

Our Parish Vision

"Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community united by our faith in Jesus Christ. We work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of God's Kingdom."

Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 6.00 p.m.

Sun: 9.00 a.m, 5.00 p.m.

Irymple: 8.30 am.

Reconciliation (Confession)

Sat: 11.00am or by appointment

Parish Pastoral Team

Fr. Tom Brophy,

Fr. James Mc Kay, Fr. Neville Stanislaus,
Gladys Abriani, Fr. Frank Monaghan P.E.

SACRED HEART PARISH



Mildura / Irymple

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St Francis Xavier's Church

Elms Street, Irymple

SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER, 2010

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Weekday Masses

Tues: 7.00 p.m.

Wed: 9.10 a.m.

Thurs: 9.30 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m.

Sat: 1 0.00 a.m.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

First Reading: **Isaiah 2: 1-5.**

Psalm 121: 1-2. 4-5. 6-9.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading **Rom 13:11-14** Live

honourably, the day of the Lord is near.

Gospel **Mt 24: 37-44**

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

First Reading **Is 11:1-10**

Psalm **Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7**

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading **Rom 15:4-9** Live in harmony with one another.

Gospel **Mt 3:1-12**

RECENTLY DECEASED: Jason Gowers (Merbein),

Sr M. Celine Glavin SJG. (Ballarat), Eileen Ryan,

(Robinvale), Giovanni Bachetti, the New Zealand miners,

Patrick Dennehy (Br of Fr. Denis).

ANNIVERSARIES: Kathleen Gregory, Jim Derum, June Landy,

Mons. Bill McCunnie, Frank Roache

Sat. 6.00 p.m. Natalina, Maria & Antonio Finis (1 year),

Frank , Anthony, Vincenzo & Camela Cirillo, Cos & Pasqualina

Dichiera, Tom Marciano (Birthday remembrance).

Sun 9.00 a.m. Gabbia D'Amico (1 month),

Sun. 5.00 p.m. Lovro (Len) Blagus, George Ribarits,

Annuziata Demaria, Giuseppe Ficarra.

Tues. 7.00 p.m. Antonio Coluccio(1 Month), Joe & Agnes

Sabolich, Lucia Stizza (30 day).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Joyce White rsj, Rob Smith, Sr Margaret Carmody

(Hamilton), Michael Hall, Melva Scott, Uschi Russell, Tony

O'Hurley, Michael Carey, Antonio Tassone, Jill Brophy, Fr.

Peter Claridge, Tim Krake (Melb), Kerrie Hall, Peter Sullivan

(Melb). *If you want a sick person prayed for, please ask for their*

permission. Please let us know when to take their name off the

list.

WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Prayer Group: 2.00-4.00pm.

Rosary: Monday 5.00pm.

Prayer of the Church: Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri. 8.40am.

Charismatic Prayer Group: Tues. 7.30pm.

Scripture Readings: Thurs 10.30am. *20 Beasy Crt.*

Devotional Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3.00pm.

Christian Meditation: Sat – 11.30am. *Hillman Room.*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – will be held

the 3rd December from 12 noon – 5.00p.m. in the

Church.

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The Season of Advent.

Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "Coming". Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas.

This is why the colour of the season of Lent is used, purple or blue, the colours also of Lent, of forgiveness and repentance

The first candle is traditionally the candle of Expectation or Hope (or in some traditions, Prophecy). This draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of a Messiah that weaves its way like a golden thread through Old Testament history. As God's people were abused by power hungry kings, led astray by self-centered prophets, and lulled into apathy by half-hearted religious leaders, there arose a longing among some for God to raise up a new king who could show them how to be God's people. They yearned for a return of God's dynamic presence in their midst.

And so, God revealed to some of the prophets that indeed He would not leave His people without a true Shepherd. While they expected a new earthly king, their expectations fell far short of God's revelation of Himself in Christ. And yet, the world is not yet fully redeemed.

So, we again with expectation, with hope, await God's new work in history, the second Advent, in which He will again reveal Himself to the world.

And we understand in a profound sense that the best, the highest of our expectations will fall far short of what our Lord's Second Advent will reveal!

Father,

We praise you for sending your Son to save us from our sins and to be light in our darkness.

Bless us as we gather in his name, and bless this wreath as a sign of the light among us.

We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Loving God.

As we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts.

May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes.

Ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.



R.C.I.A.

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

At our Inquiry sessions in July/August we had a number of people wanting to be part of the R.C.I.A. process.

