



SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

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Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9.00am to 5.00pm

St Francis Xavier Church, Elms Street, Irymple

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:

Fr Tom Brophy, Fr Matt Thomas,

Gladys Abriani, Rebecca Hogan, Lys Crowe,

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.

SUNDAY 14th December 2008: Third Sunday of Advent Year B

THIS WEEK: 3rd Week of ADVENT

First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

NEXT WEEK: 4th Week of ADVENT

First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12.14.16

Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading Rom16:25-27

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries: Adrian Meade, Jim Brophy, Geoff Murton, Frs. Patrick O'Dowd & John Connellan.

Sat 6.00 p.m: Vincenzo & Caterina Monteleone.

Sun 8.30 a.m. Timothy Farrelly.

Sun 10.00 a.m: Giuseppe, Rocco, & Carmela Dichiera, Regina Dolence (1st Anniv.), Di Giammichele Pasquale.

Wed 9.30 a.m: Elaine Barr.

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 ~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

Tues: 9.30 a.m –Sacred Heart School Mass & 7.00p.m.

Wed: 9.30a.m.

Thurs: 9.30 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m.

Sat: 10.00 a.m

We pray for the sick

Catherine Mary Kerlin, Peter Adair, June Harper & James (son-in-law of Joan Marshall).

LATIN MASS

Fr Pat Austin will celebrate Mass in Latin at St Francis Xavier Irymple on Monday 15th December at 2.00p.m.

All welcome to attend.

Christmas-New Year Office Closures:

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th Dec reopening Monday 5th Jan 2009.

WHAT A CELEBRATION!

Thanks to the efforts and the support of the leader of our Tongan community Lino Pahulu, we have been privileged these last few days to have had with us members of the API FOOU Catholic Secondary College in Nukualofa, Tonga. The forty-five students, accompanied by the Principal Fr. Aisake Vaisima, teachers and parents, are members of the College band and they performed in concerts at Saint Joseph's College, in the mall, in the parish hall and provided the music and singing at a Mass in the Sacred Heart Church. To have such talented musicians and choristers meant lively celebrations both indoor and outdoor. We thank very much all involved in making this happen as it was a special time for all who were able to experience their musical talents. Music speaks all languages, breaks down barriers and builds bridges. Both the visiting Tongans and the audience enjoyed themselves. We wish them well and trust their playing helped bring about the rain. It certainly got a few people not just foot-tapping but dancing! How fortunate we are to live in our multi-cultural parish as it reflects the unity and rich diversity of the Church. May they enjoy the rest of their visit to Australia and may God continue to bless them.

WE ARE ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS

Having just spent some time in Peru it is an occasion for me to share with you some of my experiences. My prime reason for going to Peru was to accept the invitation of my cousin Bernie Lang, a Columban priest, to visit him and see some of the work of the missionaries there. With our parishioners Luke and Marion Guthrie being in Lima for twelve months helping some of the locals learn English and another priest from our Diocese, Fr. Michael McKinnon, working on the missions it was imperative I take the opportunity offered to me. To enable all this to happen meant a lot of new arrangements had to be made re the engagement of a supply priest, Fr. Paul Campbell OFM, extra work for Frs. Frank, Matthew and Pat etc. I am indeed most grateful for all involved and sincerely thank them. One of the highlights of my time away was to be present with some of the people in the Fr. Michael's parish where Sacred Heart Parish Mildura is supporting a

project to construct a multi-purpose building. Last month I celebrated a Mass with Fr. Michael in the partly completed building when it was dedicated to the Sacred Heart in recognition of the link between our parishes. Having Luke and Marion Guthrie present along with Gerry and Kate Power made it even more special. To see the joy on the faces of the people brought home to me yet again that we are all part of the one family and we are meant to share what we are and have. Our parish is truly blessed by this link and the people there assured me and you of their prayers and gratitude. Thanks to the ladies of Merbein parish and their friends I was able to give all present rosary beads and believe me they were appreciated as they proudly wore them around their necks! One cannot but be inspired by the faith and generosity of those serving on the missions in often very difficult and challenging situations. We are all the work of God's hands and must reflect that in all we are and do. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers. You can keep in touch with the goings and coming of the Guthrie's by looking up their website on <http://mildura2lima.blogspot.com/> and Fr. Michael McKinnon's on www.thesharedtable10.blogspot.com. By the way they will be home in about a month, so be ready! We shall have to brush up our Spanish Olé! Olé! Olé!

