

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 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.

2nd March 2008 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A

THIS WEEK: Year A Forth Sunday of Lent.

First Reading **1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**

Psalms **Ps 22 R. v.1**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading **Eph 5:8-14**

Gospel **Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38**



NEXT WEEK: Year A Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading **Ez 37:12-14**

Psalms **Ps 129. R. v.7**

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading **Rom 8:8-11**

Gospel **Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45**

Recent Deaths: Marella Johnson, Melba Furey (Cohuna /Mildura) & Iolanda Piscioneri(Adel), Fr. John Shanley (Lakes Entrance).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries:

Sun 5.00pm. Mario & Antonio Modica.

Tues 7.00pm. Iolanda Piscioneri-recent death.

Wed 9.10a.m. Helen Grivec, Elvie McGlynn, Una Khan.

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

Tues 7.00p.m.

Thur: 9.30 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m.

Sat: 10.00 a.m.

We pray for the sick- Joy Englefield, Brian Blesser, John Dolence, Joe Sestak (husband of Anne-Irymple)

We welcome **Zhoe Madelaine Chiswell** into our Parish Community to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

➤ **Parish Office will be CLOSED Mon 3rd March**
From 9.00am -1.30pm.

Thank You

This week we thank Allan Chalkley for the wonderful work he does in the Parish.

WANTED URGENTLY

1 **CATECHIST** – for ½ an hour Thursdays at 2 pm.
at South Mildura Primary School - Grade 6
For more Info please phone Parish Office: 50212872.

March 7th - International Women's Day

This day is an opportunity to reflect on the dignity and role of all women; in the family, society and the Church. "We know that the Church as a whole has much to learn from and about women, who constitute more than half of its membership...we know that their contribution over the centuries and today has been (and is) enormous, even if not fully recognized and valued" (Cardinal Clancy, 1996).

We pray that we, the Church, ensure that women are encouraged and allowed to become more fully participative members of the Catholic Church.

As women in the Catholic Church in Australia are we letting God challenge, change, bless and heal us as we walk with God in our everyday lives?

We at Sacred Heart will be celebrating at 5.40pm Mass Fri. Any women wishing to participate in this Mass please let the office know.

We will need 4 ladies for the offertory and 2 ladies to read.

GOODBYE and GOOD LUCK

This week sees the departure from our Parish of Katarina Markylja for her home in Croatia. Katarina came to Mildura 15 years ago to visit her mother the late Mrs Mary Friscic and sister Stephanie Tisler. With her mother's deterioration in health, Katarina stayed on. Her mother died last November & at that time she was joined by her daughter Nada. Now they are returning home & we wish them well as they adjust to life back home & thank them for their presence & participation in our Parish life & liturgies.

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.



Prayer and Reflection

Lord God,
May everything we do
begin with your inspiration
and continue with your help,
so that all our prayers and works
may begin in you and by you be happily ended.
Pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the
saints,
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

LENTEN BANNERS

Beginning the second banner is the 4th Sunday of Lent and the theme is 'Darkness to Light.' The panel is based on the story of 'The Man Born Blind.' The **eye** represents sight and 'openness' to the message of Jesus. The **rays** symbolise the light that Jesus has brought into the world.

Coming Events

- ❖ **SANT' ANTONIO MEETING-** Tues 4th 8pm Fleming Room.
- ❖ **SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING-** Wed 5th 6.30 Fleming Room.
- ❖ **MUSIC PRACTISE** – Thurs 6th & 13th 6.30pm. (For all those prepared to participate for Vigil Mass at Easter Ph: Meg Sullivan 50235250.)
- ❖ **RCIA MEETING** Thurs 6th 7.30pm Hillman Room.
- ❖ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 7th March**
"God's Wisdom provides New Understanding"
Program prepared by Christian Women of Guyana.
10.00 am. - St Andrews Uniting Church.
Speaker Rev. Beth Hancock.
- ❖ **ALTAR SERVING TRAINING**

ALTAR SERVING TRAINING will commence Mon 11th & Tues 12th March between 4pm -6pm. If you haven't handed in your Application form please bring on the day.



PRESBYTERY KITCHEN:

After a number of setbacks the Presbytery kitchen is complete. We once again thank all the suppliers, tradesmen concerned, & parishioners for their generosity. We are sure this first renovation after 70 years will last another three score years and ten! The kitchen will be open for inspection after all Masses this weekend, entrance via back veranda.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mass times: -with a view to the possibility of fewer priests in the future, a suggestion was made that we have fewer Masses on Sundays. All agreed we could manage with one less Mass each Sunday, and that the most practical rationalisation would be to have a 9am instead of 8 and 10 at Sacred Heart.

Evening Masses should remain unchanged.

However, whatever the final decision, some parishioners will be upset, so at this stage it remains only a discussion and a possibility, and Council members were urged to discuss the possibilities with other parishioners. The possibility of foreign priests coming to the Diocese was discussed. Fr Tom explained this could be a two way beneficial scheme, but needs careful planning.

Before any decisions are made, the priests will confer with the neighbouring PP's so that the Mass times throughout Sunraysia are planned in the best interest of the district, without clashing or overlapping.

Parish Brochure – Sr Rosemary produced an attractive brochure she obtained from another parish, and all thought we might be able to produce a similar information brochure about our parish. Chris Slattery will start drafting examples before the next meeting.

