



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429

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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
Wed: 10.00am St Anne's
Thurs: 9.15am St Anne's
11.00am Funeral- Gregory Creasey
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
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.

29 December- Feast of the Holy Family

Psalm Response

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his
ways

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the
fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Censina CALLEJA Teresa CHREMPLEWSKA
Mary DAKAKIS Celine D' CRUZ Vicki HEATH Alison
HILTON Violet HOLDER Kate HONNER Anna &
Doug HUTCHISON Bill & Dawn JANNER Flor
MADLANGAWA Tristan MAMO Suzanne
RENNISON Fabian ROZARIO Adrian
SKILLECORN Vanessa VARONA

Recently Deceased: Barbara BELL Greg
CREASEY Margaret "Peg" GARDINER

Anniversaries: Margaret CASTLES Margaret
CAUCHI Nina CAUCHI Erica EDWARDS
James MC GOVERN



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

We have much to be thankful for this Christmas. Those who have experienced the joy of the birth of a baby into a family understand the true happiness of the event- it is a life changing moment when a child is born. A husband/ man becomes a Dad and a wife/ woman becomes a mother. Their whole purpose becomes that of protecting and providing for their child. Life still goes on but the importance changes to the wellbeing of their child and family.

Can you imagine the fear that would come from the threat of your child being killed? Herod had placed an order to kill young male babies aged 2 years and under at the time of the birth of Jesus. What would you have done? I believe anything you could to protect your family and child. There is nothing a parent wouldn't do to save their child from harm. Joseph and Mary did the only thing they could to save baby Jesus from Herod's evil plan. They fled as refugees to Egypt. Not unlike those fleeing Syria and other homelands under threat. They would not have had the feasts we enjoyed this year, or had the Christmas lights on. Some probably had no more than the love in their hearts to give their children this Christmas. But isn't that what we should give? The love in our hearts to those around us. Our families and neighbours and even those we don't know.... Give them a smile even! A kind word! You don't need to give them gold, just a smile, kindness. Makes the world better all because of baby Jesus being born in a manger.

We also give thanks for the celebration of Pope Francis' first Christmas. Part of his humble and peaceful message for Christmas was prompted by a banner in St Peter's Square that read, "The poor cannot wait!" Pope Francis spoke of the great difficulties that families without fixed dwelling face- not unlike the Holy Family, to whom the Lord Jesus was born in a barn, and that experienced forced flight from their native land into Egypt. "Family and home go together," said Pope Francis. He went on to say, "I call on everyone: individuals, organs of society, authorities, to do everything possible to assure that every family has a place to live."

The Feast of the Holy Family today means we celebrate Mary, Joseph and Jesus, but also our own families and our universal family- the Church. The Church is the church because we are all part of it- like a family. Church is not about coming to Mass every week then forgetting about those we just celebrated with. Church is an extension of our own families. Please remember those around you today are sharing in your joy today with the Feast of the Holy Family. And as all families do, they share in the good times and the sad times throughout life. Our Church community supports each other in this way.
.....Jo Spiteri

Marriage- makes a difference for Children

"Couples should not have children if their relationship is not stable enough to merit getting married," Sir Paul Coleridge, a High Court Judge speaking early this month after 40 years of messy court business with separated couples.

Sir Paul has retired from the High Court to establish the Marriage Foundation in the UK to promote relationship education and to promote better public understanding of the nature and benefit of marriage. He quotes the research by the Foundation that suggests children with unmarried parents were twice as likely to suffer a family break up as those with married parents.

The Judge was quoted by Bettina Arndt the Melbourne social commentator in the "Age" on 16 December, Arndt quotes Australian research based on the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children which found young families with cohabiting families were nearly three times more likely to break up than married families. The same researchers, Lixia Qu and Ruth Weston, found children in cohabiting families lag behind children with married parents in over all socio economical and general development as in learning and with behavioral problems.

The Brookings Institution in Washington suggested that the answer may lie in decision making process. Most people marry after a process of discovering mutual commitment to long term goals. That is lacking in cohabiting couples who general drift into living together.

Hence, marriage is more than a piece of paper. Some marriages do break down and those involved need our compassionate care and professional therapy as such break-downs are traumatic.

