



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	5.30pm	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 Word
Wed:	9.15am	St Anne's
	6.30pm	OLMC Graduation Mass
Thurs	9.15am	St Anne's
	7.30pm	St Anne's Graduation mass
Fri:	10.00am	St Anne's Thanksgiving Mass for 2016 year

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
Assisting Priest: Rev Bert Fulbrook SDB
Pastoral Assoc.: Sr Jose Noy RSJ
Pastoral Co-ord: Lyn Plummer
St Anne's Primary School: 9744 3055
Principal: Noelene Hussey
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School: 9740 7344
Acting Principal: Mark Gleeson
 Baptisms celebrated on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office for details of the next Baptismal Preparation meeting.

10.00am-10.30am
Reconciliation OLMC Church

11 December 2016
Third Sunday of Advent

Psalm Response

Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Emmanuel AGIUS Margaret CROOKS
 Kath KILGARIFF Cathie LIO Violeta MARIANO Josephine MEHAS
 Bernadette NOONAN Arthur PALSER Kath REILLY Frank WALKER Beth WAR-BURTON Shirley WHORLOW Bethany WRAGG

Recently Deceased: Carmel BRENNAN
 Gerard O'KEEFE

Anniversaries: Irene BUTLER Ernesto CARASIG Philomena D'SOUZA Perc HAM-ILTON Don MCCONVILLE Patrick REDDAN

MORNING TEA: hosted by Vinnies on Sunday 11 December after 8.30am mass.

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

Christians did not formally start celebrating the birth of Christ until some time in the fourth century of the Christian era. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth. Then how did Christians decide upon a date? The choice of December 25 has an interesting story behind it. The reason Christians chose December 25 was to coincide with the pagan festival of the sun god. December 25 in the northern hemisphere was considered the date of the winter solstice that point in the year when the hours of darkness were at their longest. Actually, with advanced knowledge, we now know that the solstice falls on 21 December. After the winter solstice the Sun begins to make a comeback.

Light and darkness have been likened to two wrestlers. In early winter darkness has the upper hand, but deep into winter the Sun starts to get off the canvas and begins to assume the ascendancy over darkness. The cult of the unconquered Sun was instituted by Emperor Aurelian in 275 CE. Christians, instead of celebrating the birth of the sun-god, chose to celebrate the birth of the Son of God. When Christianity became the official religion of Rome, they wisely did not ban the pagan festival of the sun-god but gave it a Christian meaning. Christians, recalling the prophecy of Malachi, spoke of Christ metaphorically as *'the Sun of justice with healing in its rays.'* Christians saw the birth of Christ as the coming into the world of the one whom John describes as *'the Light of the World'* (Jn 8:12).

The Bible does not record the exact date of Christ's birth, but Christians in the northern hemisphere chose December 25 as a highly symbolic date for the birth of the Saviour. The pagans celebrated the winter solstice, that day in deep winter when the nights are longest. From that low point the sun progressively grows stronger and the days gradually grow longer. For us in the southern hemisphere our winter solstice is in June, but Christianity was born in the northern hemisphere, so we bow to our Christian forebears and follow their liturgical calendar. Christians believe that when the world is at its darkest there is born unto us Christ who is the light of the world.

Christians in Advent see Christ as *'the Radiant Dawn'*, the splendour of eternal light, the sun of justice. We call upon Christ to *'come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.'* Christ is our Radiant Dawn, our Daybreak from on high. He will shed light on our path. His words will be a lamp for our feet. The light of Christ will dispel the darkness from our lives.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA: begins on 17 December. At this point the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. (General Norms for the Liturgical year, No 42). This is the best time to hold carols services, to erect our cribs and begin to sing Christmas carols in the liturgy and to set up our Christmas lights. The tone of the Mass readings changes after 17 December. In our society, Christmas tends to swamp Advent. I saw a Christmas crib in a department store on 9 November.