Latin Masses at St Francis Xavier Church Irymple –the reason and legality of these Masses in the Irymple church was questioned, and Fr Tom explained they are celebrated according to the Roman Rite, by a visiting Capuchin priest from time to time.

World Youth Day – The question was asked – if the parish is sponsoring anyone to go to Sydney, and also if the College was sending a contingent. It was explained that the Knights of the Southern Cross were offering to provide support, and calling for applications for funding. A decision for the parish to further sponsor pilgrims will be made after next meeting of the WYD Committee..

Youth Masses. They were continued in Feb after the holiday break. .

Assistance to Young People of Wadeye Appeal Achieves Big Results

Bishop Peter Connors invited the Diocese of Ballarat to participate in a collection to help young pilgrims from the community of Wadeye in the Northern Territory to get to World Youth Day 2008. The Appeal has concluded and the final results are in! We are very proud to say that \$14,605.00 was raised enabling the pilgrims from Wadeye get to Sydney & join in WYD08 celebrations. Thanks to everyone who supported this cause. Your generosity will make a huge impact on the lives of these young people.

Notes from the SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

When the logic of sharing and solidarity prevails, it is possible to correct the course of action and orient it toward proportional development, for the common good of all... We must know to make fundamental choices, to be open to radical renunciations, even martyrdom if necessary. Today, like yesterday, the Christian life demands courage to go against the tide, to love as Jesus did- who ended up sacrificing himself on the cross.
Benedict XVI

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Please pray for those preparing to be baptised &/or received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Each Sunday, after the Homily, they are sent forth to further reflect on the Word of God.

They also take part in the following Rituals, connected to the Gospels of these Sundays, to further prepare them for Easter in conjunction with the inner conversion journey they are currently travelling.

Fourth Sunday of Lent 2nd March 8.00am Mass

John 9:1-41 Jesus, the light of the world, gives sight to the blind man who says "I believe" and worships him.

- Second Scrutiny. We pray that Talia, David, Lisa and Natalie may be made ready to join us at Easter by an inner spirit of repentance and openness to God. The celebrant places his hands on their heads and then prays; "Pour out your Holy Spirit so that they may be guided along the paths of right faith, safe from error, doubt, and unbelief, and come to see you face to face."

Caritas helps out in Bangladesh rat plague

Caritas Australia has come to the rescue of more than 3000 families in Bangladesh, providing food supplies for the next four months, after they were inundated with a fearsome 'rat flood' with millions of rats which have eaten crops jeopardising the immediate food security of hundreds of thousands of people.

We are called to bring life to our brothers and sisters in need. This week's story from Caritas Australia highlights the courage and resilience of a young woman called Monica who has emerged from violent physical and sexual abuse with renewed self-esteem, life skills and renewed family ties! Your donation to Project Compassion will allow Caritas Australia to continue providing practical and emotional support for people living with HIV and AIDS.



Gospel Reflection-4th Sunday of Lent Year A

(John 9:1-41)

'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' Last week, we journeyed with a woman of Samaria from a superficial level of faith understanding to deeper insight into Jesus' identity and mission. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with several groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Not all accept the invitation. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of seven powerful actions or 'signs' in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The 'signs' invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus'

Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who 'remain in their sins'.

This story reminds us of the need to check out our assumptions. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to see differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of a man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith.

From the disciples' perspective, the man's blindness is a punishment for sin. Not so, according to Jesus. For the religious authorities, Jesus is a sinner because he heals on the Sabbath. Not so, says the Blind man. Since the man is blind from birth, they assume he needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the authorities. The one who was blind now sees. He presents them with the truth about Jesus, but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent. An outcast all his life, the enlightened man is once again cast out by those who will not see. Jesus seeks him out and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. If we read the story once more and put ourselves in the place of the different characters, we may find a little bit of each of them in all of us. - Veronica Lawson RSM

Finance- Last Week's Collections

Priests Support –	\$ 1360.00
Direct Debit and Credit Cards:	\$ 577.53
Envelopes	\$ 1962.10
Loose Plate	\$ 353.35
Total Parish Support:	\$
<u>3470.51</u>	



Volunteers Required

St Vincent de Paul shop are urgently seeking people willing to help with

- Rag cutting
- Sorting and Pricing
- Truck Driving – a truck licence is **not** required.

Please contact Libby on 50235750 or at shop 79 Lime Ave.

Saint Theresa's Prayer

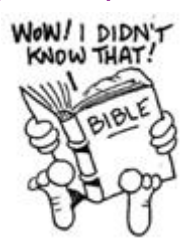
May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

and every one of  It is there for each us.

This weekend	6.00 p.m.	8.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	5.00 p.m.
Readers	T McNamara	M Hickey	S Opt' Hoog	I Russell
Eucharistic Ministers	S Girke L Roden J & H DeJong M Capogreco L Gooch K Burns	C Scopacasa M Scopacasa B Dolence M Flinn Sr Grace Rodgers	T Chiavone S Opt' Hoog E Opie A Chalkley P Kerr B Bunting C Maugeri	M Zema J Zema S Walker J Ribarits J Rocca
NEXT WEEK: Music	M. Hammond M Schmidt Talia Fainga' Anuka			M Sullivan K Loison A Treloar
Counting Team Next Week	2 nd March 10 th Feb	Team 1: Team 2:	Gerry Lavery Vine Fundak	50 211918 50 245774