These people have been meeting regularly with the RCIA Team since then and are now ready to take the first formal step!

This weekend, **at the 6 p.m. Mass**, will be their '**Rite of Acceptance**', and a chance for everyone to officially meet our R.C.I.A. Candidates / Catechumens for 2010/2011.

We welcome **Hayley Brewell, Stephen Wal, Randall Smythe** and we give them our prayerful support, as they move into the next stage of the R.C.I.A. journey and their personal faith journeys.

BAPTISMS *This weekend we*

welcome Ariana Dimasi, Aylah Parker, Lucas Frasca & Zavier Murdock into God's family, and into our Parish family.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation is a good way to take a closer look at your life and make a fresh start, at least once a year. Traditionally, and canonically, Catholics are expected to confess at least once a year before the celebration of Easter (Easter Duty). Our parish offers communal Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent. 'Communal' means that there is a 'group prayer service' that precedes the individual confessions with a priest. Before receiving the sacrament, it is helpful to spend some time in reflection about the time since your last confession. This is called an Examination of Conscience. This is a time where you ask God for help in remembering your sins, specific actions, and general patterns of behaviour. Reflection on how these things have impacted your relationships at home and work; and how they have impacted your relationship with God is just as valuable as the actual confession. As Catholics we believe that a life that is examined and lived with grace-filled purpose is what we are called to do. From the Catholic Faith handbook for Youth.

Our Reconciliation Programme continues this week.

This weekend at all Masses the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, will be invited up at the time of the 'Our Father' and then they will take a Sign of Peace to everyone.

They will also be wearing a purple coloured ribbon so we can easily identify them and be able to give them our support, encouragement and prayers.

In this coming week, on Wednesday 1st December at 7 p.m., Thursday 2nd December at 6 p.m. and Saturday 4th December at 11 a.m., these children will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a communal celebration (2nd Rite). The whole Parish is invited to join with these children and their families, at any of these times.

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Envelopes have been placed in the church this weekend for parishioners to donate to this worthy cause. The envelopes can be placed on the collection plate or handed into the Parish Office. Your generosity would be appreciated as the needs of the poor are constant.

COMING EVENTS

NURSING HOME MASSES

- **Princes Court Nursing Home** Wed 8th Dec 10.00 a.m.
 - **Oasis Nursing Home** Irymple Mon 13th Dec 1.30p.m.
- Family & friends are most welcome to attend.
- **Regis Nursing Home** Tuesday 14th 2.00 p.m.

Parish Pastoral Council -CANCELLED.

St Vincent de Paul homes Red Cliffs official opening will be held Tues 30th Nov at 11.00 a.m.

Social Justice Meeting -Wed 1st Dec 6.00 p.m.

Anointing Mass for the sick & elderly will be celebrated on Tuesday 7th Dec at 2.00 p.m. in the Hillman Room. A cuppa afterwards will be kindly provided by the Catholic Ladies Social Group.

PARISH CATECHISTS

are invited to a short meeting to reflect on the year and to meet Sr. Veronica Quinn at our final meeting for this year on Wednesday 8th December at 11.00 a.m. in the Hillman Room. Ladies are asked to bring something to share over morning tea. Hope to see you all there.

VOLUNTEERS THANKYOU MASS will be offered on Friday 10th at 5.40 p.m. A sausage sizzle will be provided afterwards.

The vitality of our parish is reflected in the community by our many volunteers, and without the careful attention to music, liturgical ministries, and the many other who participate in all forms and who make all people feel welcome in our midst, we as a parish are very blessed to have such dedicated people.

Blessing of couples who are expecting or would like a child-Sunday 12th December

On the third Sunday of advent it is traditional to remember Mary of Jesus and the struggles and wonderment she lived through in her pregnancy. Once again we invite all couples who are expecting a child, and couples desiring to have children and who are yet to conceive for whatever reason, to receive a special blessing at 9.00 a.m. Mass.

Passionist Family Group final get together for 2010 will be held on Sunday December 12th at Time Share Resort 10th Street Mildura. 11.00 am till 2.00pm.
Bring own lunch, drinks, BBQ available. Kris Kringle Gift value \$ 5.00 to \$10.00.

COUNTING TEAMS:

New rosters are due. Would captains please advise presbytery staff of any changes to teams.