OUR PARISH ADVENT PROGRAM:

- **Carols and Readings:** Sunday 18 December at 7pm in OLMC. Readings from the Bible and Carols led by the Sunbury Chorale. Sponsored by the Anglican and Catholic Parishes of Sunbury. Supper at the end.
- **Celebration of Sacramental Reconciliation:** on Wednesday 21 December at 7.30pm with three priests available for Absolution.
- **Celebration of Anointing of Sick in Mass:** is on Wednesday 21 December at 11am with lunch in the Parish Centre at 12 noon.

**Special Collection this Weekend and next weekend
 for Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

FIVE CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASSES: will be celebrated in St Anne's Church Saturday at 6pm, 8pm and 10pm and on Sunday at 8.30am and 10.30am.

SUNDAY EVENING MASSES : during January and February we will be following our custom of celebrating Mass at 5.30pm in St Anne's Church where there is cooling for the health of all.

MEETINGS ON THE JOY OF LOVE: a series of meetings will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 15 December and on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm on 14 December. The material is based on Pope Francis' letter "The Joy of Love" published last March.

CHRISTMAS WORKING BEES: Our parish will be preparing for the celebrations and will require assistance.

- Christmas Cards for parishioners will need to be folded. We invite parishioners to come into the parish centre and fold on Wednesday 14 December anytime after 9.15am morning Mass.
- Thursday 22 December we will be setting up St Anne's Church at 7pm with extra chairs for our Christmas Eve Masses. We would appreciate any assistance.

ADVENT MASSES WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Tuesday 20 December	Riddell Gardens	2.30pm
Wednesday 21 December	St Anne's Church	11.00am
Wednesday 21 December	Lions Hostel	2.30pm

THANK YOU: I know who you are, and you know who you are. To all of you I say this: **THANK YOU** for your kindness and generosity. It was good to share my 80th birthday with you and to **THANK GOD** for his mercy and blessings.Fr Bert

FR BERT'S 80TH BIRTHDAY: thank you to those who attended Fr Bert's 80th Birthday celebration on Sunday 4 December. It was very well attended by many parishioners. Thank you to Diana Mastramico and Bridget Honner for the 2 extraordinary birthday cakes made for Fr Bert. They were delicious.

CARDS OF REMEMBRANCE: during Advent, our parish invites you to take a card from the foyer/ back of church to write the names of those loved ones who cannot be with us at this time of year. It could be they are travelling, living far away or have entered eternal life. It would be great if these cards can be filled in and placed in the Crib. We will remember these loved ones throughout Advent and Christmas.

ADVENT WEEK 3: PATIENCE: our parish focus for Advent is based on the scripture reading 1 Corinthians "Love is patient, love is kind...." Today our second reading focuses on Patience. Advent is a season of waiting. We wait for the birth of Christ. Anyone who has waited for their child to be born understand patience. Having to wait for the time that the newborn can be embraced by their family is a priceless moment and the waiting for that moment can feel endless sometimes. Patience for a loved one to return from a holiday to hear of their adventures. Patience for a return to health after surgery. Patience for a child or partner who has gone 'off the rails'. Patience for the young lady at the check out doing her best to serve the long queue. Patience to not lose your temper when it feels like you need to explode. Patience is love and we can show our love through patience to all those around us. It may be hard some times but it is necessary to make the world a better place.

VICTORIAN PLANNING AUTHORITY—SUNBURY'S FUTURE
Held two information sessions last week. Our Parish Education Board Is pleased with the proposed sites for our fourth and fifth parish schools as our population doubles in the next 10 years.

CHOOSE BETTER SAFER CARE NOT EUTHANASIA: Copies of this statement from the Melbourne Catholic Church are available at the Welcome Desk in the foyer.

