



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



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9th January 2011 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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 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 49:3, 5-6
2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
Gospel: John 1:29-34

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.

THIS IS MY SON

The first public moment in Jesus' adult life was his baptism. He walked about 110 km from Nazareth to be baptised by John the Baptist in the Jordan River traditionally about 10 km north of the Dead Sea.

John's role has been to 'prepare the way of the Lord'. He realises who Jesus is and wants to bow out of the action. However Jesus insists on being baptised saying 'leave it like this for the time being for righteousness sake' (Mat 3:14).

Both men are open to God's plan and Jesus is rewarded by hearing the Father say 'This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on him'. Jesus' mission grew out of a profound sense of being loved and chosen by God.

For Matthew, Jesus is not only Son of God but also servant. The vocation that he received at his baptism means that he must communicate the Good News of the Kingdom in words/deeds, but also in person. As the gospel story develops, Jesus comes to realise the only way to fulfil his Father's will and thus serve others is to give his life. The cross thereby becomes the ultimate form of service. Our calling from our baptism means our serving others.

Following the practice of John, the first Christians were immersed into running streams or rivers. Later large fonts were built in Churches and baptism of the faithful, usually adults, was by immersion which symbolises the tomb. The person enters into the depths and darkness of the tomb and rises to new life in Christ, symbolised by the white garment worn at baptism and by the white pall over the coffin. The immersion also is a symbol of our physical birth from the waters of the womb. In baptism we are re-born into the life of faith.

As we enter our sacred place for worship together and we bless ourselves in the name of the Trinity with the baptismal water, let us re-commit ourselves to service as Jesus was committed to being as the opening of our first reading today 'Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one' (Isaiah 42:1).

NEED FOR MORE PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

As in most Western countries, we have a decreasing number of active priests. As at today, there are 35 active parish priests serving in Melbourne Archdiocese who are aged 70 years or more. In five years they will have reached the age of 75 years the retirement age, unless they need to retire earlier for health reasons or indeed enter eternal life. Usually there are two or three new priests ordained annually in Melbourne.

As we celebrate Jesus' beginning his vocation at his baptism, let us encourage our sons and grandsons to be open to a priestly vocation of service.

KING JAMES BIBLE

The King James Bible was first printed 400 years ago this year. It took seven committees to make the book—six to translate and a seventh to revise. The King wanted to bring unity among Christians. The translation steered middle way between the Puritans and the ‘Papists’. Today 250,000 copies are printed annually by Oxford University Press and it is the widely used translation in U.S.A. and U.K.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL QUEENSLAND FLOOD APPEAL

People who have lost clothing, food and furniture will need help as the waters recede. St Vinnies will be there for the long term as they were in Darwin after Cyclone Tracey. Today’s collection will be forwarded to St Vincent de Paul Society in Rockhampton.

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.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION ON WORD OF GOD

Pope Benedict has written this recent exhortation following the twelfth Synod of Bishops. The letter comes out as we begin reading the Gospel for Matthew for 2011. Matthew is the scribe and evangeliser who focuses on Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture and the handing on of his mission to the Church.

‘The document of the Pope has a joy and freshness about it, even when it is not breaking new ground. It will remind us of what we have known about, but not consciously adopted and encourage us to persevere in or being afresh our efforts to make our parishes true schools of the words and Word of God’ (Fr. John Deehan, P.P. Eastcote, U.K.).

As St Jerome says: ‘ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ’.

In the celebration of the Eucharist, the Pope writes ‘the proclamation of God’s Word entails an acknowledgement that Christ is present, that he speaks to us and that he wishes to be heard.

Hence, as readers of the Word we need to be well prepared; as listeners were to be present on time for the whole of Mass and be active listeners like singers in a choir ready to join in song. The Pope also stresses the importance of periods of silence after the Scripture readings—we need to practice this in our parish and not be self-conscious of silence.

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