***** Any person who would like to volunteer their time to become a member of a counting team please ring the Presbytery office staff for further information.**

MASS COUNT

This is the last weekend of our Mass count. This is a form of gathering statistics of those attending Masses and Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion within the Diocese of Ballarat.

The Giving Tree

The St Vincent de Paul Society will appreciate toys being left at the Giving Tree at the back of the Church for children up to 12 years to the value of \$10.00.

Sunday 12th December will be the final date for this appeal, so that they may be distributed before Christmas.



Christmas Schedule

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Mildura

Christmas Eve Masses: 6.00p.m., 8.00 p.m. & 10.00 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass: 8.00 a.m. & 10.00 a.m.

Irymple

Christmas Day Mass: 8.30 a.m.

Merbein

Christmas Eve Mass 7.00 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass 10.30 a.m.

Wentworth Christmas Eve Mass 6.00 p.m.

Buronga Midnight **Christmas Day Dareton** 8.00 a.m.
Buronga 10.00 a.m. **Robinvale** Christmas Eve Masses
Manangatang 6.00 pm. **Robinvale** 9.00 p.m.
Christmas Day **Robinvale** 9.00 a.m.

NO MASSES ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

Second Rite of Reconciliation (Communal service followed by individual confession). Four priests + in attendance. Sacred Heart Church Monday Dec. 20th. 7.00 p.m.

Prayer

God of awe and wonder
we have a new canvas on which to paint our lives
with the beginning of a New Year.
May our eyes be open to recognise you in those whose lives we share
so that whatever happens in our lives
we will work together for our good and the good of humanity.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- Provided by Sr Gabriel Williams osu

STEWARDSHIP CORNER.

Or you do not know on which day your Lord will come"-
Matthew 24:42

Preparations for the Christmas season remind us how much we all want to be generous. We want to give good gifts to one another. Yet, often when it comes to giving back to God our response is, "Not Yet!" We put off sharing our time, talent and treasure for another day. We say we will give when we have more time or more money. Yet, none of us knows when God will come and ask for an accounting of how we used the gifts entrusted to our care. The start of Advent reminds us not to put off our stewardship. The Lord is Coming!



Vinnies Weekly Specials.

Tinned Fruit 825g.	\$2.00 tin or \$22.00 carton of 12
Local Strawberries	\$2.00 punnet.
Fresh Qld. Pineapples	\$2.55 ea.
Carrots. 1 kg. bags	\$1.50 bag
Mushrooms (Local produce)	\$4.80 kg.

Vinnie's Budget Grocery is a non-profit Organisation
It is able to maintain competitive prices due to dedicated
Volunteers. More support means lower prices for Mildura's community.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Fr. Tom Brophy. 50212872. Terry Murphy 50233056.
Sr. Rosemary Graham 50231841. Fr. Jim McKay 50212872.
Fr. Neville Stanislaus 5023212872. Brian Grogan 50212099.
Peter O'Donnell 0429104225. Rini Opt'Hoog 50230941.
Lyn Welsh 50231356. Denise Knight 50257111.
Suliana Mataele 0448658687. Darren Atkinson 50214208.
Lys Crowe 50212872 /50234567. Mary Gobbo 50234621.
Corrie Conway-Weel 50234567.

International Day of People with Disability is Friday 3rd Dec so please remember them in your prayers.

The practical things about participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at any time

- **Go to the priest**, also called a Confessor. Lines will be formed for the priests hearing confessions. Have a seat across from the priest. If you remember you can say the old formula of "Bless me Father, for I have sinned." You will begin by making the sign of the cross. You do not have to tell him how long it has been since your last confession, but sometimes it helps to let them know that it's been a long time. If you are nervous, let them know, they will help you through the process.
- **Confess your sins.** This can be events or issues of life that have interrupted your relationships with family, co-workers, friends or God. The priest will probably discuss your sins briefly and provide some spiritual advice. If you have something that requires more depth than this event can provide, you are free to ask the priest if you could be in touch with him after the Service to make an appointment to talk in more depth. Remember that you have to make that appointment. A priest is not free to bring up your confession to you unless you initiate the discussion.
- **Receive a penance.** The priest will talk to you about doing something as a sign of your desire to change. It may be saying some prayers or doing a loving act of kindness.
- **Tell God that you are sorry.** You can use your own words or an act of contrition may be recited. You do not have to have memorized the Act of Contrition.

