



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: 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
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.

12 January 2014- The Baptism of the Lord

Psalm Response

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Fathers voice
was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Elsie CALIGARI Teresa CHREMPLEWSKA
Mary DAKAKIS Celine D' CRUZ Angie FRIZZELL
Vicki HEATH Alison HILTON Kate HONNER Anna &
Doug HUTCHISON Bill & Dawn JANNER Tristan
MAMO Suzanne RENNISON Fabian ROZARIO
Irma TAKAKIS Vanessa VARONA

Recently Deceased: Carmen CAUCHI Violet
HOLDER Harry KOSTA Flor MADLANGAWA

Anniversaries: Joe CAUCHI Rosina CHETCUTI
Jean DORNEY Syd JOHNSTON Andrew GROGAN
Mark SPITERI Antonio GUSMAN James TYQUIN



MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

Tues 21 Jan 7.45pm Parish Overseas Aid Project
Wed 22 Jan 7.30pm Liturgy Planning Group

INTRODUCING MATTHEW

For Catholics 2014 is **Year A**, the **Year of Matthew's Gospel**. On most Sundays church-goers will hear the priest say, 'a reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.' Matthew will be our guide as we travel together with Jesus on his life's journey. We, who want to **'know Jesus'**; who want to see him more clearly; who want to follow him more nearly; and who want to love him more dearly; will rely heavily on St Matthew to reveal Jesus to us and to pass on his teaching to us.

Of all the four gospels, the gospel of Matthew was the one most used and the one most quoted in the early centuries of the Church. Matthew's gospel was particularly attractive as a handbook for instruction to the early converts from Judaism to the Christian faith. **St Irenaeus**, writing around 180AD, says: 'Matthew produced a gospel in written form among the Hebrews, in their own language....' **Origen**, early in the third century, adds: *the first gospel to be written was that according to Matthew, once a tax collector but later a disciple of Jesus Christ; he published it for those who had come to faith from Judaism, and it was composed in Hebrew.* **St Jerome**, the great biblical scholar of the late fourth century, wrote: 'Matthew, who is also called Levi, a former tax collector, then an apostle, first composed a gospel of Christ in Judea in the Hebrew language, for the sake of those who had come to the faith from the circumcision. It is not known with certainty who subsequently translated the gospel into Greek.'

Unfortunately, because of early witnesses such as the above-mentioned, it was assumed that Matthew was the earliest of the gospels, and that Mark and Luke used it as one of their sources. Scientific research in the nineteenth century, however, has led most scholars to the opinion that Matthew used Mark as a source rather than the other way round. Mark is now almost universally acclaimed as the first gospel writer.

Setting aside the scholars' opinion that Matthew borrowed from Mark, Matthew wrote a very different and much longer gospel. He also consistently used quotations from the Hebrew Bible to appeal to his Jewish compatriots that Jesus was the fulfilment of ancient prophecies. Matthew's gospel also contains large sections of the teachings of Jesus, including the great Sermon on the Mount which covers three whole chapters (five, six and seven).

Matthew wrote more as a teacher in the fashion of Jewish Scribes. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is the preacher of the kingdom of heaven and the fulfilment of all the Law and the prophets. As the Jewish Scribes were trained in the Law of Moses, Matthew sees the ideal Christian as one thoroughly trained in the teaching of Jesus Christ. This is how Matthew pictures the ideal disciple of Jesus Christ: 'Every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a house-holder who brings out from his storeroom things both old and new.' (Mt 13:52)

There are good reasons why we come to Mass. Chief among them is to grow closer to Jesus and to each other. Matthew will reveal Jesus to us through his gospel. Matthew was a great believer in community, and is big on matters involving community. He champions forgiveness and encourages reconciliation between members of the believing community. Therefore, he will bring us closer together in Jesus' name. 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst'. Other reasons why we come together on Sunday include: our need to be nourished by the Word of God and by the Eucharist; they also include our need to support others in their faith and to be supported by them.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

HELP REQUIRED PLEASE: on Wednesday 22 January, after morning Mass in the Parish Centre, we will need volunteers to assist with getting the Thanksgiving envelopes ready. If you have time, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

BAPTISM OF JESUS: this text introduces Jesus in the first public moment of his adult life. It is significant that the public mission of Jesus begins with his baptism. He has made decisions about his future action, which begin with a long and arduous journey spanning the length of Israel from Galilee to the deep south. This is not a random act. Jesus makes that journey with a single purpose: "To be baptized by John." Recalling that Matthew presents Jesus as the fulfillment and perfection of all that is good in Israel, the conversation between these two figures is fascinating. The Baptist recognizes Jesus' greater role in God's plan. He has played the part of the Old Testament prophet in preparing the way. Now that the main player has appeared on the stage, is it not fitting that the Baptist bow out of the action? But Jesus is aware of a bigger picture and insists that things remain as they are 'for the time being' so that the demands of righteousness can be satisfied. Both Jesus and John show an openness to accept God's plan and, in reward, God himself enters the story with words of affirmation and love for the Chosen One. Heaven and Earth have met in the person of Jesus. (Summit; November 2013)

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.

