



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



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26th December 2010 THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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

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 60:1-6

2nd reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

1911—2010: A HUNDRED CHRISTMAS MASSES

On 1 January 1911, Archbishop Thomas Carr established the parish of Sunbury. Hence, today is the 100th Christmas Mass celebrated by parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Our celebration today is yet another fulfilment of God's promise to be with us on our journey of life and faith. In Matthew's gospel last Sunday we heard of the prophecy of Christ's birth 'Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet' (Isaiah 7:14); 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us"' (Mat. 1:23).

In St John's gospel, we read 'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us'. Today as we gather to celebrate the Incarnation of our God among us, we remember how God has been beside us on our journey for a hundred years in good times and in bad.

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY —THE ASYLUM SEEKERS

Today the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is presented as model, not because it was 'ideal', but because in the midst of all their problems they trusted in God and in each other. St Matthew seeks to establish Jesus as the new Moses, called out of Egypt as God's chosen one.

The Holy Family is a victim of its own society. Fear of death drove Mary and Joseph to seek asylum in Egypt. Today, similarly desperate people seek asylum in Australia.

Until October, government policy was to keep in detention all who arrived without a visa. The Australian Catholic Bishops have urged the government to treat asylum seekers more humanely, as long term detention is harmful.

Now the government is establishing services in community settings so that unaccompanied minors and vulnerable families can be in the community. The program is being coordinated by the Australian Red Cross. Catholic agencies, including Centacare will provide support to these children and families.

Any parishioner with available accommodation for asylum seekers is invited to contact Centacare after 4 January on 9287 5504. The government has indicated that funding of rent is available.

THANK YOU

Special Collection Melbourne Overseas Mission - amount raised \$1368.60.

2010 IN REVIEW

Our centenary year has been full of activity and celebrations. In early February Bishop Tim Costelloe, our regional bishop, dedicated the new altar and font in St Anne's Church in a moving ceremony. In March we blessed the new Bell Tower at O.L.M.C. Church to house the bell first rung in 1911. In April over 450 attended a real Bush Dance in a huge shed on a local farm. In May 121 children were admitted to the Eucharistic Table of the Lord in ten sessions. In late May I celebrated with thanksgiving forty years of ordained priesthood. In June the adults tested their knowledge at a trivia night in a packed Parish Centre. In August the long process of selecting a new principal, Noelene Hussey, for St Anne's School concluded. In September our Parish Ball at the Calabria Club was a great success. Late September we gathered for Mass in the Bulla Hall to remember how Catholics first met in homes (nearby in Oaklands Road) for Mass from 1852 with the priest coming by horse from Coburg. In November we had the blessing and opening of the new classrooms and other facilities at St Anne's School. In December we farewelled Lucy Jackanic as she completed her term as principal. This year 141 Baptisms were celebrated in our church. In 1911 Fr. John Gallivan P.P. celebrated 13 Baptisms.

TODAY—THE LAST SUNDAY OF 2010

As we look back on 2010, let us be grateful for all we have received from our generous Lord and from each other.

We have had opportunities to pray together daily in one of our churches. We rejoice in the canonisation of our Melbourne Saint Mary Mackillop. We have been supported by the prayers of those housebound or in care. We have been blessed with new school facilities at our three Catholic schools. Our parishioners have been generous in Thanksgiving Offering so that we have paid off \$140,567 from our debt leaving us with a current debt of \$620,105. We have also paid for our running costs.

We also give thanks to those who gave their time and shared their talents this year: altar servers, Baptism preparation teams, bingo workers, church cleaners, crib erectors, collection counters, communion ministers to sick, education board, finance committee, flower providers, gardeners, Legion of Mary, liturgy ministers, liturgy planners, maintenance people, music ministers, neighbourhood coordinating teams, parish posties, parish coordinating team, P.T.F.A. (2), Parish Centre management committee, parish photographer, school helpers, those who set up for Masses, and website manager.

As I told Archbishop Hart, we have such a great team here.

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