

The following Children from our Parish will be Baptised this weekend:
Isabella CZELUSTA
Mia HUMPHREYS
Myles KENNEDY
We joyfully welcome them into our Parish Community.



YOUTH DESSERT COOK BOOK ON SALE NOW:
please order your Dessert Cook Book at the Parish Office on 9744 1060. Thank you to all those who contributed recipes. 30 pages of yummy dessert recipes that will make your mouth water. Cost of book is \$5.00.

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 9 DECEMBER: Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am. Rosary and other prayers will be recited from 12noon to 1pm.

DECEMBER LETTER TO ALL OUR HOUSEHOLDS: has been prepared and will be available to Neighbourhood Coordinators next weekend.

SING A LONG: the next sing a long at Goonawarra Aged Care will be on Friday 20 December at 2.30pm.

MELBOURNE OVESEAS MISSIONS APPEAL: DEC 7/8: since its foundation in 1969, Melbourne parishioners have supported Melbourne's own mission fund to help developing nations. This has marked our Archdiocese for its exceptional generosity. Currently, the major beneficiaries are people in Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Gambia, Ghana, Pakistan, Botswana, Nigeria and Peru. Archbishop Denis Hart commends the fund to your continuing support. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

SUNBURY CHRISTIANS PRAY FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT OF PHILIPPINES TYPHOON VICTIMS: Re: St Andrew's Church, on the Village Green on this Sunday 1 December at 2pm-2.45pm. The prayer service will include Scripture readings, shared prayer, silence, and lighting of candles. Rev. Peter Cannon of St Andrews and Fr Kevin are among the ministers taking part. Please bring a little afternoon tea to share. Our presence is to ask God's grace for the one million victims displaced by the typhoon. Our collection for Caritas Philippines was generously accepted. This Sunday, St Andrew's Uniting Church is taking up a similar collection.

FUTURE CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN OUR PARISH: as our parish is to increase significantly over the coming years, the Principals of our present three schools (OLMC, St Anne's and Salesian) and the coordinators of teaching and learning and myself as Parish Priest have met on three occasions for 12 hours to create a vision for the future of Catholic Education at both primary and secondary levels. We need to be proactive in accommodating the growth of students. The facilitators of the vision making have been very impressed by the cooperation between our three schools. We finalized the vision and set targets last Tuesday. The first initiative is a meeting of teachers involved in numeracy for Years 5 to 8 at all three schools on 10 December.

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: St Anne's Church– Raeleen Cataldo Anne Burnside
Skeeter Jacob Beth Girdwood
COUNTERS: Kelly Stark Vern & Maureen Walters
GIFT SHOP: Pat & Peter Readman John Porta
LECTORS: Colin Wilson Lyn Mandouit Elizabeth Falzon Kevin Crowley
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: **6.00pm** Dolores Kruszynski Shashi Nair Barry Roberts Yvonne Rozario Pauline Sharma Jean Skillecorn Jennifer Poon **8.30am** Elizabeth Falzon Lloyd D'Crus angelo Snell Graeme & Lynne Simpson John & Sheila Stafford Andrew Swan **10.30am** Tony Hendy Michael Hetherington Teresa Kiploks Nesta Pardo Sean Quigley Sue Wight **5.30pm** Maree O'Brien Maria Mallia Alan Slocombe

PARISH SOCIAL CALENDAR

EVERGREENS: Christmas Lunch & Nativity Play on **Friday 13 December.**
OLMC Years 1 & 2 have invited us to their Nativity play from 12-12.30pm.
Afterwards we will cross the road to the Ball Court Hotel for our Christmas Lunch and break up. Cost \$20. Bookings Frances 9744 1999. All Welcome.

CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN: Contact Peter Chivell (Encounter Church) 9744 2220 or 0417 542 545.

The Message of salvation through Jesus Christ will be brought to the community by a Nativity Stable, activities and songs on **Saturday 14 December.** Festivities on the Village Green start at 5pm, followed by the Carols at 7pm.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:
3-5pm setting up of marquees and nativity stable
5-7 and 7-9pm serving at the food stalls
5-7pm helping with children's activities
6-9pm keeping grounds and toilets tidy
After 9pm taking down of marquees and stable

Please find the volunteers sheet on the St Anne's Noticeboard and sign on to help making this event a success. If wanting to help with the children's activities, contact Wilmy 9740 9448.