PARISH COMMUNICATION: At the Festival of Carols and Readings some women were discussing how to get more people aware of the event for next time, as it was so good, and when it was suggested that it was published on Parish social media, the response was that they never read the Parish website or Facebook. Parishioners also voice this same opinion at Parish gatherings. Nevertheless the parish website during Christmas week had 150 visitors who read 399 pages of parish information, videos, and photos. The Facebook page had 49 visitors in the same timeframe. 33 people have Facebook set to send them a message on their phone when anything new is posted. 21% of Facebook visitors are women aged 18-34 and astonishingly another 21% are women aged over 55. The next step in promoting Parish communication could be to get more parishioners to comment on events and direction in the Parish by leaving remarks, comments, or opinions on the website and make it a two way pipeline for information. You can use a non-de-plume which will be visible to all, and an email address which will not be visible. The website was initially setup so any parishioners who were not at our Parish Mass could still get a copy of the newsletter and see what's going on in the Parish. We also hoped to get feedback on the Parish but that still needs parishioners to take up the opportunities available.

Parish Social Calendar

INDOOR & OUTDOOR GAMES FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN:

on Sunday 19 January after 10.30am Mass, you are invited to participate in this fun activity organized by the OLMC Youth Group in the Parish Centre. From 11.15am to 12.15pm, finger food will be served. Helpers on the day are welcome. Please bring your favorite Indoor and Outdoor games to play.

VALENTINES DAY DANCE: will be held in the Parish Centre on 14 February 2014 from 8pm to midnight. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$5 primary school children. Tickets can be purchased from the Parish Office. Please join us for a fun night of dancing. All are welcome.



PARISH DANCE WITH THE RIPCORDS: 15 March in the Parish centre will have a return of the Band we had last year for the St Patrick's day dance. 50's, 60's and 70's music. Get in early as we had a very fun night.

The Brick

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? That's a new car, and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?" The young boy was apologetic. "Please mister.... Please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do." He pleaded. I threw the brick because no one else would stop." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said, "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him back into his wheelchair. He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention."

Do you allow the love of God to rule in your heart? Augustine says, "Essentially, there are two kinds of people, because there are two kinds of love. One is holy the other is selfish. One is subject to God; the other endeavors to equal Him." Jesus came not only to fulfill the law, but to transform it through the gift of the Holy Spirit who fills our hearts with the love of God (Romans 5:5). Do you allow God's love to purify your heart, thoughts and actions?

.....St Augustine's Parish, Melbourne Newsletter; 20 October 2013

COLUMBAN CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE: calendars are still available in the Piety Stall. They are very beautiful and practical calendars and only \$10.00. All unsold calendars will be returned by the start of February.

ST MARY MACKILLOP: celebrate the Birthday of Australia's first saint, St Mary MacKillop on Wednesday 15 January at 11am Mass in Sacred Heart Church, King William St, Fitzroy. Light refreshments available and cutting of the cake. Everyone is most welcome.

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: St Anne's Church—Joanne Spiteri **CLEANING:** OLMC Church—Beth Girdwood St Anne's Church - Megan Feain Joy O'Connor Joe & Mary Kloss **COUNTERS:** Bernie Owens Mary Reay Mary Alkemade **GIFT SHOP:** Pat & Peter Readman Frances Arians **LECTORS:** Paul Fanning Tom Allen Beth Warburton Mary Macdermid **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** **6.00pm** Lucy Foran Paul Hogan Maree Walsh Carmel Pritchard Jennifer poon Mary Baensch Dolores Kruszynski **8.30am** Graeme & Lynne Simpson John & Sheila Stafford Colin & Coreen Wilson Jo & Carmel Wiegerink **10.30am** Bernadette Anderson John Bottams Johanna Fahey Cathy Gay Tony Hendy Michael Hetherington **5.30pm** Marie O'Brien Joanne Spiteri assistance required