



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 Liturgy of the Word- St Anne's
Wed: 9.15am St Anne's
Frid: 9.15am St Anne's

Reconciliation

St Anne's Church 10.00am - 10.30am
Every Saturday

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

17 August 2014- Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Psalm Response

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and
healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Auring CERDENA Mary DACACIS Auring
DONALDSON Anna & Doug HUTCHISON Bill
JANNER Frank JANSEN Fr Kevin MCINTOSH
Anne MAMO Tristan MAMO Maria MEVISSSEN Jack
REDDAN Evelyn SKILLECORN Irma TAKAKIS Fr
Justin WOODFORD Conchita YAPIT

Recently Deceased: Daniel FLYNN

Anniversaries: Rose BORG Carmen BUTTIGIEG
Brian GRAY Michael HINES

**Special Collection this week
for a gift to**

**Rev Linh Pham on his
Ordination next month**

THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Making Sense of a Confusing Gospel (Mt 15:21-28)

Beware of '*snippetitis*', trying to interpret a chunk of Gospel without reference to its context. Rejected by the Jewish religious leaders and harassed by a crowd who saw him merely as a wonder-worker, Jesus withdraws into Gentile territory. This passage describes the only occasion on which Jesus was ever outside Jewish territory. There was no place in Palestine where Jesus could be sure of privacy. Here, in Gentile territory, he would be safe from the hostility of the Scribes and Pharisees and escape the dangerous popularity of the people. Here no Jew would be likely to follow him.

Years after the death of Jesus, Matthew, the Gospel writer, was wrestling with an issue that faced his Christian community. The early Christians were all Jews. But, through the missionary apostolate of St Paul, Gentiles were seeking admission to the faith. The story of the Canaanite Woman shows an incident in the life of Jesus that was seen as a spark that lit the flame of a future mission to the Gentiles. It was the beginning of the end of Jewish exclusiveness and the dismantling of barriers to a universal mission. Matthew is the only Gospel that carries the story of the three wise men. It is also the Gospel that concludes with Jesus sending his disciples to preach the Gospel to all nations. Jesus saw his personal mission limited in time to ministry to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. However, the Church Jesus founded, as Paul so rightly understood, would reach beyond the boundaries and restrictions of the Jewish Law.

This woman, a fore-runner of future Gentile faith-seekers, had obviously heard of the wonderful things that Jesus was doing. Her concern was for her daughter who was grievously afflicted. She followed Jesus crying desperately for help. At first Jesus seems to ignore her and the disciples feel embarrassed. '*Give her what she wants, and be rid of her.*' The reaction of the disciples was not prompted by compassion. To them the woman was a nuisance. To be sure, the action of Jesus was hardly exemplary. It was so out of character. But wait! Was Jesus being a clever fisherman playing the big fish? Was he trying to awaken true faith in the heart of this woman? I believe that is exactly what he was doing. In the end Jesus heaps praise on the woman: '*Woman, great is your faith.*'

The most jarring part of this Gospel is what Jesus says to the woman: '*It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.*' To call a person a dog was a contemptuous insult. The Jews spoke with arrogant insolence about '*Gentile dogs*,' '*infidel dogs*' - and, towards the Christian sect - '*Christian dogs*'. In those days dogs were the unclean scavengers of the street, lean, savage, carriers of disease. However, the word used by Jesus was '*kunaria*', a pet house-dog. Maybe the insult was not as vicious as it sounds. We can insult our friends, calling them '*you villain*,' '*you littleascal*' but they can see by our smile and hear in our tone that no hurt is meant. Anyhow, the woman had enough sense of humour to respond with a witty remark of her own. In the end her faith shone through.

What can we learn from this story? (i) Never try to interpret a Gospel passage out of its context. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. (ii) Jesus breaks through man-made barriers to offer salvation to genuine seekers. (iii) Jesus only requires of us a deep faith. Peter, '*the man of little faith*' is out-shone by a pagan woman of '*great faith*'. I suppose the more we meditate on this story the more we can derive spiritual benefit from it.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

PARISH HISTORY BOOK "LED BY THE SPIRIT": are available from the Piety Stall and also from the Parish Office. They cost \$20 per copy and are a great read.

WELCOME: to the children and their families, who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They Will be present at all Masses to participate in the Rite of Acceptance in preparation for Reconciliation. Please continue to pray for them.

RUPERTSWOOD CRICKET CLUB INC: '*Birthplace of The Ashes*' **REGISTRATION DAY** Saturday 23rd AUGUST 2014 9am - 12noon SportsCo Sunbury Square Shopping Centre, Evans Street Sunbury. New Players and Females welcome. Registration Forms Available on Club Website <http://www.rupertswoodcc.org.au> Or Email Request rupocc@optusnet.com.au Enquires 0459 098 664 or 0421 991 519



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PASTORAL REFLECTION IN PRAYERFUL PREPARATION FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S PUBLIC HEARING

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Recently, our world has been shocked by the tragedy of flight MH17. It was unthinkable that an attack on a domestic plane should become a reality. The reactions have been strong and varied ... disbelief, shock, anger, sadness, loss, grief, uncertainty. The impact of the loss of 298 innocent people has been palpable. The devastation for families, friends and local communities is so evident.

The Church has been coming to terms with a reality born out of the unthinkable – that in our history there were some in ministry, entrusted with the care of our children, who violated their trust and innocence in a way that has brought such devastating consequences. We respond with profound sadness, disgust and regret for the anguish of victims, families and friends. Parish communities have grappled with understanding how these despicable acts could have ever happened.

The Royal Commission is investigating the experiences in many institutions and how they responded to reports of abuse. We support those who lead the Royal Commission as they make their determinations regarding the past and future practice for all institutions, including the Catholic Church.

The Royal Commission will have a public hearing in Melbourne from August 18 to 29. The Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Melbourne Response will be examined.

Recently Pope Francis met with victims. At that time he asked God “for the grace to weep and make reparations for her sons and daughters who betrayed their mission, who abused innocent persons”. May we learn from the past. I pray we will listen more carefully to the pain of victims and offer support and reparation which will bring healing. May leaders of the Church seek forgiveness for the betrayal which stole innocence from God’s beloved.

It is our duty in homes, schools and communities to provide a safe environment where children are loved, protected and nurtured. We will do all in our power to ensure the Catholic Church is a place where all children may flourish. Society demands it...our Gospel demands it!

May God’s grace heal the broken hearted and strengthen us in our service.

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE.

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: St Anne’s Church—Nil **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Michelle Fettes St Anne’s Church –Rosalie Baldwin Miriam Culhane Cedric D’Souza Margaret Crooks **COUNTERS:** Kelly Stark Vern & Maureen Walters **GIFT SHOP:** Roselle Duckworth John Porta **LECTORS:** Felicity Wicks Jenny Carland Elizabeth Falzon Paul Fanning **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** **6.00pm** Sashi Nair Carmel Pritchard Barry Roberts Yvonne Rozario Vicki Heath Paul Hogan Jennifer Poon Pauline Sharma **8.30am** Lucy Foran Rex Jacob Andrea Luckett Lili Lupa Graeme & Lynne Simpson Andrew Swann **10.30am** Anne Smith Sylvester D’Souza Sheila & John Stafford Mary Thomas Grace Tucker Christine Wallace Anthony About **5.30pm** Maree O’Brien Rita Rocco Alan Slocombe