



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



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20th February 2011 THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 O.L.M.C.
Weds 9.15am St Anne's Church
Weds 11.00am Lions Hostel
Thurs 9.15am St Anne's Church
Fri 9.15am St Anne's Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

READINGS NEXT WEEKEND

1st reading: Isaiah 49:14-15
2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

REFLECTION

*'Do not worry about tomorrow;
tomorrow will take care of itself' -*

Matthew 6:34

Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two masters. In many ways, worry is the other master in our lives. We worry about our job, our house, our family and our health. We worry about our future plans, our dreams and our goals.

Today, God gives us a soothing message. Do not let worry rule your life. Put God first and He will take care of everything else.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tue 22nd 2.00pm or 7.30pm Parish
Centre Information & Registration
Session for Confirmation For all
schools

Tue 22nd 7.40pm Liturgy Planning

Wed 23rd 7.30pm Stewardship
Direction

THE DIFFICULT SACRAMENT

I can't think of a more difficult Sacrament than the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is always difficult for us to show our dark side to another human being. It is not easy to show our failures, our weaknesses and our sins to another.

Since Vatican II this Sacrament has been avoided like the plague. People are staying away from it in droves. If the people who come regularly to Sunday Eucharist number approximately 10-12% of Catholics, then the number who frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation is hardly 1%. These **figure** I've plucked out of thin air, but I guess they are not far off the mark. Prior to Vatican II, confession involved coming up with a long list of sins meticulously set down according to kind and number. Just getting this list together was excruciatingly painful. It often led to scruples and torment of soul. When the penitent left the confessional, there was that lingering fear that not everything had been confessed. The emphasis was on 'confession' of sins. Had we not gone back to Pharisaic legalism instead of true repentance?

This impersonal and legalistic approach to the Sacrament has scared off more than we can possibly imagine. Instead of seeing the Sacrament as an encounter with the God of love and mercy revealed by Jesus, we allowed ourselves to be frightened off by the God of the Pharisees. Jesus is God-made-man. When Jesus speaks, God speaks. When Jesus acts, God acts. When Jesus befriends sinners, God befriends sinners. When Jesus refuses to condemn the sinful woman, God refuses to condemn her.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation...

...is an encounter with Jesus, the friend of sinners, the healer of wounded souls.

...is an encounter with the One who preached 'blessed are the merciful' and who practiced what he preached.

...is an encounter with the One who preached forgiveness and practiced it.

...is an encounter with the One who tells the sinner to go home and sin no more.

...is an encounter with the One who tells us to repent and believe the good news.

...is an encounter with the One who said to the repentant Zacchaeus, **'today, salvation has come to your house'**.

Lent is the season of repentance, and the best time for us to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a better understanding of what it means. The emphasis is not on a **'grocery list of our sins'** – as if confession is our principal concern – the emphasis is on an encounter with Jesus, the merciful, compassionate healer of souls. It is a **celebration**. The parish will offer a **Penitential Service** on Tuesday 12 April at 7.30pm in St Anne's Church. The Church should be packed to the rafters, for after all we have all sinned, we have all fallen short of the mark, and we all need healing and reconciliation.

.....Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

**BLESSING OF NEW SCHOOL
ROOMS AT O.L.M.C. AND
STUDENT REUNION**

Sat 26 February 11.00 to 11.30am—
Blessing of new building. School
Tours—12 noon, 1.00pm & 2.00pm.
Old time games on oval—12.30pm
and 2.30pm. Memorabilia Displays
and souvenir sales all day until
6.00pm. Devonshire Tea, BBQ and
drinks available from 11.30am to
6.00pm. All are welcome to
celebration 150 years of O.L.M.C.
School.

**PARISH CENTENARY 27
FEBRUARY**

The concluding celebration to our
year's celebration is our Mass next
Sunday at 10.00am beginning at
O.L.M.C. Church, our first church.
After 20 minutes of the Liturgy of the
Word, we shall travel and continue our
Mass with the Liturgy of the Eucharist
in St Anne's Church which will
accommodate the numbers. Morning
Tea will follow.

**CURRENT CRISES IN MENTAL
HEALTH**

Current Crisis in Mental Health, a
presentation by John McGrath, former
Deputy Chair of Beyond Blue at St
Francis' Pastoral Centre, Lonsdale St.
City on Wed 23 February 12 noon to
1.00pm. Sponsored by St Vincent de
Paul Society.

**OVER 200 YEARS OF PRIESTLY
SERVICE**

Over 200 yrs of Priestly Service have
been given by four parish priests who
are retiring in early months of 2011—
Fr. Frank Arnold (Blackburn North)
Fr. Cyril Blake (Highett) Fr. Eleni
Cafarella (Altona) Fr. John
Cunningham (Ivanhoe). We thank
them for their service to the People of
God of the Melbourne Archdiocese
and wish them well in their retirement.

WELCOME

We welcome to Melbourne Fr. Martin
Adichilam Ackal, who is on loan from
India and is appointed to Essendon
West and Moonee Ponds parishes.

SALESIAN COLLEGE

Applications for Year 7/2012 are currently being accepted at Salesian
College, Rupertswood, Sunbury and will close on Wednesday 2 March.
It is imperative that applications are received by this date. Applications
received after this date will be treated as LATE and will not be considered
in the first round of placement offers.

There will be an OPEN DAY on Tuesday 22 February 9.00am—12.30pm
for interested parents/students.

Further info., assistance and Enrolment Application Forms are available at
the College Office. Call in or phone 9744 0000.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Welcome to the newest member of our Altar Servers Team—Connor
Carville.

New members always welcome—contact Michael McConville 9744 2674.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group welcomes all youth between Prep to Yr 12 to join in
some indoor fun and outdoor activities. The Youth Group gathers every
fourth Sunday at 6.30pm at St Anne's Church. The next gathering is 27
February. Please join! Bring along friends!

EVERGREENS

- (1) First function for the year—Thursday 17 March, St Patrick's Day.
Seniors' lunch at Sunbury Football Club 12 noon —A La Carte
menu. Cost \$14. Bookings Frances 9744 1999.
- (2) Tuesday 5 April—speaker from Sunbury Community Register
followed by afternoon tea at 2.00pm in Parish Centre. Cost \$5.00.
Bookings Frances 9744 1999.

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

We offer to the family of Peter Egly killed instantly riding his
motorcycle. Peter, the son of refugees from Communist Hungary,
came to Diggers Rest in our parish in late 1970's. His Funeral
Service is on Tuesday.

MADRID WORLD YOUTH DAY

Costs have lessened. The week in Madrid is now \$4,850.00,
extensions to Italy and Holy Land are \$6,300.00. Final payments
due 15 April. Enquiries Archdiocesan Office for Youth—9412
3326.