



SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

259-263 Eleventh St, Mildura P.O. Box 10037, Mildura 3502
 Ph: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337
 parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au 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 Matt Thomas,
 Gladys Abriani, Rebecca Hogan, Lys Crowe,
 Fr. Frank Monaghan P.E.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

This Bulletin is for
CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER - HOLY FAMILY
THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 2009 - MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD Year B.

THIS WEEK: Sun 28th December

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14 or Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1 or Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

Second Reading Col 3:12-21 or Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

Gospel Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22. 39-40

NEXT WEEK: Sunday 4th January 2009 Year B

Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading Is 60:1-6

Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recent Death: Jane(Jenny) Rogers & Oreste Dimedio (br of Maria D'Orazio).

Anniversaries: Eileen Hillman, Bernie Moloney, Fr Pat Culligan & Fr Pat McGuire, Antonia DeMaria, Joe DeMaria, Ann Cox & Giovanni Dimasi.

Fri 5.40 p.m. Leonard Code.

Sun 10.00a.m. Nicolina Mazza, Daniele Ghidinelli.

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.

Devotional Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3.00 p.m.

Weekday Mass Times

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

Wed: Christmas Eve

Thurs: Christmas Day 8.00a.m – 10.00a.m.

Fri: St Stephen 5.40 p.m.

Sat: St John 10.00 a.m.

Sun 28th Holy Family – Year B

Thurs 9.00 a.m.

Fri 2nd Jan 5.40p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday 1st January: Mass 9.00a.m.

Mary, Mother of God & World Peace Day.

The Church's annual cycle begins on the First Sunday of Advent. Today we begin a new year and at the same time we end the week-long celebration of the Birth of the Lord. Today's feast draws our attention in two directions: first to God and the great work of God which the birth of God's Son reveals; secondly, to two of the people who played a crucial role in making this great work a human reality: Jehoshua and Miriam of Nazareth, or Jesus and Mary.

We pray for the sick

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

Baptism

This Sunday 28th December we welcome into God's family, *Jude Fitzgerald, Georgia Kent, Charlie Puleio and Rory Pullen* into our Parish Community who will be baptised at 10.00a.m. Mass.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We have once again come to the end of the year and it is time to recognise all who have in any way contributed to the life of the parish. The Parish Team wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who have assisted with the administration of the parish, the pastoral care of the parishioners, the liturgy, the maintenance of the church and grounds, those who serve on parish committees, all those who contribute financially to keep the presbytery and parish accounts in the black and those who support the parish through your presence, interest and concern of one another. Your witness and prayer certainly inspire and enliven us. You are all just so important and for this we ask that God reward you for giving of yourselves for the sake of the other.

On behalf of Gladys Abriani, Rebecca Hogan, Lys Crowe, Fr. Matt & Fr. Frank I wish you the peace, joy and hope that Christmas brings to our troubled world and we pray that God's blessings be yours in abundance in the New Year.

Tom Brophy

Frs. Frank, Matt & Tom thank everyone for their greetings, gifts and cards; we appreciate your generosity and you and your family will be in our prayers.

Our Parish Blessing:

May the Lord, Mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace,
Courage in every endeavour.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face
And God's grace forever.
May the Lord, Mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever.

Last Week's Income

Priests Support – (1 st Collection)	\$ 1,249.00
Envelopes (2 nd Collection)	\$ 2,224.65
Loose Plate	\$ 469.40

2nd Collection from all Masses at Christmas will be given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, as mentioned last weekend.

Gospel Reflection for Christmas

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The gospel for Midnight Mass (Lk 2:1-14) comes from the great story-teller, Luke, as does the gospel for the early morning Mass (Lk 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus, rather than Caesar Augustus, as the face of God, as saviour of the world, and as bringer of the good news of peace. Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought 'peace' to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of the human heart. -*Veronica Lawson RSM*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Pray to God:

About how you will be a gift to others in 2009.
Consider the ways you can be involved in both your local parish and wider community.
Start a conversation about faith:

Has a work colleague,
friend or family member been struggling or searching
for something more?

Maybe someone is just waiting to reconnect with
their faith life but do not know how.

Maybe someone is wanting to know more about
Jesus and the Catholic Church.

How will you be a message of God's love
in 2009?

Discern how you will be a gift to yourself in 2009,
to care for the greatest gift God has given to you,
your own life!

A Christmas Pageant Story:

Some years ago in a Queensland parish the children were invited to prepare the script themselves for the Christmas pageant. Well, the pageant got off to a great start with a cast of thousands – Mary and Joseph, Wise Men, lots of sheep going "Baa!" and shepherds everywhere.

Then, into the scene stepped a figure clothed in a silver suit with antennae on top of his helmet – obviously a visitor from outer space.

The visitor asked: "What happening here?"

Nativity players: "We're celebrating
Christmas."

Visitor: "What Christmas?"

Players: "Christmas is the birthday of Jesus
Christ."

Visitor: "Who's Jesus Christ?"

Players: "Jesus is God – the second person of
the Holy Trinity."

Visitor: "Far out! Do you mean to tell me
that the creator of the universe
came and visited your little planet?"

Players: "Yes! That's exactly what
happened."

Visitor: "Wow! So what did you do?

Did you put on a big party for him?"

Players: "No! We killed him."

Visitor: "Well, I'm out of here!"

Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference President, Archbishop Wilson:

"This Christmas, I pray that all people of goodwill will take a fresh look at the face of the Christ child. When we welcome Jesus into our hearts and into our lives, we begin to make sense of the things happening around us. Hope, joy and peace begin to take the edges off our anxiety and fear, and goodwill and generosity to our neighbour in need will surely flow. May the hope, peace and joy of Christmas be with you all!"

Christ's Love

"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat" (Blessed Mother Theresa). Despite Australia's wealth so many Australians are starved of true, authentic, Christ-like love. Let it be our desire to manifest Christ's love to all that we meet.' *From the Catholic Enquiry Centre*

HELP REQUIRED

Fr Michael Madigan S.V.D. will be a resident Priest in our Parish from January 10th to the end of February. Fr Michael requires transport from Melbourne on Friday 9th Jan. If anyone has room in their car for Fr. Michael and his luggage please contact the Presbytery A.S.A.P.