THANK YOU: to Garnet Jacob and the OLMC Youth Group for organizing a very happy and festive Parish Christmas Dinner Dance. 150 parishioners and friends attended and enjoyed a very happy celebration. Well done! Funds raised will support the LAP Fund, the Neighbourhood Kitchen and Christmas on the Green, Youth Group and HIS Group. (\$250—each charity). Thank you also to Karen, Julia, Maria and Ray who cleaned OLMC church from top to bottom last Saturday. It took 5 hours for them to wash the windows and dust and polish all the pews, clean the sacristy and made it sparkle again.

EMERITUS VINCENTUS: at 8.30am Mass this Sunday, our parish will recognize the long and valued service of 6 members of St Vincent de Paul by presentation of a plaque to Margot Creed, Peter & Pat Readman, Beverley Rippe, Jo Wiegerink and Robina Lakey (if she is well). Jane Voon, our current SVPD President, will say a few words at the presentation of the plaques. Congratulations to these members who have contributed so much to help so many over the years.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: this weekend and next weekend our parish will be collecting money for the Annual Christmas Appeal. Rather than buy gifts our parish donates money to Vinnies who in turn give to those in need. It allows the dignity of buying meaningful gifts for those who go without. Thank you to all our parishioners who generously support this collection every year.

'WE MUST ALWAYS SAY 'NO' TO VIOLENCE IN THE HOME"—

POPE FRANCIS: during this Advent season many families are in a daily struggle to find peace within their own lives. Domestic Violence is a huge problem all over the world. If you or someone you know is a victim of family violence please see the following services who can help:

- Police 000 for anyone in immediate danger;
- Safe Steps 1800 015 188 a state 24 hour 7 day a week crisis line for support and accommodation for women and children;
- 1800 737 732 (1800 RESPECT) advice and support in relation to sexual assault, domestic violence and family counseling.
- 1300 766 491 Men's referral service for men who want help to stop their abusive behavior.

Our goal must be a society where all people are safe in their home, families and close relationships; where violence and abuse are not acceptable; and where all relationships respect the equality and dignity of each person. This is part of the Gospel vision of love and respect.

Jesus always protected the oppressed and exposed evil. He always respected human dignity of women, consistently challenging cultural attitudes of oppression and exclusion. We see him breaking social taboos that exclude people and expanding the boundaries of human love, acceptance and friendship..... Cf extract from Bishops Domestic Violence Statement 2016

JOY: In these weeks of activity and worldly preoccupations, the liturgy today asks us to rejoice. The coming of Jesus is a cause of joy to our world and our families and to each one of us. How can I bring some joy in the life of my family and friends this week? *Please pray for more priests and religious who bring joy to the world through ministry, presence and service.*

LITURGICAL COLOUR OF ROSE: is a sign of joy on this Sunday as we anticipate the joy of the Birth of our Saviour.
Our 3rd Advent candle is rose colour and will be lit this Sunday.

THANK YOU: Fr Kevin and parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the celebration of Holy Mass, beautiful flowers and the many, many well wishes. We shall miss you. God Bless. Emmanuela and Tom Woods.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS are still available from the Parish Office for \$3 each.

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: Nil **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Michelle Fettes St Anne's Church – Skeeter Jacob Cedric D'Souza Jo **COUNTERS** Kaye Roche Tony Tanti Ian Burnside **GIFT SHOP:** Roselle Duckworth Frances Arians **LECTORS:** Julie Reddan Jenny Carland Terry Sweeney Kevin Crowley **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: 5.30pm** Yvonne Rozario Pauline Sharma Angelo Snell Jim O'Brien Dawn Westwood Sue Wight Patricia & Angelo Altair **8.30am** Lloyd D' Crus Rex Jacob Lili Lupa Glenda Shanahan Graeme & Lynne Simpson Andrew Swann Liz Richards **10.30am** Grace Tucker Anne Smith Sylvester D'Souza John & Sheila Stafford Moira Sullivan Aileen & Terry Sweeney **5.30pm** Will Honner Maria Mallia Rita Rocco