



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,  
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

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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	St Anne's
Mon	9.15am	St Anne's—Liturgy of Word
	7.00pm	OLMC Vigil Prayers— Garry Reddan
Tue	2.00pm	St Anne's Funeral Mass— G Reddan
Wed	9.15am	St Anne's
Thurs	9.15am	St Anne's
Fri	9.00am	Salesian College— Years 7 & 8
	9.15am	St Anne's
	7.30pm	World Day of Prayer— Baptist Church

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**Saturday 10.00am—10.30am OLMC**

**28th February 2016**

**3rd Sunday of Lent**

## **Psalm Response**

The Lord is kind and merciful

## **Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless  
glory!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at  
hand

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless  
glory!

**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: 9740 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:** Carmel BRENNAN Robyn HARVEY Judy  
HOGAN Elaine KING Jeff LEONARD Sean  
MCINTYRE Sean MOTT John TADD Mary VICTOR

**Recently Deceased:** Alwyn BARRETT Tess  
PARNIS Fr Elio PROIETTO Garry REDDAN

**Anniversaries:** Vincenzo BRULLO Emmanuel  
BUTTIGIEG Douglas CAUSER John FERNANDES  
Joseph GRECH Danny KILGARIFF Irene KINDER  
Francis MILLETT James MILLETT Alec  
MCCOLGAN Maxine O'CONNELL Vera OWENS  
Edgar RODRIGUES Esme RODRIGUES Lawrence  
SIMON Bernie SMITH James & Rene TYQUIN

## The Patience of God

An adapted extract from *'The Good News of Luke's Year'* authored by  
Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

A number of stories told by Jesus are about gardening and farming. The people of an earlier age were nomads or semi nomads. They were herdsmen who led their flocks and herds from grazing place to grazing place. As the pasture in one place was exhausted, they moved their flock or herd to another pasture. They were constantly on the move.

But, when the Israelites finally settled down in that part of the Fertile Crescent called the land of Canaan, they turned to farming and gardening. As farmers and gardeners they tilled the land, planted their seed, and waited patiently for their crops to grow and ripen. Night and day, while the farmer sleeps, while he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing. Patiently he waits in the hope that all will be well. One day, at the end, there will be a harvest.

In one parable Jesus speaks of a farmer with a weed problem. Is he to pull out the weeds straight way? If he does, he risks trampling on the wheat crop and disturbing its roots. He decides to wait till harvest time. That will be the time when he will separate the wheat from the weeds, the good from the bad. Such is the patience of God. In today's gospel Jesus tells the story of the fig tree. The fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years is given another chance. The parable of the fig tree is used by Jesus to teach about the patience and the mercy of God.

The perfectionist within us insists we must be instant saints. Perfectionists are afraid to confess because they know they are likely to fall again after confession. But did Jesus teach that all faults would be healed in an instant? Did he teach that the weeds should be eradicated instantly? No! Jesus taught that God is patient with us, and by inference, we should be patient with ourselves and with others.

We must learn from growing things. Plants which sprout rapidly from seed to stalk have only a short life span. The seed of a hardwood tree can take up to two years to sprout and show itself above the soil. But this slow grower will develop mightily and last for hundreds of years. Lasting growth is usually a slow and gradual process. Parents, be patient with your teenagers. Teachers, be patient with your students. Perfectionists, be patient with yourselves.

Our gardens and our fields are parables of a patient God, a God who is full of mercy and compassion, slow to anger and always ready to forgive (Psalm 102). In this **Year of Mercy** we are given a timely reminder by the readings of the day to contemplate the Mercy of our patient God.

