



# SACRED HEART PARISH, MILDURA

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

St Francis Xavier Church, Elm Street, Irymple

## PARISH PASTORAL TEAM:

Fr Tom Brophy, Fr John Monaghan,

Mrs Mary Gobbo, Mrs Helen Findlay & Mrs. Jen Ditchfield

Mrs. Rebecca Hogan

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, 5.00pm and Irymple 8.30am.

Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 11.00am or by appointment.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17, 2006 YEAR C

### THIS WEEK:

First Reading: Zep. 3:14-18

**Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Second Reading: Phil. 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



NEXT WEEK: December 24

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Ps. 79 **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

### Recent Deaths

Jack Harrington (Terang)

Ron Cumming (Requiem Mass)

11.00a.m. Tue

### Anniversaries

Leanne Francic

6.00p.m. Sat

Marianna Circosta

“

Deceased members of the Macri and Circosta families

“

Ivan Ban

“

Antonio Scullino

10.00a.m Sun

Michael O'Connor, Don Wilson and deceased members of the O'Connor family

8.30a.m. Sun

Jim Byrne (1<sup>st</sup>)

9.30a.m. Thu

Frs. Pat O'Dowd & John Connellan, Agnes Hudson

Note to Families requesting special Masses:

Please let the 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: Thur 2/177 12<sup>th</sup> Street 10.30 a.m

Devotional Prayer and Exposition: Fri 3.00 p.m.

### We pray for the sick

Annie Lambert, Norma Presswood, Betty Stirrat, Stephen Rosenhart (brother of Henriette de Jong)

### Baptisms

Francesco Michael De Maria

### Weekday Mass Times

If there is a Requiem Mass on Wed/Thu the advertised Mass will be cancelled

Tues: No 7.00 p.m. Mass - funeral Mass 11.00 a.m.

Wed 9.10 a.m.

Thu: 9.30 a.m

Fri: Ukrainian Mass 11.00 a.m.

Fri: 5.40 p.m

Sat: 10.00 a.m.

### ADVENT

#### THE THIRD CANDLE – THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE

The third candle reminds us of how the shepherds responded – they listened and followed the angels' instructions, they saw Jesus and believed, and they told all what had happened to them. We too should consider how we can tell others about Jesus:

*In the country side close by, there were shepherds...and the angel of the Lord appeared to them... "Listen, I bring news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today a saviour has been born to you" ... The shepherds hurried away and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told and everyone who heard it was astonished.*

Luke 2:8-11,16-18

All: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel. You have come to your people and set them free. Guide our feet in the way of peace and good will.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Sacred Heart Mildura

Saturday 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 8 am, 10 am,

(Christmas Eve) 5 pm (Children's Mass),  
7 pm & 10 pm.

Monday (Christmas Day) 8 am & 10 am.

### Irymple

Sunday (Christmas Eve) 8.30 a.m.

Monday (Christmas Day) 8.30 a.m.

### Merbein

Saturday 6.00 p.m.

Sunday (Christmas Eve) 6 pm Vigil

Monday (Christmas Day) 10.30 a.m.



## **What's on this week**

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

St. Paul's P. S. Graduation Mass in the church at 5.00 p.m.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**

**Second Rite of Reconciliation – at 7.30 p.m. in the church.** The form that the Second Rite takes is a community gathering to listen to the Word of God, a time of reflection and prayer, which is followed by individual Reconciliation with the priest. Six priests will be present to administer the Sacrament. Let us make this time a celebration of God's mercy, compassion and grace as we prepare for the coming of our Saviour at Christmas.

**Individual Reconciliation** will be available between 10 – 11 a.m. Thursday, following the 5.00 p.m. Mass Friday and at 11.00 a.m. Saturday.

### **CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Choir practice for the music at the 10.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and the 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass will be held on **Thursday, December 21 at 6.30 p.m.** in the Church. All welcome.

### **UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY MASS**

Fr. Igor of Adelaide will celebrate Mass for the Ukrainian Community and parishioners next Friday, December 22 at 11.00 a.m. All are invited to join in this bi-lingual celebration.

## **What's coming up**

### **WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION – A DAY TO CALL YOUR OWN**

*Women of all ages coming together for prayer, quiet time and faith sharing.*

A quiet place is something one doesn't find often enough in today's world. Yet, it's vital to those seeking to deepen their awareness of God, to explore Christian spirituality and to investigate their own lives. In responding to God's presence, one finds a joy and peace that only solace can bring.

