

Fr. Michael McKinnon PP  
Fr. Neville Stanislaus, Fr. James McKay  
Fr. Frank Monaghan PE  
Secretarial Staff: Cathy Pickup

### Weekday Masses

If there is a Funeral Mass on Wed, Thurs, the advertised Mass will be cancelled.

- Tues: 6.00 p.m Knights of The Southern Cross (deceased Mass)
- Wed: 9.10 a.m Thurs: 9.30 a.m
- Fri: 5.40 p.m

### Weekend Mass Times

Sat: 10.00 a.m Sat: 6.00 p.m.  
Sun: 9.00 a.m, 5.00 p.m.  
Irymple: 8.30 am.

## Sacred Heart Parish

### Mildura/Irymple

259-263 Eleventh Street  
Mildura

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P.O. Box 10037 Mildura 3502

[parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au](mailto:parish@sacredheartmildura.org.au)  
[www.milduracatholicchurch.org.au](http://www.milduracatholicchurch.org.au)

St Francis Xavier's Church  
Elms Street, Irymple

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### 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."*

### Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Primary School – Principal Greg Lane 50231204

St Paul's Primary School – Principal Corrie Conway-Weel 50234567

Catholic Secondary College

St Josephs – Principal Darren Atkinson 50188000

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**First Reading: Is 61:1-2.10-11**

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

**Response: My soul rejoices in my God.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24**

**Gospel: Jn1:6-8.19-28**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS.

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

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

**Response: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Second Reading: Rom16:25-27**

**Gospel: Lk 1:26-38**

**RECENT DEATHS:** Elaine Collins (Ocean Grove-Mary

Maloney's sister), Alison Smith (Ireland), Thomas Thorpe

**ANNIVERSARIES: Irymple:** Timothy Farrelly,

**Saturday 6.00pm:** Vincenzo & Caterina Monteleone

**Sunday 9.00am:** Giuseppe Dichiera, Rocco Dichiera, Carmela Dichiera,

**Friday 16th 5.40pm:** Nick Mazza, Frank Cupello

*Only members of the deceased's immediate family are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.*

### WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

**Monday Prayer Group:** 2.00- 4.00 p.m.

**Rosary:** Monday 5.00 p.m.

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

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** Tues 7.30 p.m.

**Scripture Reading:** Thurs 10.30 a.m 20 Beasy Court

**Devotion Prayer and Exposition:** Fri 3.00 p.m

**Christian Meditation:** Sat – 11.30 a.m. Hillman Rm.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** – held the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month in the Church from 12 noon – 5.00 p.m.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 11. 00 a.m to 12.00 p.m

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

*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.*

Jenny Jones, Margaret Tynan, Noel Smith (Harvey Bay), Dorothy Norris



## REFLECTION

Today's gospel reading falls into two sections. The first comprises a little statement from the prologue to John's gospel and the second revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue states that John the baptiser is 'a man sent from God'. He is not the light, but a 'witness' whose role is to testify to 'the light'. 'The true light [Jesus]...was coming into the world.'

In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptiser responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions are relentless. John's responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God's messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the 'descendants of Levi'. He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God's people to prepare the way for God's advent, God's coming.

John knows who he is, he understands the parameters of his mission, and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is a pivotal one in the story of God's saving action. His story is also pivotal in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem 'Jews': 'Who are you?' If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the 'one who is coming,' the light of the world, the revelation of God.

[A caution: we must remember that not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama, including Jesus, are Jewish. It would be a serious disservice to the gospel to condemn 'the Jews' on the basis of this and similar stories of Jewish opposition to Jesus].

-Veronica Lawson RSM



• PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIME



## COMING EVENTS

### KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Mass for deceased at 6pm – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### REGIS ONTARIO MASS

A Christmas Mass will be held at Regis Ontario Nursing Home on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm.

### CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS REHEARSALS

Primary aged school children are most welcome to attend a practice rehearsal next Thursday 4pm at the church followed by a final dress rehearsal on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 4pm again at the church for the Family Mass on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (support of Priests & Presbytery)	\$1177.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (Support of Parish & Diocese)	\$2198.00
Loose Plate:	\$ 411.20

(The first collection and the offerings go toward the cost of the Priests' stipends/ food / cleaning / fuel / car expenses/other living expenses/ phone / SEC and Diocesan expenses which are paid quarterly)

## SACRAMENTAL

### GOD START

There will be a GOD START meeting held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December in the Hillman Room at 4.00pm



**BAPTISM:** We would like to welcome Sienna Simonetta, Shyla Caristo, James Brice, Chloe Sherer and Harriet Piscioneri into our Parish family.

## LITURGY

### TO BAPTISE

'The verb "to baptise" means "to plunge" or "to immerse". The immersion in water, or alternatively the pouring of water over the person's head, symbolizes the baptized person's union with the death of Jesus. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, the baptized person arises from the water as "a new creature", a member of the Church.'