.....Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

Morning Tea next weekend after 8.30am Mass

**100 YEARS OF THE SISTERS PRESENCE IN SUNBURY:** Congratulations and grateful thanks to Fr. Kevin, Sr. Jose, the organizing committee, many helpers and parishioners for all the preparations for the outstanding celebrations on this occasion. We felt very humbled when Fr. Kevin, after such an inspiring homily asked for a standing ovation. The welcome we received from everyone gave us such a feeling of being "at home" among such a wonderful group of people. We were very impressed with the work and thought that went into the "Honour Board". The footprints representing the journey of the Sisters over 100 years enabled us to appreciate the Sisters who walked this journey before us. Mary MacKillop's Spirit is truly alive there. In Mary's words "We have much for which to be thankful." 1873. ....Sisters Maureen Cahir, Mary Rowan, Margaret Brown, Rosalie Corrigan.

**LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAM:** "When Moses presses for God's name, he is told "I am who I am" ... but is best translated, "I am who is with you." What difference does that translation mean for you? Talk to God about it and then say words over and over again this week. In this week's Gospel, Mercy (God) comes to us in the form of the vineyard worker, who has endless confidence in our capacity to grow and live our lives as he intended. God in peace this week knowing you enjoy the confidence of the Lord. All you have to do is cooperate with his saving Grace. What a gift!

Which "room" in the House of Mercy will you visit this week— empathy, trust, tenderness, acceptance, forgiveness, compassion or understanding?

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm in St Anne's Church, we will have a Reconciliation Service with several priests present. Normally we run a Penitential Service, but as Pope Francis has called for the Year of Mercy, we would like to encourage parishioners to take part in this special Lenten Service.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The local Regional Council of St Vincent de Paul Society, who meet once a month in Sunbury, is in urgent need of a Secretary and a Treasurer. All training and equipment will be provided for these posts. You do not need to be a current member of the Society but will be required to complete a police check and Working with Children Check. Can you help? To volunteer or get more information please call the Regional President, Arthur Donovan on 0427 394 495.

**PARISH POSTIES:** the Easter edition of the Parish Neighbourhood Newsletter will be printed shortly. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with delivering newsletters in your local area (or if possible to help in other areas). Please call the Parish Office on 9744 1060 with your details.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND *Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage!*** Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. *There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.* **2016 Melbourne weekend dates : 8-10 April, 17-19 June, 19-21 Aug, 11-13 Nov**

**Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.** Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733

0997 Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

**EASTER BISCUITS FOR VICTORIAN PRISONERS:** Christian Prison Fellowship will again provide every Victorian inmate with 10 Home made biscuits with an Easter card to show God loves them. 65000 biscuits are needed. Details on the noticeboard in our gathering space. Biscuits to be delivered to our parish office by 4 March.

***Embracing the merciful Grace of a second chance .....Lenten Program Resource 2016***

The following children from our parish will be baptized this Sunday:

Mena VANVITELLI

Willow NARAT

We joyfully welcome them to our parish community of the Church



**PARISH PLAYGROUP:** will replace Kinder Kinda due to funding changes for the Victoria University Program. The sessions were a structured educational based play session. Due to the changes, we will now run an informal play session every Tuesday from 9am-10am in the Parish Centre starting 12 April 2016. All welcome.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** this year Caritas celebrates 50 years of the national Project Compassion campaign. Over the past 50 years Project Compassion has enabled Caritas to work in partnership with local communities in 118 countries. Your support has enabled Caritas Australia to assist marginalized communities throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific as well as Australia's First Peoples.

The theme for Project Compassion this year is **Learning More Creating Change**. During this Lenten season, the Church invites us to be more loving and generous with our time, our talents and our material possessions. Let God's abundant love motivate us to reach out to love others, family and friends, neighbours and those who need our compassionate love.

Prayer: *For our brothers and sisters around the world experiencing extreme poverty and injustice. That people with disabilities will always be supported with the love and respect that is theirs by virtue of our shared humanity.*

**PARENTING IN FAITH:** for parents and children in Prep (Foundation) Year— Tuesday 1 March 6.30pm at St Anne's School and Wednesday 2 March 6.30pm at OLMC School.

