



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429

Ph: 9744 1060 Fax: 9744 7786

Email: parishoffice@olmcsunbury.org.au

Website www.olmcsunbury.org.au (no longer working)

Parish WeblogSite olmcsunbury.wordpress.com

2nd January 2011 THE EPIPHANY

Mass times this week

Sat 6.00pm 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 7.00pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Weds 9.15am St Anne's

Thurs 9.15am Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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 42:1-4,6-7

2nd reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

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.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is presenting a retreat with Fr. Michael Manning SVD entitled 'Fifteen Faces of God' at Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, East Brunswick from Monday 17 January to Friday 21 January. Further info/transport please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 9744 4029.

JESUS IS SHOWN TO ALL OF US

The feast of Epiphany came to be celebrated about the fourth century and has always been a very important feast especially in the Eastern Churches. For the early Church, one of the biggest problems they faced was the realisation that even those who were not Jewish were invited to faith in Jesus as Lord. Even though his roots were in Judaism, Jesus was of significance to all people who seek the truth (Kath Boyle 'Summit' Vol. 37 p.23).

To understand this symbolic gospel, we need to look at the various responses to Jesus. The wise men are foreigners, not Jews. After a long and hazardous journey, how disappointed they must have been to find a poor child in a simple house rather than a mighty king in a palace. But they are open to God's revelation and bow down before him. Their expensive gifts are highly symbolic: gold was presented to kings, frankincense was offered to God and myrrh was used in anointing for burial.

In contrast, Herod and chief priests and interpreters of Scripture did not see what was before them. They sought only to do harm to Jesus. This is the first indicator that these leaders would take Jesus' life.

How open are we to God's spirit and revealing Himself in unusual and puzzling circumstances? How inclusive are we of newcomers from a different culture?

As Christians, there is no room for discrimination and racism. A historian recently recalled how Cardinal Knox, our former archbishop, as a young man was so against racism. Later when he was in British East Africa, he recommended to the Pope local priests to be ordained bishops and helped indigenise the African Church.

VALE FATHER TONY HICKS Ph.D., P.P

Fr Tony entered eternal life last Tuesday after a long illness. Tony was one of us forty-one students who began our formation as priests at Werribee in 1963. Tony was a former teacher. We were ordained together in 1970. Tony was extraordinarily gifted intellectually. He was a musician and a psychologist. He studied psychology at Melbourne University and his doctoral thesis was published in the prestigious 'American Journal of Psychology'.

Then he ministered as a counsellor at Centacare Catholic Family Services and a consultant psychologist at the Marriage Tribunal for ten years. His first appointment as parish priest was at West Heidelberg where he was well loved and established the Exodus Community for people on the margins. Later, he was transferred and became pastor of two parishes—Surrey Hills and Wattle Park. His funeral Mass is on Tuesday at 11.00am at Wattle Park followed by burial at Springvale.

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family of Marion Priestley of Diggers Rest, aged 57 years, who entered eternal life the day after receiving Viaticum (Eucharist for the dying) at home. Her Funeral was held at St Anne's Church on Friday attended by a large congregation.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

As we celebrated our hundredth Christmas Day as a parish (1911—2010) it is estimated that 19.8% of the Catholics recorded by the Commonwealth Census in our parish were present at one of the four Masses, as the total attendance was about 2,850.

KENYAN MISSION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Six parishioners have volunteered—further volunteers are welcome. Donations have been received.

BE AWARE

While attending 6.00pm Mass prior to Christmas, parishioners who had parked their 4WD on Council land facing St Anne's Church returned to find the bumper bar had been dismantled and removed by thieves.

VALE BISHOP JOSEPH GRECH

In 1971, he came to Australia from Malta on his own and completed his formation for the priesthood in Melbourne being ordained in 1974 (part of a group of 30 Victorian priests—the record highest number of ordinations at Corpus Christi College). Later he became involved in the Charismatic Renewal movement. He was ordained a bishop in 1999 in Melbourne. In 2001 he became bishop of Sandhurst (Bendigo). As a migrant, he understood the conditions of migrants and refugees, and represented the Australian Catholic Bishops on the issues of migrants and asylum seekers. Suffering a blood disease, he was in hospital a few days before, surrounded by priest friends, he entered eternal life last Tuesday.

THE NEW YEAR 2011

- Our town Sunbury is celebrating its 175th year. The Christian Churches are planning a celebration in Lent for the 175th Year.
- In our neighbourhoods, we shall launch groups to share the Word of God and reflect on life in Lent/Easter time.
- Both our schools will have the full use of their new facilities and a number of new staff.
- We shall bless and open the new school facilities at O.L.M.C. School, have a school reunion and celebrate our final centenary event on February 26 and 27.

Wishing you blessings at Christmas and in 2011,

....Fr Kevin



REFLECTION

'Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh' - Matthew 2:11.

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for him is an image that we should all try to embrace. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus offering him what he needs.

We can remember that we are called to share our gifts by keeping one of the Magi from our nativity set or dresser as a year-round reminder to bring our gifts to Jesus.