.....Kevin McIntosh

The following children from our Parish will
Be baptized this weekend:

Asher LEWIS

Monique PARCHENT

We joyfully welcome them into our Parish Community.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA IN 2014: Marriage Encounter (ME) in Feb

2014 will be celebrating **40 years** of running weekends in Australia. We want to hear from couples and priests who may have been involved with ME in the past and who would like to gather and share memories, celebrate what has been and hear about ME today and our vision for the future. We are having a special celebration on Saturday February 22nd. So we ask you all to start spreading the word. Please ask people to contact Helen & Leo Wursthorn or call (03) 9874 6979 or helenandleo@gmail.com for more information.

LEGION OF MARY: will continue with Adoration of Blessed Sacrament on Friday 3 January from 7-8pm. They will pray the Rosary on Saturday 11 January at 9.00am in St Anne's Church. All are welcome.

MODIFIED PARISH OFFICE HOURS: during early January our parish office hours will be modified. The office will be closed on Tuesday 31 Dec and Wednesday 1 Jan, Tuesday 7 Jan and Thursday 9 Jan 2014. Normal hours (Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm) will commence from 13 January 2014.

THANK YOU: from Caritas Australia for the generous support shown by the parishioners for the Typhoon Haiyan Appeal. \$2957 was donated to help those affected by the devastation of the Typhoon. Please continue to pray for those working tirelessly to rebuild their lives.



New Years Prayer

*Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.
Please give the leaders of our world
A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.
Please give to all upon this earth
A heart that's filled with love
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above.
~ Charlotte Anselmo ~*

BELIEVE YOUTH CONFERENCE FOR LIFE: January 17-19 at St Mark's Parish, 9 Lee St, Fawkner. Early bird rate \$35 sign up by January 6 or \$50 after 6 January. For further info, contact Believeit2014@gmail.com or Abraham 0411 515 828.

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY: we offer to the family of Gregory Creasey whose funeral will be celebrated on Thursday at 11am followed by committal at Bulla Cemetery.

KIMBERLY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE: The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. In particular we are seeking a couple to oversee the needs of several church properties. The role is based in Broome but will include travel to remote missions. Accommodation, transport and food provided. *For further details, and an application form, please contact: Volunteer Coordinator: Anneliese Rohr Phone: 08 9192 1060 Email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org*

ANGLICARE VICTORIA: become a foster carer and provide a secure and loving temporary home for a child in need. Foster carers can be single people, couples with or without children, or families with grown up children. Anglicare's Foster Care Program provides training, equipment and 24 hour professional support to caregivers. We also pay a foster care allowance. (\$140-\$224 per week per child) to help cover costs. Phone Anglicare on 9301 5200 and be part of the real spirit of Christmas.

YOUNG CATHOLIC MUMS ONLINE: began as a website in October and already hundreds have visited the site for help and guidance on areas of children, cooking, spirituality, etc. For more information visit youngcatholicmums.com

SOLEMN FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: is on Wednesday 1 January. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 10am in the St Anne's Church.

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND READINGS: last Sunday at OLMC church was our first Festival of Carols and Readings. For those who attended, it was a very uplifting and happy experience. The readings and carols were beautifully read by those present—no practice was required. The nine readings told our story—starting with the Fall of Humanity in the Garden of Eden, the foretelling of the birth of our Saviour, the Annunciation, Birth of Jesus, Visit of the Wise Men among some of the stories. The carols were sung after each reading and included, All the ends of the earth, City of God, Silent Night, We three Kings and not forgetting Joy to the World. Everyone sang beautifully—it had nothing to do with the Champagne and Orange Juice served before the service. The Sausage sizzle went well also.



Wishing you all a safe and blessed New Year

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: St Anne's Church—Gail Ryan Narelle Anderson **CLEANING:** OLMC Church—Lucy Gatt St Anne's Church - Lisa Crotty Mark & Chris Perry **COUNTERS:** Gerard Duggan Julie Reddan Anne McCormick **GIFT SHOP:** Carmel Wiegerink Julie Reddan **LECTORS:** Monisha D'Lima Lyn Mandouit Dian Mardijono Alan Slocombe **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** **6.00pm** Carmel Pritchard Jennifer Poon Mary Baensch Diana & Albert Mastramico Dolores Kruszynski Shashi Nair **8.30am** Colin & Coreen Wilson Katherine Thompson Jo & Carmel Wiegerink Lily Lupa Will Honner **10.30am** Johanna Fahey Cathy Gay Tony Hendy Michael Hetherington Teresa Kiploks **5.30pm** Maree O'Brien Alan Slocombe Paul Fanning