**CONTEMPLATION BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** will be offered each Friday from 9.45am to 10.45am in the Chapel (except when the Church is needed for a funeral or other communal liturgy). A time for silent, personal prayer.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** next Friday, fifteen Christian Churches in Victoria will sponsor this common day of prayer by three million Christians in 170 countries. Each year a nation is chosen as a focus. In 2016, Cuba is the chosen country. Cuba has 11 million people, with Catholics having the highest number. Free compulsory education was introduced in 1961 (Victoria 1872). The country is struggling financially. The culture is very patriarchal. The Cuban women have chosen a reflection on Jesus' words: "Anyone who welcomes a child in my name welcomes me" (Mark 9:37). Our Sunbury gathering will be at the Baptist Church 207 Gap Rd at 7.30pm on Friday 6 March.

**CENTENARY OF SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH:** was celebrated last Sunday and was a really special day and was well received. Sixteen of the Sisters who served Sunbury parish attended and were very happy to see friends from the past gathering at St Anne's Church and then at the Convent and OLMC Church and school. Some of our past Parish Priests also attended. Many thanks to the organizing committee for the great preparation which made the day run so well. Plenty of food and lots of happy people to celebrate a great achievement for the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** is a new monthly magazine which contains a wonderful variety of interesting and inspirational stories, along with commentary on contemporary issues. The price for an annual subscription is \$36. Please take a free copy from the Welcome Desk and enjoy the first edition of the new publication.

#### ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

**ALTAR CARE:** Elaine Van der Weerden **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Snell Family St Anne's Church—Nil **COUNTERS** Jack Sullivan Mimi Quattrone Janet Elliott Kerry Sanford **GIFT SHOP:** Carmel Wiegerink Pam Fairbairn **LECTORS:** Paul Fanning Colin & Coreen Wilson Mary Macdermid Christine Wallace **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: 6.00pm** Albert & Diana Mastramico Val McManus Sashi Nair Eileen Naylor Jennifer Poon Carmel Pritchard Barry Roberts **8.30am** Andrew Swann Monica Allen Jo & Carmel Wiegerink Colin & Coreen Wilson Tom Allen Ann Chircop **10.30am** Tony Hendy Mick Hetherington Teresa Kiploks Sr Jose` Noy Christine Cassar Mark Perry Mimi Quattrone Sean Quigley **5.30pm** Alan Slocombe Mary Thomas Christine Wallace

### Lenten Parish Liturgy Program:

<b>Fridays in Lent</b>	<b>Way (Stations) of the Cross</b>	<b>St Anne's 7.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 16 March</b>	<b>Parish Reconciliation Celebration</b>	<b>St Anne's 7.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 24 March</b>	<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>St Anne's 7.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 25 March</b>	<b>Good Friday– Way of the Cross</b>	<b>OLMC 9.00am</b>
	<b>Good Friday– Veneration of Cross</b>	<b>St Anne's 3.00pm</b>
<b>Saturday 26 March</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>	<b>St Anne's 8.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday 27 March</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>St Anne's 8.30am, 10.30am, OLMC5.30pm</b>

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE POSITION:** in our parish is currently being advertised throughout our diocese. The position is mainly involved in Religious Education. An immediate start. Please contact the Parish Office for a detailed job description. Applications are to be sent to the Human Resources Office of Archdiocese of Melbourne, PO Box 146, East Melbourne 8002

**ART FOR THE HEART:** exhibit your art, craft and writings of loss, love and hope. A free community service provided by Tobin Brothers Funerals. Registration and Enquiries to [www.tobinbrothers.com.au/artfortheheart](http://www.tobinbrothers.com.au/artfortheheart) or phone 9373 7000 or email [artfortheheart@tobinbrothers.com.au](mailto:artfortheheart@tobinbrothers.com.au). Registrations close Friday 8 April 2016. Exhibition will be held at Parliament House, Queens Hall 2-5 May 2016 free admission daily from 9am—5pm.