There will be a get together for the volunteers at St Mary's Parish House on Saturday 7 December at 8.30am followed by a prayer meeting at 9.30am.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY– 3 DECEMBER: the theme this year is "Break barriers and open doors: to realize an inclusive society for all!" The International Day of People with Disability is observed annually on 3 December. In Australia, over many years, the Church has sought to take this day as an opportunity to encourage a truly pastoral view that embraces our total community as the living Body of Christ. We especially pray that we, the Church, can strive to be a people of compassion and relationship, and a sacred place where our gifts are acknowledged, received and celebrated; for then we can truly proclaim that we are 'one Body in Christ'.

TRUTH JUSTICE AND HEALING COUNCIL (TJHC): the Catholic Church will be the focus of the public hearing in December when "Towards Healing" (the Church document used for handling allegations of abuse) will be examined. Church entities are also likely to be the subject of public hearings in 2014. The TJHC have prepared some flyers for parishioners to take. They will be in the St Anne's foyer on the Welcome Desk. We encourage all parishioners to access the website at www.tjhcouncil.org.au for regular updates. Also, please continue to pray for those who are suffering from the abuse and betrayal of our Church.

WORLD AIDS DAY: Sunday December 1 is World AIDS Day. Please spare a thought for our HIV positive brothers and sisters, both locally and around the world, who continue to face discrimination and stigma in addition to the health challenges the virus presents. Next year Melbourne will host the International AIDS conference and the theme is to be "Stepping up the Pace". Please join with the delegates of AIDS 2014 in demanding an end to stigma and discrimination now and reflect upon, as we all should, how our thoughts, words and actions might perpetuate stigma & discrimination. And remember, there is great hope for people with the virus, provided they can access proper care and medicines, with treatment advances leading to much longer life expectancies.

LOURDES DAY MASS 2013: the Order of Malta invite you to Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 7 December at 10.30am. Additional information is on the flyer at the Welcome Desk in St Anne's church.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK:
Tuesday 3 Dec 7.00pm Inter Church Council Parish Centre
Wednesday 4 Dec 7.30pm Parish Finance Committee Parish Centre
Friday 6 Dec 10.00am Parish Maintenance Meeting Parish Centre



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429
Ph: 9744 1060 Fax: 9744 7786
Email: sunbury@cam.org.au Website: olmcsunbury.com



A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. This **New Year** in the Church's liturgical calendar will be called **YEAR A**, and **Matthew's Gospel** will guide us as we journey along with Jesus. Matthew is the only evangelist who refers to Jesus as **'Emmanuel'**, the God who is always with us. Not only do we journey with Jesus, but, more importantly, Jesus journeys with us.

Jesus, the son of Mary, but also **Son of God**, is God-incarnate, the Word made flesh, the God who pitched his tent among us. In Jesus, God enters the human condition, from cradle to the grave – or should I say, from the womb to the grave. Actually, Jesus takes us **beyond** the grave and, through his resurrection, leads us into life eternal.

As we daily go about our business coping with the vicissitudes of life, it is consoling to know that we do not journey alone. God is with us. This theme of **'God -with-us'** is like a golden thread in the tapestry of Matthew's Gospel. Not only does Matthew refer to Jesus early on as **'Emmanuel'** (Mt 1:23), but, lest we forget, half way through he puts into the mouth of Jesus the words: **'where two or three of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of you.'** And, as a final word, Matthew signs off with the words of the risen Lord ringing in our ears, **'and behold, I am with you always, yes even to the end of time.'** (Mt 28:20)

Each Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate God's deliberate choice to share the lot of our humanity. God enters fully into our human condition, with all its joys and sorrows, with all its failures and successes, with all its hopes and disappointments, with all its pain and suffering, with all its trials and tribulations, with all its richness and poverty, and with all its riskiness and vulnerability.

God did not spare his Son any suffering, nor did he stop him being crucified at the hands of those who plotted his death. Jesus did not receive any preferential treatment from his Father. If God so dealt with his Son, I can't for the life of me understand the Christian who turns his/her back on God because of personal loss or experience of tragedy. These people **do** exist who feel because they go to Church God owes them preferential treatment, and therefore, should spare them any pain or suffering.

If we think that the Father was unmoved by his Son's suffering, we run the risk of getting the wrong idea of God. God enters into our human suffering even when we think he is far away. **'God so loved the world, that he sent his only Son to redeem it'** (Jn 3:16). Christmas tends to be sentimentalised if we forget that the baby Jesus is **'going to be the Suffering Son of Man'**. Advent, the season that fills us with hope, gives way to the joyful season of Christmas, which in turn gives way to the penitential season of Lent that reaches its climax with the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we negotiate our way through the coming year, let us remind ourselves constantly that **'God is with us'**. God is certainly never against us nor is he aloof from us or indifferent to our suffering.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

POPE INVITES THE VIEWS OF SUNBURY CATHOLICS ON THE FAMILY: Pope Francis has invited parishioners from every diocese in the world, including the Archdiocese of Melbourne, to participate in a worldwide Catholic questionnaire on the many challenges facing the family today. It covers: faith in family life, marriage, divorce, annulment, same sex unions, natural family planning and the participation in sacraments as part of family life. Attached is a summary we have made of the questions to help us in the consultation which Pope Francis has set up. All responses will need to be returned by this Sunday 1 December. All replies will be collated and sent to the Melbourne Archdiocesan Office for Life, Marriage and the Family.

