity Play at 2pm.

What’s Coming Up

COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Monday **17th December** 7.00 p.m.
 Five priests will be in attendance to administer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. This will be the only occasion when all the priests of the area will be available.

18th Dec. Finance Meeting 12.00 noon.

NOTICES

ALTAR SERVERS

If you are able to help serve at any of the Christmas Masses please contact:
 Margaret McDonald Ph: 50221531

St Vincent de Paul is calling for **second hand quality furniture.**
 If you have any to donate, please call Libby 5023 5750. Free pick up available

GIFT CARDS

Please take a gift tag from the **Jesse Tree** and return a suitable gift to the value of \$10 by December 9th. This is your opportunity to help a needy family this Christmas and the St Vincent de Paul Society will be grateful for your help.

The **Christmas Season** is fast approaching and **NOW** is the time to purchase for all the loved ones in your life. Whatever the occasion -- Christmas, Easter, First Communion or Confirmation- the **Piety Stall** is a great place to shop for: 2008 Columban Calenders, Christmas Cards Books, and Spiritual gifts.

Finance- Last Week’s Collections

Priests’ & Diocese Support	\$ 1461.00
Direct Debit and Credit Cards:	\$ 577.53
Envelopes	\$ 2071.40
Loose Plate	\$ 873.40
Total Parish Support:	\$ 3522.33

SUNRAYSIA CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HOMES

The Management Committee wishes to advise that it has a **Vacancy at one of its One-Bedroom Units**. Interested persons should contact: Henrietta De Jong Ph: 50237802 or Brian Bleeser Ph: 50211828.

Bishop Connors asked each Parish to contribute as his letter stated in last week's Bulletin to enable the Wadeye children from Northern Territory to attend the WYD gathering in Sydney 2008. Wadeye (pronounced Wad-air) (Port Keats) is a tribal Aboriginal Catholic community situated on the western edge of the Daly River Reserve in the Northern Territory. It is 500km south west of Darwin at the mouth of the Fitzmaurice River, close to the coast of the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf. Flying time from Darwin is around 50 minutes.

During the wet season Wadeye is cut off from the outside world for up to five (5) months.

The money from the second collection last week is being donated \$ 900.00 in total was raised. We thank everyone for their generosity.

FOR SALE

Fr John McKinnon's latest book – *Together on the Mountain* (a pastoral commentary on the Gospel according to Matthew). *We only have a few books left so call into the Office if you require a copy. On sale for \$10.00 each, all monies raised will be donated to St Vincent de Paul.*

CHURCH CLEANING.

We sincerely thank Margaret & Peter McDonald for cleaning our Church for many years. Their flexibility, understanding and humour ensured we had a clean church every weekend no matter what had occurred out of the ordinary in the days before.

Well done good and faithful servants.

WELCOME

We welcome John Pantazopoulos who commenced last week as the new Cleaner please make him welcome if you see him.

Showing on ABC TV

The Monastery: Pt 3 - 10:30pm Sunday, December 9.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Terry Murphy 50233056
Fr. Tom Brophy 50212872,
Chris Slattery 5022 0565,
Mary Gobbo 50234621,
Marita Jensen 50237208,
Fr. John Monaghan 50212872,
Jean Rocca 50237561,
Brian Grogan 50211209,
Cornelia Conway-Weel 50234567,
Sr. Rosemary Graham 50231841,
Peter O'Donnell 0429104225,
Veronica Chong 5023 1362

MILDURA

Christmas Eve (Monday December 24th)

6.00 p.m. Children's Mass

8.00 p.m. Youth Mass 10.00 p.m.

Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th)

8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.

(N.B. no evening Mass)

IRYMPLE

Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th)

8.30a.m.

MERBEIN

Christmas Eve (Monday December 24th)

7.00 p.m.

Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th)

10.30 a.m.

