



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



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## 3rd April 2011 THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### 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 Church

Thurs 9.15am St Anne's Church

Fri 9.15am St Anne's Church

Sat 8.30am St Anne's Church

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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

### READINGS NEXT WEEK

1<sup>st</sup> Ezekiel 37:12-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Romans 8:8-11

3<sup>rd</sup> John 11:1-45

### SALESIAN COLLEGE

Applications for Year 7/2012 are still being accepted at Salesian College 'Rupertswood' Sunbury. Further info, assistance and Enrolment Application forms are available at the College Office—please call in or contact the Registrar on 9744 0000.

### PROJECT COMPASSION

Your donation allows Caritas Australia to alleviate poverty and bring hope and justice to disadvantaged communities throughout the world.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Vinnies is seeking retail volunteers to help out in our Sunbury Centre, 156 O'Shanassy St. No retail experience is necessary. Contact the manager on 9744 144

### **OPEN OUR EYES, LORD**

*'So when the Pharisees asked the man how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes and I washed, and I can see'.* (John 9:15) This simple and straightforward statement of 'the facts' gives a clear insight into the spirituality of the man who had been born blind. He lived in a world where things were what they seemed to be. They might be more than they seemed to be, but they were not different from what they seemed to be. He had learned by experience that a rock on the road would trip him up, or a half-opened door would give him a sore head! His view of reality, and more particularly, of other people, was not pre-conditioned by a whole range of theories, rules or social customs. His blindness had taught him to deal with things honestly as he himself found them - and that if he did not, there would often be painful consequences.

We saw a few weeks ago, looking at Father Ron Rolheiser's exploration of what genuine Christian spirituality might be, that everyone has a spirituality, whether they recognise it or not. Our 'spirituality' is the way that we look at and deal with all elements of the world in which we are immersed. Our spirituality is affected by the clarity of our vision - how precisely and accurately we perceive what is happening around us (this is more difficult in one sense for someone who is blind, but certainly not in every sense, as the man in the Gospel so clearly demonstrates). Very often though, it is much more significantly affected by the kind of glasses that we choose to wear! It is always amusing to see people wearing sunglasses inside - but we all do it most of the time, spiritually or interiorly if not physically, without being aware of it.

Father Ron refers to the first of four non-negotiable pillars of a sound Christian spirituality - a sound way of living in and interacting with the world around us that is in communion with the life and teaching of Jesus - as 'private prayer and private morality'. We can put this in the form of two questions which we can ask ourselves:

*How do I communicate with God, with other people and with the environment in which I live?*

*How do I act in relationship with God, with other people and with the environment in which I live?*

In his masterful narration of this incident John clearly draws out the contrast between the spirituality of the man born blind and the spirituality of the Pharisees. The once blind man's perception of what is happening and his response to it is much closer to that of Jesus - he deals with events and persons, including the Pharisees, in a straightforward, unpreconditioned manner. He, like Jesus, takes them as they are and responds simply and honestly. He is a free but responsible person.

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.....The still blind Pharisees, on the other hand, see everything and everyone 'through the spectacles' of the rules of correct religious (not making paste on the Sabbath) and social (the blind man is a social outsider, unclean because he is 'sinful') rules or customs. The real difficulty for them comes about because they mistakenly think that these rules and customs are immutable and 'God-given'. It is precisely this spirituality that Jesus opposes so systematically throughout his ministry, particularly as we see it in John's Gospel.

For the past seven years I have had the honour and grace of working with Irene Morse. In the tradition of John and St Benedict, she does not wear spiritual glasses! In her time working in this community she has opened the eyes of many of us to a clearer vision of 'what no eye has seen and no ear heard', and has brought great comfort to many in their time of need. Thanks Irene.

.....Richard Hallett

### **LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Our Lenten Penitential Service will be held on Tuesday 12 April at 7.30pm at St Anne's Church based on the gospels of the Sundays of Lent Year A.

### **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

We would appreciate hearing from anyone available to read at any of our Easter Celebrations. Please contact Joanne Spiteri on 0448 566 270 or 97407151.

### **EMMAUS CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

The group will not meet on Thursday April 14 but will be attending a ladies' day at the CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, Nth Fitzroy (enter from Dean Street) from 10.00am to 3.00pm. BYO lunch to share. Those attending will meet at St Anne's church at 9.00am. All ladies welcome. Further info/transport please contact Lambert & Elaine on 9744 4029.

## **PREP 2012 ENROLMENTS**

Applications for enrolment at our two schools should be forwarded to the school office before this Friday 8 April. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics reveal a further increase in Catholic school enrolment in Victoria.

From 2005 to 2010, enrolments increased 5.3%. Parents are choosing Catholic schools for their unique and distinctive learning environment and their strong academic results. In 2010, Catholic schools in Victoria continued to score well above state averages in national tests.

### **SHARE THE DREAM—FAMILIES TRANSFORMING THE WORLD**

Friday 15 Apr—Sunday 17 Apr at Xavier College, Barkers Rd. Kew.  
Registration details on pamphlets at Welcoming Desk—

[www.sharethedream.org.au](http://www.sharethedream.org.au)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - tasks include serving meals, direct traffic, setting up rooms for workshop and other general assistance. Contact Matthew on 9287 5579.

### **STEWARDSHIP & FIRST COLLECTION**

At the recent Parish Information Session on Stewardship, a request was made for knowledge about the Presbytery Account which receives the First Collection, Baptism and Funeral donations. No money from Stewardship is deposited in the Presbytery Account.

30% of the Presbytery Account income is forwarded to support the ninety retired Melbourne priests, our four bishops, fifty-nine priests in parishes unable to support fully their priest and two Melbourne priests on overseas mission.

Other expenses paid from the account are: the payment of the lease and running costs of the priest's car, fees for Fr. Bert assisting at Sunday Mass, provision of food and laundry at the Presbytery, and finally a living allowance of \$320 a week from which the priest prays for his professional development, retreat, holidays, Thanksgiving Offering and other charities.

### **STEWARDSHIP 2011 PROGRAM**

The 2011 Stewardship Program is concluding with a very good result from our generous fellow parishioners pledging their prayer, their service to one another and their money. Full results are in the letter you will receive early this week with your pledge details and envelopes.

I thank those who have worked on the program as visitors collection from homes, as packers of brochures and envelopes, our speakers at Mass (John, Karen, Michael and Trish) our visiting priest Fr. Peter from Cheltenham, our office staff and Steve Littleton who directed the program.

In the next few weeks, the 155 Time & Talent sheets received will be sorted as there are 80 boxes on each sheet and volunteers contacted. This response of service was greater than in other programs in the past.

### **PRAYER FOR CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION**

Loving God, you have filled these children with the desire to be people of loving kindness and reconciliation and to be nourished in the Eucharist. May they ever deepen their awareness of your love for them and may they grow ever closer to your Son, Jesus, in their families and in our community.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.