If you wish to read the original nine pages of questions, you may visit www.cam.org/synod. This is the first time a pope has consulted every fellow Catholic. Let us take up the opportunity.

.....Kevin McIntosh

Liturgy times this week
Sat: 6.00pm St Anne's
Sun: 8.30am St Anne's
10.30am St Anne's
5.30pm OLMC
Mon: 9.15am St Anne's– Liturgy of the Word
Tues: 6.30pm OLMC
Wed: 9.15am St Anne's
Thurs: 9.15am St Anne's
Frid: 9.15am St Anne's

Reconciliation
OLMC Church Saturday 10am– 10.30am

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
Assisting Priest: Rev Bert Fulbrook SDB.
Pastoral Associate: Mr Richard Hallett
Pastoral Associate: Sr Jose Noy RSJ
Pastoral Coordinator: Mrs Lyn Plummer
Deacon: Rev Linh Pham

St Anne's Primary School 9744 3055
St Anne's Principal : Noelene Hussey
Our Lady of Mt Carmel School 9740 7344
Principal : Paul Hogan

Baptisms: Celebrated on Sundays.
Please contact the Parish Office for details of the next Baptismal Preparation meeting.

1 December– First Sunday of Advent

Psalm Response:
Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Rodel ARCEO Shelley BEECHAM Mary DAKAKIS Lesbia HARMAN Vicki HEATH Alison HILTON Anna & Doug HUTCHISON Bill & Dawn JANNER Flor MADLANGAWA Triston MAMO Suzanne RENNISON Irma TAKAKIS Ela TRAFICANTE
Anniversaries: Sheila DAVISON Oscar MORRIS Joe, May & Willie MURPHY Bob & Alis TRACEY Anne ZERAFA

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEK

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS

The amazing work done by so many parishioners may go unnoticed by many. But the truth of the matter is that our parish would not function as well as it does if the volunteers did not continue to do what they do. We would like to express our Thanks by having gatherings with each mass this weekend. After the 6pm Mass, After 8.30am Mass, Before 10.30am Mass and after 5.30pm Mass we will share a cuppa and a chat with those who support our parish so well.



2014: A YEAR OF GROWTH
Today marks the start of a New Year in the Church's calendar. We are filled with hope that this year we will grow spiritually, not only as individuals, but as a parish community. The signs are encouraging because we see many parishioners giving so much of themselves in time, talent and loving service. Their contribution gives life to our parish, and for that we are truly thankful.
It was said of the early Christians, **'See how they love one another.'** Love is measured by service and ministry. One of my favourite characters in the gospels is the poor widow who put into the treasury two tiny copper coins, **'all she had to live on.'** God is not interested in the size of our gift, but in the generosity with which our gift is given. No matter how small my gift: all that is asked of me is to offer what little gift God has given me. The growth in our parish will continue to depend on the generosity of our gift of time, talent and ministry. John F Kennedy won't mind me changing his words to... **'Don't ask what your parish can do for you. Instead, ask what can I do for my parish?'**

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL: from Thursday 5 December to Saturday 7 December, Catholic Youth will be gathering for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. They will encounter inspiring speakers and uplifting music to enrich their faith journey. Please pray for the event to go well and bring the Holy Spirit to all involved in this celebration.



Reflection

Count your blessings instead of your crosses
Count your gains instead of your losses
Count your joys instead of your woes
Count your friends instead of your foes
Count your smiles instead of your tears
Count your courage instead of your fears
Count your full years instead of your lean
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean
Count your health instead of your wealth
Love your neighbour as much as yourself

Welcome to Advent:
Be alert and watchful for the needs of others this week and be ready to respond to those needs. Rejoice in the Unexpected



DIARY DATES FOR 2014 - WELCOMING CHILDREN INTO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:
First Reconciliation:
Families at OLMC and St. Anne's schools
Information and Registration sessions for parents and guardians: 2pm or 7.30pm, Tuesday 5 August, Parish Centre
Families at all other schools
Information and Registration sessions for parents and guardians: 2pm or 7.30pm, Tuesday 4 March, Parish Centre
All Families:
Celebration of First Reconciliation: 28 and 29 October, at St. Anne's Church
First Communion: All Families
Information sessions for parents and guardians: 2pm or 7.30pm, Tuesday 11 February, Parish Centre
Celebration of First Communion: 17,18,24,25,31 May, 1 June
Confirmation: All families
Information and Registration sessions for parents and guardians: 2pm or 7.30pm, Tuesday 3 June, Parish Centre
Celebration of Confirmation: 2pm and 4pm, Sunday 24 August at St. Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.
Baptism of School Age Children:
Saturday 28 June at 6.00pm Mass and Sunday 23 November at 10.30am Mass
Contact the Parish Office NOT LESS THAN 6 WEEKS before these dates to arrange preparation.