Come and join us on **A Day to Call Your Own.**

The Sacred Heart Parish of Mildura would like to invite women of all ages in our parish and school community to a **WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION.** The day will be facilitated by Sister Veronica Quinn from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

**WHEN : February 13, 2007**

**WHERE : Sacred Heart Church**

**TIME : 9.30 am till 2.00 pm**

**RSVP February 1, 2007**

**Parish Office 03 50212872**

We have invitations at each of the Church entrances. Please take one and consider joining us on February 13, 2007.

## **OTHER NOVICES**

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

We are in need of Servers for the Christmas Masses. Please phone Margaret McDonald on 5022 1531 if you can help. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help.

### **MUSIC OVER CHRISTMAS**

**5.00 p.m. Mass (Children's Mass) Christmas Eve**  
Megan Sullivan, Jacinta Macri, Alexandra Treloar

**7.00 p.m. Mass Christmas Eve**

Margaret Hammond, Liliane Crouch, Bill Lewis and the Choir Group

**10.00 p.m. Mass Christmas Eve**

Mega Liesman and the Choir Group.  
All welcome.

**10.00 a.m. Christmas Day**

Marion Guthrie and anyone who would like to join her. **All welcome.**

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

We will be running the last Children's Liturgy for 2006 this weekend at the Saturday evening Mass. Children's Liturgy will recommence in Term 1, 2007.

Thank you to all the children who have participated over the last eleven weeks. A special thanks also to the Children's Liturgy team - Clare Sheahan, Daryl Thomas, Tania Spagnolo, Mim Doyle, Margaret Nugent, Toni Fox and Lucy Fotia - we are very grateful for your time and talents in helping the children more fully understand the Gospel readings each week.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS**

We will be celebrating a children's mass on Christmas Eve, **Sunday, December 24 at 5pm.**

Any children who would like to be involved in the Nativity Play please come to the next practice on **Sunday, December 17 at 3pm.** We need more shepherds, angels and sheep. Thank you to the children who came to the practice on Tuesday. There will be a final practice on the **December 24 at 4pm,** just before Mass. If you have any

inquiries or would like more information please contact Jen Ditchfield at the Parish Office on 5021 2872, or at home on 5021 5966.

**SISTERS OF MERCY**

This past week our Sisters celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland. Last Tuesday also saw the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Ballarat Sisters of Mercy. We congratulate our Sisters and assure them of our prayers for all they are and do in our parish, and indeed throughout Australia. Ad multos annos!

**WANTED – Volunteers for Christmas Masses**

We need people who are able to assist at each of the Christmas Masses, for example: Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Offertory Gifts and Collectors. On the table at the back of the church (stair case) are lists for each Mass. Would you please put your name down for whichever Mass you will be attending and in what capacity you are prepared to assist. Thank you.

**THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC MISSION**

“Catholic Mission thanks this church community for its generous support and prayers and response to our World Mission Sunday Appeal. Your contribution of \$2,520.20 will go far to alleviate the suffering of our sisters and brothers. You also support local communities in developing countries, as well as here in outback Australia, work tirelessly for a vibrant Church presence so that the Gospel message can be heard and embraced.”

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE  
MEDIA RELEASE – December 1, 2006**

Mr. David Hicks has been detained without trial at Guantanamo Bay since 2001, with no ability to contest the accusations against him. There is now heightened concern for his physical and mental health, in conditions which reputable human rights agencies have said are tantamount to torture.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference today called for the Australian citizen to be given a prompt and just trial or returned to Australia.

If Mr. Hicks has a case to answer he should be tried without further delay by a competent and independent tribunal with protections of the rule of law that all Australians would expect. A continuation of the current situation is not acceptable. Australia has a duty as a member of the world community to uphold standards of justice and decency. Historically, Australia and its allies have a proud record in supporting these principles, both within and outside their borders. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference calls on the Australian and U.S. Governments to resolve this issue urgently.