- Excerpt from *Call and Response* p.76, Catholic Enquiry Centre <http://www.catholicenquiry.com>

### CHILDREN'S RESOURCES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The Parish is offering parents two books (\$12.00ea) that provide stories and prayers focusing on the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas.

They can be purchased from the St Vinnies stall at the back of the Church, or through the Parish office.

### MIDNIGHT MASS

This year there will be a midnight Mass held for Christmas. Please spread the word, as future celebrations depend on numbers attending.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

A group of dedicated parents are offering Children's Liturgy at 9 a.m Sunday Mass. If you have school aged children we encourage them to join in and participate in fun activities focused on the Gospel readings. We would also like more parents to assist so come along with your children on Sunday or contact the parish office on 0350212872 for more information.

## MISSION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### 5. ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES DO NOT RECEIVE MORE FAVOURABLE TREATMENT OR HIGHER BENEFITS

All boat arrivals in Australia are subject to the same assessment as those who come by air. Claims that refugees in Australia are entitled to higher benefits than other social security recipients are unfounded. How much money an asylum seeker has is irrelevant.

### 6. BOAT PEOPLE ARE NOT 'QUEUE JUMPERS' AND THERE IS NO QUEUE IN MALAYSIA

There is no orderly queue for asylum seekers to join. Only a very small proportion of asylum seekers are registered with the UNHCR and only 1% of those are resettled. A 'queue' is something people join and eventually reach the top of. This is not the case in countries like Malaysia, with over 80,000 refugees and asylum seekers, and here it would take 158 years to reach the front. UN Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay says the term 'queue jumper' is only used in Australia, and nowhere else on Earth.

**Human Rights Day** is celebrated around the world each year on 10 December. This is a day for recognising the risks and sacrifices that have been made by people who have fought to defend human rights in countries around the world where they are not able to be taken for granted. It is also a day for encouraging everyone to get involved in promoting and defending human rights in all places and situations where this is necessary. There are a number of South Australian organisations that are human rights advocates. Find out more about them and support their efforts!

## VINNIES WEEKLY SPECIALS

SPC Pear Halves 825g	\$1.50/each
SPC Jellied Fruit 4-pack	\$1.50/pack
Aust Gold Sliced Beetroot	\$0.75
Arnott's Cruskets	\$2.45/pack
Betty Crocker Muffin Mix	\$2.50/pack
Don Strasburg – 1kg	\$7.75/kg
Pumpkin	\$1.00/each
Nectarines	\$2.50/kg
Avocado	\$1.00/each

Xmas Break: Vinnies will be closing on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011 and will re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012.

Vinnie's Budget Groceries are a non-profit organisation. It is able to maintain competitive prices through the dedicated Volunteers. More support means lower prices for Mildura's community.

### HELPERS REQUIRED

Eucharist Ministers, Readers and Offertory participants are required for the Christmas Masses. Please fill in the forms provided located on the table at the back of the church.

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES - MILDURA**

**Christmas Eve: 6.00p.m, 8.00p.m & MIDNIGHT**

**Christmas Day: 8.00a.m & 10.00a.m**

**IRYMPLE: Christmas Day 8.30 a.m**

## "NEWS FROM OUR PARISH SCHOOLS"

### ST PAULS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and friends of the St Paul's Community.....  
The third week of Advent is upon us as we edge ever closer to the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This leaves us only a short time to fill the boxes in the foyer with Christmas food. These will be distributed to those in need on the last day of term by Lys and her team. Graduation celebrations will be starting with Mass in the School Hall at 5pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December followed straight after with picnic dinner. Congratulations to the following students who are our 2012 School Leaders

**School Captains:** Laura Squillace & Sean Ballard

**Vice Captains:** Ruby Power & Jordan Rahmel

**SRC:** Declan Clifford, Gemma Wise, Jasmine Tran & Portia McKee **House Captains:** **Hill:** Claudia Dichiera & William O'Donnell **Mercy:** Sascha Wall & Callum Cavanagh Knez **McKenzie:** Nicola Reid & Santino Zappia **Chaffey:** Mikaela Dornan & Mitchell Christensen

### SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear School families and friends,  
A hearty welcome to this week's news. How many sleeps? Our week has been very full with concert practices, end of year activities and the winding up of our formal curriculum. Last Wednesday the Concert was shared. A great evening of light entertainment. Congratulations to all the children who participated and to our staff for their preparations. Great to see how talented our children are. This Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, our last day, at Sacred Heart please note that the children are dismissed at normal finish time **3.15pm** on Friday (16<sup>th</sup>). Busy indeed! Advent continues..... prepare the way for our Lord.

### FEAST DAYS OF THE WEEK

**Tue Dec 13 St Lucy (c.283 – c.304)**

Born into a rich, pious family in Syracuse, Lucy – whose name means 'light' - vowed her life to Christ. Tradition has it that she was denounced as a Christian and martyred under the Emperor Diocletian.

**Wed Dec 14 St John of the Cross (1542 – 1591)**

Doctor of the Church and mystical theologian. His writings reveal profound mystical expressions and insights – they are literary masterpieces both in prose and poetry. He is an exceptional guide in leading others to union with God in prayer and through the contemplative life. He wrote 'Abide in peace, banish cares, take no account of all that happens, and you will serve God according to his good pleasure and rest in him.'