REDCLIFFS

Christmas Eve (Monday December 24th)

6.00 p.m.- Werrimull. 8.30 p.m.- Red Cliffs

Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th)

8.30 a.m. Red Cliffs

ROBINVALE

Christmas Eve (Monday December 24th)

9.00 p.m. Robinvale

Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th)

9.00 a.m. Robinvale

WENTWORTH

Christmas Eve (Monday December 24th)

6.00 p.m. Wentworth

8.00 p.m. Buronga

Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th)

8.00 a.m. Dareton - 10.00 a.m. Buronga

There have been a number of enquiries re Midnight Mass. In looking at the numbers attending Masses at Christmas and providing for them, it became apparent that the early Masses on Christmas Eve are the most popular hence we schedule two Masses then. Masses on Christmas Day are also well attended. The priests have to also celebrate Masses at Merbein and Irymple so we try to meet their needs as well. Midnight Mass was the least attended by parishioners, so we moved that to 10.00 p.m. and the numbers have increased. To do justice to the Christmas liturgies we do need some rest as Christmas is a very demanding time for the priests as well as parishioners. We hope you understand that the common good has to prevail. If and when we get more priests we could do more but at the moment we have to do the best we can.

NOTES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Office being closed until Jan 3rd Any notices that you want in the Bulletin over the Christmas period please notify the Office before Wed.19th December.

Next Weeks - GOSPEL

ROSTERS 8th -9th Dec.	6.00 p.m.	8.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	5.00 p.m.
Readers	C Ellis	C Miles	B Bunting	L Ward
Counting Team	Team 9:	George Dolence	50237993	
Eucharistic Ministers	M Sheahan M Meredith V Kidd J Hall M Crimmins M Joseph P Kelleher	A Vartuli N Zudetich S Foster S Visona E Panetta D Pemberton L Welsh	M Speed E Garreffa M Modica L De Iesi M Haynes U Williams P & S Opie	M & J Zema S Walker J Ribarits J & P Rocca
15-16th December	6.00 p.m.	8.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	5.00 p.m.
Music	M Hammond M Schmidt Talia Fainga' Anuku		Pacific Islander Group	St Pauls School Graduation
Counting Team	Team10:	Brian Grogan	50212099	

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts on the Gospel

"What is so marvellous about Jesus is not so much that he is God, but that he is God who has taken to himself our human nature. He has become a man whom we can get to know.

This great gift is what we are preparing to celebrate at Christmas. We may give it the grand theological title of 'incarnation', but in its essence what it means is that in Jesus Christ we can get to know God in a way that would not otherwise be possible, and by getting to know him, we enter his kingdom, the kingdom of heaven.

Obviously the ways we interact with Christ these days are different from those that our predecessors used during his life and ministry. But those forebears, like the disciples of John, have told us what they heard and saw. We have been left the great gifts of the scriptures through which we hear God's Word, and the sacraments in which God reaches out to us by means of visible and tangible signs. In these, and in all our prayers, we interact in a very human way with Christ, who is both man and God.

Our prayer in this time of preparation for Christmas should be that we ourselves, and those who are separated from Christ by captivity or for any other reason, may continue to get to know him better, so that at the end he may be not just our master, our teacher, our saviour, our king and our God, but also our friend."

Bishops discuss married priest's petition

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President Archbishop Philip Wilson has responded to a petition calling for married priests.

He gave an assurance that the Bishops had a discussion at last week's plenary meeting on the need to make "adequate pastoral and sacramental provision for the Church in Australia".

Catholic Australia reports the petition raised interest among the bishops and more than three hours were devoted to discussing the issue.

Dr Paul Collins, on behalf of the petition organisers, says he was "more than happy" with the formal letter response from Archbishop Wilson and general feedback from individual bishops.

"We were more than surprised with the level of interest the petition generated within the Church," Dr Collins said. "Our original hope had been to try and generate a response of around 10,000 signatures and to receive over 16,700, including over 160 responses from priests, exceeded their expectation by a long way," he said.

EUCHARIST MINISTERS -PLEASENOTE

New Rosters are now available for collection at the back of the Church.

The new roster commences Sat. 29th December.

