



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



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16th January 2011 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass times this week

Sat 6.00pm St Anne's
Sat 8.30am St Anne's
Sun 8.30am St Anne's
10.30am St Anne's
5.30pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Mon 9.15am Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tues N/A

Weds 9.15am St Anne's Church

Thurs N/A

Fri 9.15am Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.00am—10.30am O.L.M.C.
Church

READINGS NEXT WEEKEND

1st reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

MEETING THIS WEEK

Mon 17 Jan 7.00pm St Vincent de Paul
—St Anne's Church

EMMAUS CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The PrayerGroup usually meets at St Anne's Church at 10.15am on Thursdays. The next meeting will be on Thursday 3 February. All welcome including children. Further info/transport please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 9744 4029.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR BISHOP JOE GRECH

The Memorial Mass being organised by Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be held at Our Lady, Help of Christians Church, 49 Nicholson St East Brunswick on Thursday 20 January at 3.00pm. Praise and worship 2.15pm, Holy Mass 3.00pm. Main celebrant Fr Colin Xavier). Enquiries: CCR centre —9486 6544 or email centre@ccr.org.au

I HAVE SEEN AND I AM THE WITNESS

Today's Gospel focuses on following Jesus, on becoming his disciple. The word 'disciple' means follower, learner, and a prerequisite to learning is a willingness to be open to change. The first disciples had come to John to listen to his message of repentance. Now John points them to Jesus and they follow him. As we know, change isn't always easy. We become emotionally attached, 'hook' on to things, ideals, beliefs and habits; our way of being and doing; and often resist growth. What was it that attracted these first disciples to John and then to Jesus? For what were they seeking? They must have had a certain openness to listen, to learn, to change. Two qualities readily recognisable in John are his humility and his ability to point out the presence of God, making his witness effective and appealing, and inspiring to others. The first chapter of John's Gospel traces the journey of discipleship from seeking Jesus, to finding him, to following him and 'abiding' with him. Getting to know Jesus, adopting his vision of the kingdom, building a personal relationship. 'With-ness' is the starting point of witness! Showing the way to others.

On this day that begins again 'ordinary time' the Gospel speaks of two things: the identity of Jesus: the mission of Jesus. We need to know who Jesus is and what his mission is to be his disciples.

Who are the people who point Jesus out for me?

What kind of witness to Jesus do I give?

What kind of witness would I like to give? To develop over this new year?

Even though today's Gospel comes from St John, for most of Year A we read from the Gospel of Matthew. In chapter 13:52 we hear Jesus saying 'Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old'. The scribe, in this context, is the disciple who truly hears the Word of God and understands it. In his recent writing *Verbum Domini*, the Pope said that scripture is one aspect of the 'symphony of voices' through which God communicates with us. That 'being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a definitive direction'. We need to let the Word of God shape us.

The second part of the document speaks of the Church as a reality which is defined by its acceptance of the Word of God and the living relationship with Jesus Christ to which every member of the Church is called. And in the final section, Pope Benedict reminds us that the mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all the baptised, and no believer should consider themselves dispensed (this reflection has been based on an article in *The Tablet*, written by Fr. J Deehan, 11 Dec. 2010).

In 2011 how can we develop a consciousness of this in our heart, in our Parish, in our neighbourhood? How can we learn to become better listeners to the Word of God? How can we become more familiar with the scriptures, growing our personal and communal relationship with Jesus? What can we offer from our treasure of what is new and what is old?

REFLECTION

‘Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb....’ - Isaiah 49:5

God has formed each of us as His servants from the womb. He blessed us with unique gifts and He provided us with the talents and skills we would need to do his work. If we do not fulfill the unique vision that God had for us alone, who will do it.?

THANK YOU

Special Collection last weekend: amount donated for St Vincent de Paul Rockhampton—\$1,938.40.

A VOCATION VIEW:

Isaiah's vocation was to be a light to the nations. Nations and neighbourhoods need missionaries - lay, clergy and religious. Listen to the call!

CENTACARE CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES COUNSELLING SERVICES

now available at Sunbury Community Health Centre. Confidential services offered for families, couples, children, adolescents, individuals and groups. Workshops and information sessions include grief and loss, relationships, family issues, parenting, children and adolescents, as well as preparing and adjusting to change. This is a free service funded by the Federal Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs. Bookings can be made on 1800 223 650 or directly with the Counsellor, Margaret Bailey, on 0407 307 811. A few brochures are at Welcoming Desk.

WORLD MISSION DAY APPEAL

Catholic Mission thanks you for your response to the World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity empowers us to witness Christ's love in 160 countries of the world. In contributing \$1,196.70 you have joined fellow Catholics throughout the world, even in the poorest areas, in supporting Christ's mission to all people.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFERS PRAYERS AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE IN QUEENSLAND FLOODS

‘The Australian Catholic Bishops and people around Australia are united in prayer and practical support as the State of Queensland suffers its worst flooding in decades. The bishops extend heartfelt sympathy to the victims and their families.

Archdiocesan priest, Fr John Conway, is currently the administrator of three parishes in an area at the bottom of the Toowoomba ranges. He and people in the area are responding in the aftermath: ‘I'd like to express my gratitude to all the people and priests across Australia who have rung to offer support. Many places still have no drinking water, roads are damaged so trucks can't get through. We can't get fuel, milk, bread. We're basically rationing everything’, he said.

St Vincent de Paul Queensland President Brian Moore hopes to assist people as quickly as possible: ‘We are appealing for money to get to the conferences to give concrete support to those affected. When the water subsides, Vinnies is going to be there for months meeting the needs of people. It is really heart wrenching to see all the people affected by these floods.

For those who did not have the opportunity last weekend to donate to the Special Collection last weekend for St Vinnies, Rockhampton, phone 13 18 12 or www.vinnies.org.au which will allow you to contribute to the St Vincent de Paul Statewide appeal’.

JOURNEY TOGETHER—REFLECTING ON OUR CHRISTIAN MISSION IN SMALL NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS

Our Lenten/Easter program this year will be centred on the booklet ‘Journey Together’ - the themes are: a parish called to holiness, Jesus the Word of God, Leadership, Unity, our gifts, participation and Mary, Model of the Church. Pope Benedict in London in September 2010, said ‘One of the greatest challenges facing us today is how to speak convincingly of the wisdom and liberating power of God's Word to a world which all too often sees the Gospel as a constriction of human freedom instead of the truth which liberates our minds and enlightens our efforts to live wise and well, both as individuals and as members of society’.

There will be a sign-up opportunity in February.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thu 3 Feb	8.45am	Students begin classes at both our parish schools (earlier start than Government schools)
Tue 15 Feb	2.00pm & 7.30pm:	Information & Registration Sessions for parents wishing their children to celebrate Reconciliation and Eucharist in 2011
Tue 22 Feb	7.30pm	Information & Registration Sessions for parents wishing their children to receive Sacrament of Confirmation
Sat 26 Feb	11.00am to 6.00pm:	Celebration of 150 years of O.L.M.C. School
Sun 27 Feb	10.00am	Centenary Mass outside O.L.M.C. Church to celebrate 100 years of O.L.M.C. Parish
Sundays March 6, 13, 20:		Stewardship Program
March 9:		Ash Wednesday

.....Fr Kevin