### COMMUNAL RITE OF RECONCILIATION

**THE COMMUNAL RITE OF RECONCILIATION WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7PM.**

### THE VALUE OF SILENCE FOR PRAYER

'Silence requires the discipline to recognize the urge to get up and go again as a temptation to look elsewhere for what is close at hand. It offers the freedom to stroll in your own inner yard, and to rake up the leaves there and clear the paths so you can easily find the way to your heart. Perhaps there will be much fear and uncertainty when you first come upon the "unfamiliar terrain", but slowly and surely you will discover an order and familiarity which deepens your longing to stay home..... whenever you come upon this silence, it seems as though you have received a gift, one which is "promising" in the true sense of the word. It promises new life. It is the silence of peace and prayer, because it brings you back to the One who is leading you.'

- Henri Nouwen

### QUOTES

'Courage is fear that has said its prayers.'

- Dorothy Bernard

### ON THE UP AND UP

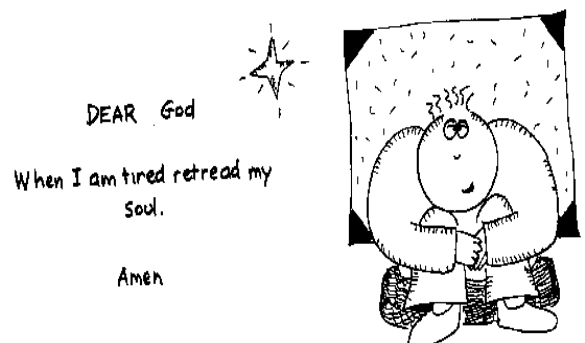
No two-letter word in the English language has more meanings than UP - a noun, verb, adverb, adjective or preposition. When a topic comes UP, we speak UP. Officers are UP for election (if there's a tie, it's a toss UP). It's UP to the secretary to write UP a report. We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car, stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a shop in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP - but I'll wrap it UP for now and shut UP!

### GAY MARRIAGE DEBATE HAS A LONG WAY TO GO

FRANK BRENNAN

Even if the Parliament does legislate to expand the definition of marriage beyond its traditional meaning, there will be a constitutional challenge in the High Court. It would be a pity if those of us trying to contribute the strength of the Catholic tradition to the debate were simply characterised as homophobic naysayers.

For more information visit [www.eurekastreet.com.au](http://www.eurekastreet.com.au)



**FOR THE CHILDREN**



**THIS WEEK'S ROSTER**

<i>SPECIAL MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</i>			<i>MUSIC</i>			<i>READERS</i>		
Dec 10/11			Dec 10/11			Dec 10/11		
<i>6.00 P.M</i>	<i>9.00 A.M</i>	<i>5.00 P.M</i>	<i>6.00 P.M</i>	<i>9.00 A.M</i>	<i>5.00 P.M</i>	<i>6.00 P.M</i>	<i>9.00 A.M</i>	<i>5.00 P.M</i>
T McNamara	L Welsh	S Hermans	Filipino Group	M Guthrie	SH Group	K Towns	Sr Rosemary	C Ellis
M Henderson	N Lewis	M Suppa	N Armsden	Leaders Welcome	M Fainga'anuku			
L Kearney	P Opie	F Virgona						
L Crowe	S Opie	R Antony				<b>COUNTING TEAM 8</b>		
M Cirillo	C McErvale	M Zema				TREVOR AUST 5023 6597		
M Capogreco	E Mazza	K Groves		<b>IRYMPLE ROSTER</b>				
J Hall	A Paseka			<b>READER</b>	<b>SPECIAL MINISTER</b>			
				Mary Hoy	Malcolm Hoy			

**NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER**

<i>SPECIAL MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</i>			<i>MUSIC</i>			<i>READERS</i>		
Dec 17/18			Dec 17/18			Dec 17/18		
<i>6.00 P.M</i>	<i>9.00 A.M</i>	<i>5.00 P.M</i>	<i>6.00 P.M</i>	<i>9.00 A.M</i>	<i>5.00 P.M</i>	<i>6.00 P.M</i>	<i>9.00 A.M</i>	<i>5.00 P.M</i>
M Cirillo	R Byra	J Zema	M Hammond	Tongan Community	M Sullivan	T Swincer	M Speed	P Hammond
M Capagreco	G Scopacasa	S Walker	B Lewis		J Macri			
L Gooch	M Scopacasa	J Ribarits	J O'Bryan		J Ljubic			
A Greville	M Flinn	M Joseph				<b>COUNTING TEAM 9</b>		
M Sheahan	L De Lesi	J Matthew				GEORGE DOLENCE 5023 7993		
M Meredith	T Panuccio			<b>IRYMPLE ROSTER</b>				
J Hall	P O'Donnell			<b>READER</b>	<b>SPECIAL MINISTER</b>			
				Maureen Foley	Betty Krake			