**Contact:** Bishop Christopher Saunders on 0418 260 155 or John Ferguson on 02 9956 5811.

**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – December 10**

Phillip Ruddock, the Attorney General, will be in Mildura on **Tuesday, December 19.** Parishioners are invited to attend a peaceful rally at 105 Lemon Avenue, Mildura, at 10.00 a.m. If you are unable to attend, you are invited to sign both a petition to the Senate, and/or a Christmas card to be sent to David. Both of these will be at the back of the church after Mass, or call Kathy 5023 0472.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY REFLECTIONS**

We had our second meeting last week and more people are coming on board and for that we are grateful. Stacey Atkins, the World Youth Day Co-ordinator for the Diocese is coming to visit us on the weekend of March 16, 17, 18. We shall launch our WYD Programme that weekend at Masses and with a social gathering of those interested in attending the WYD and those who wish to be involved on the local scene. Moves are being made to make 5.00 p.m. Mass of a Sunday a Youth Mass from time to time. On Saturday, October 20, the Youth Cross and the Icon will arrive at Merbein and then be brought to Mildura on the PS ‘Ruby’ in time for the evening Mass. So lots of things are slowly coming together. Watch this space for more news in the coming weeks.

**LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Every Day With Jesus is the title of **2007’s Lenten Discussion Program**, based on the Sunday gospels from Lent to Pentecost. The focus of the 2007 program is a particularly apt one for groups of Christians – to reflect on the words and deeds of Jesus and the many ways we are members of the Body of Christ in our everyday lives. There will be one 90 minute meeting per week for 6 weeks, commencing Ash Wednesday week in February. There is your choice of days/times - at home or in the Hillman Room, or elsewhere. (The cost is \$10 for your 80-page booklet – money will be collected at meetings).

*This program is something to ‘take on’ for Lent and provides each participant with the opportunity to pray, meditate and deepen their personal relationship with Jesus.*

If you are interested in the Lenten Discussion Groups please fill in the following form and return it to the Parish Office:

**Name**.....

**Phone**.....

**Preferred day(s)**. ....

**Time(s)**.....

**Place(home/Hillman Room/elsewhere :**

**(optional) I am willing to:**

- (a) be a leader
- (b) have the meetings at my home

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Columban Calendars are on sale at the Kiosk for \$6.00, the same price as last year. BE QUICK!

**NEW BOOK** on St. Luke’s Gospel by Fr. John McKinnon - \$10 – from the Parish Office.

**Last Week’s Collections**

<b><u>Priests’ Support</u></b>	<b>\$1,254.00</b>
<b><u>Parish Support</u></b>	
Direct Debit and Credit Cards:	577.53
Envelopes	1,699.10
Loose Plate	390.25
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$2,666.88</u></b>

**Scripture Note**

The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near (First Reading). God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride. The theme of joy is even more emphatic in the Second Reading. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near. (Paul was thinking about the Second Coming, which he believed was near). So there is no need to worry. If they need anything, they are to pray for it, and the peace of God will be with them. The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord’s coming and to escape his searching

judgement. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus.

**REFLECTION**

**JOY**

There is a clear note of joy in today’s liturgy. Joy is a blend of laughter and tears. It consists in having a love affair with life. It is having a heart aglow with warmth for all one’s companions on the road of life. It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages, knowing that big packages are few and far between. It is making the most of the present, enjoying what is at hand right now. Joy is love bubbling over into life. And it can coexist with pain. Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace, Has taken up residence in our hearts.

**OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY** – Summer edition is now available in the porches for you to take.

*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.*

<b>W/end Dec 16/17</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>8.00 a.m.</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>	<b>5.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Sr. Pat	T. Aust	C. Conway-Weel	St. Paul’s P. S.
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	J. Hall M. Crimmins M. Joseph P. Kelleher M. Roper S. Tisler K. Girke	D. Pemberton L. Welsh M. Gobbo S. Cyril E. Fraunfelder L. Belej T. Panuccio	N. Lewis N. Pardo S. Hermans R. Barbary I. Barbary T. McNamara R. Byra M. Grivec	W. Finn T. Finn P. Cox M. Ransome F. Virgona
<b>Counting Team</b>	Team 8 – Captain Trevor Aust – 5023 6597			
<b>W/end Dec 23/24</b>				
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	S. Girke L. Roden J. De Jong H. De Jong M. Capogreco L. Gooch K. Burns	D. Brown P. O’Donnell F. Carbone B. Weightman G. Scopacasa M. Scopacasa B. Dolence	F. Caldarelli C. Carmichael R. Op’t Hoog R. Op’t Hoog E. Mazza G. Raiti F. Chiavone T. Chiavone	M. Zema J. Zema S. Walker J. Ribarits J. Rocca P. Rocca
<b>Counting Team</b>	Team 9 – George Dolence – 5023 7993			