



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

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Liturgy Times this Week

Sat	6pm	St Anne's
Sun	8.30am	St Anne's
	10.30am	St Anne's
	5.30pm	St Anne's
Mon	9.15am	Liturgy of Word
Wed	9.15am	St Anne's
Thurs	9.15am	St Anne's
Fri	9.15am	St Anne's

10 January 2016

Baptism of the Lord

Psalm Response

Oh bless the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire
Alleluia!

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh

Assisting Priest: Rev Bert Fulbrook SDB

Pastoral Assoc.: Sr Jose Noy RSJ

Pastoral Coord: Lyn Plummer

St Anne's Primary School: 9744 3055

Principal: Noelene Hussey

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School: 9744 7344

Principal: Paul Hogan

Baptisms celebrated on Sundays.

Please contact the Parish Office for details of the next Baptismal Preparation meeting.

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Fr Peter CARRUCAN Nic DE RIDDER
Kevin DUTTON Jeff LEONARD Sean McINTYRE
Jean SKILLECORN Anthea WALKER

Recently Deceased: Angelina XUEREB

Anniversaries: Joe CAUCHI Peter & Ulyses
D'SOUZA Jessie DEGEORGIO Jean DORNEY
Matty FONSECA Antonio GUZMAN Ken
MCMANUS Jack QUIRK

BAPTISM

I am baptised. What does this statement mean? People who flocked to the River Jordan to be baptised by John the Baptist could say '**I am baptised.**' This statement simply implied, *I have undergone a ritual purification. I have undergone a ritual cleansing of sin, a baptism of repentance, and, by so doing, I am resolved to turn away from sin and start on the path of virtue.* Baptism comes from a Greek word for having a bath or a good wash. The baptismal ritual offered by John used water as a symbol of washing off the dirt of past misconduct. Water is used for washing dirty clothes, dirty dishes and the dirt stuck to our bodies, so water is used in ritual baptism as a symbol of cleansing of sin and as a sign of repentance.

'I am baptised a Christian' means much more than mere ritual purification. John the Baptist himself in the gospel of Luke acknowledges that the one who comes after him will offer a greater baptism: *'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am...He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'* (Lk 3:16) There never was a time in the life of the Church when there was no baptism, but it was a different type of baptism to John's.

Christian baptism still uses water as its central symbol. Water is life-giving and is essential to human, animal and plant life. We have all experienced drought and its devastation, and we have also experienced the planet coming to life after drought-breaking rains. At the same time, however, we have experienced floods and tsunamis and the drowning and death caused by them. So, water is both a symbol of life and death. St Paul takes up this theme in his letter to the Romans. *'We have died to sin; how could we go on living in it? You cannot have forgotten that all of us, when we were baptised into Christ Jesus, were baptised into his death. So by our baptism into his death we were buried in with him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life. If we have been joined to him in a death like his, so we shall be by a resurrection like his...'* (Rom 6:1-6) This dying to sin and rising to new life which Paul links to the death and resurrection of Christ is re-enacted symbolically in our Church at the Easter Vigil when the candidate for baptism walks down into the water, goes through a ritual drowning, and rises out of the water as a newly baptised Christian.

The doctrine of Christian initiation, of which baptism is the entry point, is summed up in the *'General Introduction'* to the rite in the revised Roman Ritual: Through the sacraments of Christian initiation men and women are freed from the power of darkness. With Christ they die, are buried and rise again. They receive the Spirit of adoption which makes them God's sons and daughters, and with the entire people of God, they celebrate the memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection.

Through baptism men and women are incorporated into Christ. They are formed into God's people, and they obtain forgiveness of all their sins. They are raised from the natural human condition to the dignity of adopted children. They become a new creation through water and the Holy Spirit. Hence they are called, and are indeed, the children of God.

On this feast of the Baptism of Christ Jesus, it is vitally important that we who are baptised into Christ should be made aware of the dignity which has been bestowed on us by the grace and mercy of God.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

**Special Collection Next
Weekend
Melbourne Overseas
Mission**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS: from Friday 1 January 2016, the first Friday of the month there will be a Praise and Worship service at St Anne's Church from 7pm-8.15pm. This service will be organized by our OLMC Youth group. Please support their efforts.