### LENT FOCUS: YEAR OF MERCY:

**One of the corporal works of mercy is shelter the homeless:** Christians have always sought to include people 'in' to shelter the homeless and give hospitality and a 'home' to strangers and refugees. For in welcoming the stranger and the homeless, in 'sheltering' them, we want to also share with them the joy and peace of being at 'home' with us as friends of Christ Jesus our brother; a brother who himself knew the pain and frustration of being homeless. Recall Jesus' words; "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Mt 8:20; Lk 9:58)

And the 'homeless' Jesus is still knocking at the door of our hearts asking for shelter. See an example of how much people— especially people who have been rejected— desperately need the healing power of hospitality. So many of our Melbourne Archdiocesan agencies and works, from the Little Sisters of the Poor, Villa Maria/Catholic Homes to the St Vincent de Paul Society, to the many groups that assembled together under Catholic Social Services here in Melbourne, seek to provide 'shelter' in a loving environment.

Think about it.....Where is 'home' for you? What things do you most value about this place? Does your home offer hospitality of the heart to others? How does the 'homeless' Jesus knock on the door of your heart asking for shelter? How might you respond?.....From Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation reflections written by Br Mark O'Connor FMS and originally published in Kairos Vol 22.

**One of the Spiritual Works of mercy is to counsel the doubtful.** Our faith is a relationship with God, and like all serious relationships it has its ups and downs. Doubts and questions are a normal and essential part of the faith journey. Those who have had their faith tested due to circumstances in their life and by scandals in the church understand what its like to find doubt about their faith. As Christians we can help those around us when they are doubting their faith, and hope that others will help us when we are in doubt. This is what being part of a community is about! People care about each other and share the good times and the bad. When things are good, faith can feel strong. But when things are bad, faith gets knocked about and this is when we can feel isolated and abandoned by God. This is when those around us can give us the strength to go on. This is when God is loving us through the actions of those around us.

### Lent 2016

The Lenten season has a twofold character:

- It recalls baptism or prepares for it
- It stresses a penitential spirit

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself and in the liturgy centred instructions, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced. Hence,

- Wider use is to be made of baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy
- The same approach holds for the penitential elements

During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social...

In any event, let the paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

.....Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II

### Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing one of the following:

- Prayer
- Self-Denial
- Helping Others

All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain from meat(Canon 1252)

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once per year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday 22 May 2016 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift from our merciful Father. All the faithful are bound to confess any grave sins at least once per year.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR DIAMOND JUBILEES:** to Sisters Maureen Cahir and Mary Rowan, on your 60 years of religious profession as a Sister of St Joseph. Both of you have been among us over these sixty years at various times living out the charism of your founders St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. May the Lord continue to bless you.

**OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY:** we offer to the family and friends of Garry Reddan who entered eternal life peacefully last Tuesday. Garry was the youngest of three children living on a farm in Diggers Rest. Garry lived all his earthly life in our Parish at Diggers Rest, Clarkefield and Sunbury. Parish activity was a key feature of his life. Garry was in the music ministry with a beautiful voice. He and his brother Jack cared for the two parish donkeys from 1996 for many years. His funeral commences on Monday evening at 7pm with Vigil Prayers in OLMC Church, followed by Mass next day at 2pm in St Anne's Church, concluding with Committal at Bulla Cemetery at 3.30pm.

**MANY THANKS:** on behalf of the Sisters of St Joseph I thank you sincerely for the truly wonderful centenary celebration last Sunday. From the first welcomes, Mass, hospitality, garden settings, lunch, cake, board of all the Sisters names, footprints, bunting on the fence, the arrival of "Mary MacKillop", visits to the school, busy and happy volunteers, superb organization, videos, memories and more..... Perfect weather too! It was a joy to be with you! With blessings and gratitude..... Sr Kerrie Cusack RSJ (Province Leader)

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sunday 28 February	10.30am Mass	Prayer Companions Weekend
Sunday 6 March	10.30am Mass	Prep Family Mass
Sunday 13 March	10.30am Mass	5th Sunday of Lent
Saturday 19 March	6.00pm Mass	Catholic Education Week

All children are welcome to be part of Children's Liturgy of the Word which is held in the foyer of St Anne's Church.