For more information contact the Parish Office on 9744 1060 or e-mail richard.hallett@cam.org.au
HELP WANTED: On 20 December, we are hoping to set up Rupertswood Stadium for Christmas Eve Mass. If you can assist with setting up chairs in the Stadium from 6pm on 20 December, it would be great. Many hands make light work and it is usually over in about half an hour. Also, on 24 December, we need attendants to help park cars. Traditionally, we have many people at Rupertswood Stadium and parking is made much easier with the assistance of volunteers. Please advise the Parish Office or Lyn Plummer if you are able to assist with this very important job.
MANY THANKS: to the generous people of this parish who donated a massive \$3157 to the Caritas- Haiyan Typhoon special collection. These funds are desperately needed to help restore essential items to those whose lives have been devastated by the Typhoon.



THE SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
As the Parish will be celebrating the second rite of reconciliation during Advent, parishioners may like to read through this explanation from the Liturgical Commission.
From Liturgy Lines
(Liturgy Lines are short 500-word essays on liturgical topics written by Elizabeth Harrington, The Liturgical Commission's education officer. They have been published every week in The Catholic Leader [Brisbane] since 1999. They may be reproduced by parishes for private non-commercial use, provided that the copyright line is retained)
The Second Rite of Reconciliation
Communal Reconciliation
Several years after Rome placed greater restrictions on its use, many Catholics still lament the loss of regular celebrations of the third rite of reconciliation. Communal reconciliation is still open to us, however, through the Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution, the second rite. Celebrated as it is intended, this form can fill the void left by the loss of the third rite.
The second form of the sacrament of penance is not a 'split-personality' liturgy in which the first half is a communal celebration and the second half a private one. Sometimes, however, the manner of celebration conveys exactly this impression. I have attended second rites where, after the introduction, liturgy of the word, and examination of conscience, the priests moved to the privacy of the church's confessionals and sacristies. One by one, people entered these rooms, often for a considerable length of time, to confess their sins and receive absolution. In fact, from this point on it was just like Saturday afternoon confessions, but with several priests and a much bigger crowd. People were even told to leave after they had had their 'turn' and not wait around for the concluding rites.
This is not at all what the second rite intends. Such poor celebrations turn people away and deprive them of a wonderful opportunity to experience communal reconciliation which 'shows more clearly the communal nature

of penance'. (Sacrament of Penance #22)
The second form of the sacrament of penance is a communal liturgical celebration from beginning to end. It begins with the community listening to the word of God. The homily emphasises our need for repentance and the infinite mercy of God. During the examination of conscience, the assembly reflects together on where and how they have fallen short of their baptismal commitment to follow Christ.
The individual confession and absolution that follows is communal too in that the penitents approach the confessors in full view of all present. The priests stand at appropriate points around the worship space in such a way that penitents can be seen but not heard by others. This is easily arranged in most churches. Those who wish to confess their sins approach one of the priests. While no restriction is placed on the individual's confession, good manners and common sense dictate that people limit the time they spend with confessors. More time for integral confession and spiritual guidance is available at the first rite.
It is a moving experience to witness fellow Christians humbling themselves by publicly approaching a confessor for forgiveness. As they do, we pray for them, that they will know the fullness of God's grace and mercy. After the confessions, the ceremony concludes with a proclamation of praise, a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing. These are an integral to the celebration, not an optional extra!
To ensure that the rite is celebrated in a fruitful way, both parishioners and the priests who will take part need to be informed well beforehand about the nature and purpose of the rite and their participation in it.
copyright: The Liturgical Commission



Sunbury Catholic Parish Advent Calendar 2013			
Wed 11 December	7.30pm	Second Rite Reconciliation	St Anne's Church
		(Visiting Priests Available- refer above)	
Tues 17 December		Novena Starts	
Sun 22 December	7.30pm	Festival of Readings & Carols	OLMC
Tues 24 December	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass	Rupertswood Stadium
	10.00pm	"	St Anne's Church
Wed 25 December	8.30am	Christmas Day Mass	St Anne's Church
	10.30am	"	"