I found the Church to be the same all over the world. It is just that we worship in different ways for we come from many cultures and traditions. What we do here is often so different from 'over there.' Long may it continue as it gives the Church richness and a variety that makes our liturgies alive and meaningful.

God Bless Fr Tom.

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, to speak for the light. Who are you?

This Sunday again focuses on John the Baptist and the question continues-Who are you? This is the question being asked in the early communities. Who was John? How can we understand his mission and its connection to the mission of Jesus? The Questioners put to him the names of key Jewish figures who were expected to come in the final days-the Christ, Elijah and the Prophet. 'The Christ' is a Greek translation of the Hebrew title, 'the Messiah'. This was expected to restore the Kingdom of David. Elijah was one of the great prophets who was believed to have taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot and would return at the end of time. The prophets refers to a promise made to Moses that God would raise up in the future, a prophet like Moses to lead the people. Some thought John fitted one of these roles-for figures. But John turns down these roles.

John knows his place in God's scheme. He humbly attests that there is another, even greater, who is coming. This is John's greatness, to know and accept the particular role he is given for the Kingdom. For some this can take years of searching and pondering. We don't know what John was doing before this ministry, and it seems that Jesus only began his mission around the age of thirty. As Christmas draws near, may it be a time of quiet reflection on the particular gifts God has given to me, and in what particular way I may further God's kingdom. *Mary Coloe PBVM.*

WHATS COMING UP.

- **FINANCE MEETING** 12.00noon Tuesday 16th Hillman Room.
- **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**
Our Advent Parish Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Christmas will be held on **Tues 16th December at 7.00 p.m.** followed by individual Mass of Reconciliation & Confession.
- **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** Meeting 8.00pm Tues 16th Hillman Room.
- **CATECHIST MEETING** - Christmas Luncheon Wednesday 17th 11.30a.m Hillman Room. Ladies please bring plate of food to share.
- **Sacred Heart Primary School Graduation** 1.00pm Thursday in the Church.
- **RCIA** -Gathering Thursday 18th Hillman Room.
- **YOUTH MASS CHRISTMAS CHOIR** rehearsal Wednesday 17th 6.00pm.& Sat 3.00pm in the Church.
If anyone is interested in joining the Choir singing at the 8.00pm. Mass Christmas Eve please come along to the practises.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

Will be celebrated at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24th Dec. Any children who would like to be involved in the **NATIVITY PLAY** please come to a practice accompanied by a parent on **Thursday 18th December from 4.30pm-5.30 pm** in the Church.

Finance- Last Week's

Presbytery Collection – (1 st Collection)	\$1250.00
Parish Collection -Envelopes (2 nd Collection)	\$2986.20
Loose Plate	\$ 385.75

Prayer

(in Advent time for the coming Saviour (to teach us wisdom)

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world.

May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him.

May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. Amen

An Advent Reflection- KEEPING CHRISTMAS

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;

to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance,
 and you chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;
 to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;
 to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give;
 to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.
 Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children;
 to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old;
 to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough;
 to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;
 to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;
 to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke,
 and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;
 to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your good thoughts, with the gate open are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.
 Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.
 And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

Henry Van Dyke From This Day's Thought www.thisdaysthought.org

ST VINCENT DE PAUL –

Thankyou to all those who generously gave gifts to be distributed to those less fortunate.
 Columban calendars are still available from our Parish piety store plus you'll also find special gifts available also.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY.

The December issue of Our Diocesan Community is now available in the foyers.

NOTES FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP.

We draw your attention to the “BUY NOTHING CHRISTMAS” Movement. Consumers exist to buy & produce. This Christmas, be a rebel; take back your identity as a person. A few suggestions:-

- ❖ Purchase gifts at fair trade shops or shops that support artisans in poorer countries.