- **Receive Absolution.** The priest proclaims the words of absolution and your sins are forgiven.
- **Conclude:** The priest says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good," and you respond, "His mercy endures forever." The priest will dismiss you, and you can respond, "Thank you" or "Amen."
- **The most important thing:** Relax. Even if you do not remember any part of the 'formula' for going to confession; you will still receive the sacrament. Priests are more than happy to walk you through the steps. They understand that you may be nervous and may have been away from the sacrament for many years. Your lack of experience should never keep you from Reconciliation. A kind and sincere heart with the desire to live a grace-filled life, in union with the love of God, is all that is required.

Lectio Divina -Praying the Scriptures in Advent booklet is now available for everyone in the foyers. Please take one and enjoy.

SACRED HEART CHOIR would like to thank everyone for their prayers and assistance allowing them to have a safe trip to Sydney & return. The children represented the parish in an excellent manner through their voices. It was a great experience also for some who saw a big city & the beach for the first time afterwards. Photos of their trip on notice board in foyer.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery) \$ 1,388.00
2nd Collection (Support of Parish & Diocese) \$ 3,127.70
Loose Plate \$ 458.65

Parish Financials last Quarter

FINANCIALS	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Ordinary Income/Expense					
INCOME					
Planned Giving	11,565.35	15,942.00	17,487.25	18,998.57	63,993.17
Church Usage	1,100.00	600.00	1,500.00	2,040.00	5,240.00
Donations & Gifts	92.67	107.00	1,140.00	0.00	1,339.67
Interest Income	0.00	0.00	464.68	0.00	464.68
Baptism Income	0.00	50.00	555.00	200.00	805.00
Sundry Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	463.71	463.71
Total Income	12,758.02	16,699.00	21,146.93	21,702.28	72,306.23
EXPENSE					
Liturgical	53.95	749.37	412.95	108.40	1,324.67
Pastoral					
Groups	393.45	300.36	225.07	834.66	1,753.54
Administration	1,061.10	2,631.26	3,674.28	4,156.42	11,523.06
Interest					
Expense	0.00	638.36	0.00	0.00	638.36
SEC & Water	185.26	1,201.95	1,567.83	1,637.60	4,592.64
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	445.68	0.00	0.00	445.68
Salaries & Wages	8,051.30	4,067.92	4,581.18	6,375.76	23,076.16
Total Expense	9,745.06	10,034.90	10,461.31	13,112.84	43,354.11
Net Ordinary Income	3,012.96	6,664.10	10,685.62	8,589.44	28,952.12
Capital					
Building Costs	7,356.15	460.00	0.00	120.00	7,936.15
Loan					
Repayment					
CDF	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Total Other Expense	7,356.15	2,960.00	0.00	120.00	10,436.15
Nett Income	-4,343.19	3,704.10	10,685.62	8,469.44	18,515.97

**** Building costs were a 1/4 share to replace the Sacred Heart Hall roof.
 *** Increase in Income due to Annual contributions being paid in a lump sum..

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

'Where is the Life we have lost in living?' asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's The Rock. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, 'Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.' As we attend to the 'ordinary', everyday things, such as eating and drinking and working in the fields or wherever, we are invited to find Life in the living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the inevitable round of daily activities that have preoccupied humans from time immemorial. Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the basileia or kingdom verities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be 'awake', to be 'ready' all the time, not because death nor the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple 'advents' or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, calling us beyond self-absorption to Life. Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of our God. We seek the grace to 'see' God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5), to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love. We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that '[t]he past is a foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. - Veronica Lawson RSM

MINISTERS' ROSTERS

EUCARIST MINISTERS 28 th NOV			READERS: 5 th DECEMBER			MUSIC 5 TH DECEMBER	
6.00 P.M.	9.00 A.M.	5.00 P.M.	6. 00 P.M.	9.00 A.M.	5.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.	
K.Girke	F.Chiavone	K.Towns	J. Graham	T. Fainga'anuka	H, Curran	M. Guthrie B. Lewis	
S.Girke	T.Chiavone	W.Finn				T. Fainga'anuka	
T.McNamara	G.Scopacasa	T.Finn					
M.Henderson	M.Scopacasa	P. Cox					
K.Jewell	M. Flinn	M.Ransome					
L.Kearney	L. De Iesi						
L. Crowe	T. Panuccio						
			COUNTING TEAM 5. 5th December.				
			JIM FARRELLY. 5021 5646.				
						9.00 A.M. ,	
						Italian Choir	
						5.00 P.M.	
						M. Hammond K. Loison	
						J. Ljubic	