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH CENTENARY: In 2016 Sunbury Parish celebrates 100 years of the Sisters of St Joseph living and working in our Community. We will celebrate with them next month on **Sunday 21 February 2016**. Former students of the Sisters in Sunbury are also invited to work on the planning group. Anyone wishing to be involved in the planning of this great celebration please contact the Parish Office on 9744 1060.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY : as last year, our Sunday Evening Mass at 5.30pm during these two months of summer will be celebrated in St Anne's Church which has air-conditioning for the health of those taking part.

CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF ST MARY MACKILLOP: please come along and celebrate the birthday of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at All Saints Church, King William St, Fitzroy on Friday 15 January 2016. Mass at 11am followed by light refreshments and the traditional cutting of the cake. Everyone in welcome as we begin to celebrate 150 years of the Sisters of St Joseph.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – BAPTISM: John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.© Greg Sunter

JESUS' BAPTISM IS OURS: The heraldic symbol of the USA is an eagle, a magnificent aerial creature which soars high. The heraldic symbol of Jesus of Nazareth is not the soaring eagle, but the descending dove, hovering gently over humanity personified in Jesus in the waters of the Jordan River. What did it mean for Jesus to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit in this way: hovering fluttering gently overhead in dove-like fashion?

Jesus was a Jew and the Jewish people, in the very first lines of their scriptures (Genesis) imaged the Creative Spirit, the Divine Wind, hovering over the void in the prelude to creation.

The experience of Jesus at his baptism would have reminded any Jew of that story. Something wonderfully creative was happening. Humanity, the world, is being created afresh in the person of this Jesus of Nazareth. (cont....)

Jews would also remember the story of Noah's Ark, and how the end of the great flood of destructive waters was signalled by the return to the Ark of a dove bearing a twig of olive. It has become a symbol of restoration and peace ever since.

The experience of Jesus is repeated in every baptism. At every Christian baptism, the Holy Spirit hovers over the baby, the teenager, the adult graciously descending into the soul, into the innermost depths of the person as a totally creative Divine Power. Improbably as it seems, you and I emerged as a new creation!

A new creation with a mission. At our baptisms we were given spiritual power to effect change in the world. It is the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, but it is dove-power. When a person we know, or a situation we can influence, is threatened with drowning in destructive currents, we are to bring the twig of olive to that person, to that situation. That is the mission of the Christian, of the Church.

What was the second experience of Jesus at his baptism?

The Heavenly Father's affirmation of who He was, and of the Father's delight in Him, sounded, reverberated, echoed through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul.

'You are my Beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Once again, it is the same in every baptism. Every baby, every teenager, every adult adopted in baptism hears: 'You are my beloved son, or you are my beloved daughter. My favour rests on you.'

The Divine affirmation and delight sounds, reverberates, echoes through every fibre of the body, every reach of the soul.

Is it any wonder that, after such a powerful experience, Jesus commanded the same water ritual to incorporate his followers as his adopted brothers and sisters?

It was from the Risen Lord that the Church received its mandate to: 'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

(Notice that we are baptised into the One Name, not names. There is only one God. We are baptised into the One Triune God.)

For almost two millennia, the Church has been carrying out the command of our Risen Lord. This Feast Day gives us a particular opportunity to remember this grace.

But every time we enter a church, we get the opportunity to recall our baptism. We should dip our right hand in the font of Holy Water, sprinkling ourselves liberally (not just a dab) as we cover the whole of the top of our body with the sign of the Cross, repeating the words heard at our baptism:

'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

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ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: Nil **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Lucy Gatt St Anne's Church –Skeeter Jacob Miriam Culhane Cedric D'Souza
COUNTERS Jack Sullivan Kerry Sanford Janet Elliott Mimi Quattrone **GIFT SHOP:** Pat & Peter Readman John Porta **LECTORS:** Paul Fanning Lynne & Graeme Simpson Beth Warburton Alan Slocombe **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** **6.00pm** Eileen Naylor Jennifer Poon Carmel Pritchard Barry Roberts Yvonne Rozario Pauline Sharma Angelo Snell Rusty Vergara **8.30am** Carmel Wiegerink Colin & Coreen Wilson Ann Chircop Lloyd D'Cruz Rex Jacob Lili Lupa Assistance Required **10.30am** Cathy Gay Tony Hendy Mick Hetherington Teresa Kiploks Sr Jose` Noy Mark Perry Assistance Required **5.30pm** Alan Slocombe Mary Thomas Christine Wallace