- ❖ Avoid commercial wrapping paper, ribbons & tape.
- ❖ Reduce needless consumer spending – give a gift to charity in someone's name.
- ❖ Make a calendar for the family with everyone's photos & birthdays.
- ❖ Buy gifts made from recycled materials
- ❖ Buy Nothing Christmas Movement: www.buynothingchristmas.org.

SUNRAYSIA CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

MILDURA

Christmas Eve (Wednesday December 24th)

6.00 p.m. Children's Mass

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

Christmas Day (Thursday December 25th)

8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.

(N.B. no evening Mass on Christmas Day)

IRYMPLE

Christmas Day (Thursday December 25th)

8.30 a.m.

MERBEIN

Christmas Eve (Wednesday December 24th)

7.30 p.m.

Christmas Day (Thursday December 25th)

10.30 a.m.

REDCLIFFS

Christmas Eve (Wednesday December 24th)

Carols at 8.00p.m. Mass 8.30 p.m.

Christmas Day (Thursday December 25th)

9.00 a.m.

WERRIMULL.

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th) **6.00 p.m.**

ROBINVALE

Christmas Eve (Wednesday December 24th)

9.00 p.m. Robinvale

Christmas Day (Thursday December 25th)

9.00 a.m. Robinvale

MANANGATANG - **Christmas Eve – 6.30p.m**

WENTWORTH

Christmas Eve (Wednesday December 24th)

9.00 p.m. Wentworth

BURONGA – **Midnight Mass**

DARETON **Christmas Day** (Thursday

December 25th) 8.00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES REQUIRED

The following Volunteers are required for all Christmas Mass times:

READERS, OFFERTORY,
 SPECIAL MINISTERS,
 COLLECTORS, MUSIC.

If you are able to assist please write your name on the sheets situated in the entrance foyers at the time

you are available. Thankyou.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Fr. Tom Brophy 50212872,
Terry Murphy 50233056,
Sr. Rosemary Graham 50231841,
Mary Gobbo 50234621,
Marita Jensen 50237208,
Fr. Matt Thomas 50212872,
Jean Rocca 50237561,
Brian Grogan 50212099,
Chris Slattery 5022 0565
Cornelia Conway-Weel 50234567,
Peter O'Donnell 0429104225,
Veronica Chong 5023 1362,
Lys Crowe 50212872/50234567

If you look at what you do not have in life,
you don't have anything,
If you look at what you have in life, you
have everything

SACRED HEART PARISH -PLAY GROUP

Play Group will recommence the 10th February 2009.
As there are limited vacancies available please
contact Louise Higgins Ph: 50234757 as soon as
possible to obtain a place.

ROSTERS

THIS WEEKEND 13/14th December

READERS

6.00 PM B Bleeser
8.00 AM Sr Rosemary
10.00 AM S Hermans
5.00 PM St Pauls Primary School

MUSIC

6.00 PM M Hammond
L Crouch
10.00 AM M Sullivan
B Lewis
J O'Bryan
Talia Fainga'A
5.00 PM St Pauls Primary School

RCIA

6.00 PM. David Pemberton

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

6.00 PM

L Gooch
A-M Greville
M Sheahan
M Meredith
J Hall

8.00AM

M Mazza
A Vartuli
N Zudetich
K Mapapalangi
S Visona

10.00 AM

B Bunting
C Maugeri
C McErvale
L Rowe
N Leonardis
M Speed
E Garreffa

5.00PM

Mary Joseph
M Joseph
J Macri
A-M Dimasi
M Conté

COUNTING TEAM

Team 3 Captain Vince Fundak Ph 50245774

Next Weekend 20th/21st December

MUSIC

6.00 PM G & F Lane
10.00 AM Pacific Islanders
5.00 PM N Armsden, J Ljubic, K Loison.

RCIA

8.00AM. Isobel Russell

Peacemakers

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy
peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

-- St. Francis of Assisi

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

*Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called
Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of Joy.*

*The joy of this Sunday comes both
from the message of the readings and from the
anticipation that Christmas is nearing.
As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is
the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of
the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of
God.*

*It becomes obvious in the Gospel that
the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist.*

*John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed
one, and from that time on the lives of believers
have been the pathway through which the Messiah
has entered the world.*