



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
Tues	2.30pm	Riddell Gardens
Wed:	11.00am	St Anne's-Anointing of Sick
	2.30pm	Lions Hostel
	7.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation St Anne's
Thurs	9.15am	St Anne's
Fri:	9.15am	St Anne's
Sat	6.00pm	St Anne's
	8.00pm	St Anne's
	10.00pm	St Anne's
Sun	8.30am	St Anne's
	10.30am	St Anne's

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.

Reconciliation OLMC Church

10.00am-10.30am Saturday

7.30pm Wednesday 21 December St Anne's

18 December 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalm Response

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Emmanuel AGIUS Margaret CROOKS
Kath KILGARIFF Cathie LIO Lionel MCGUIRE
Fr Brian MCMAHON Violeta MARIANO
Josephine MEHAS Bernadette NOONAN
Cassandra O'KEEFE Arthur PALSER Kath
REILLY Kevin SMITH Frank WALKER Beth
WARBURTON Shirley WHORLOW Bethany
WRAGG

Recently Deceased: Ffyona RIGBY

Anniversaries: Kit DILLON Betty DODD
Charles ENGERER Tony SANZA
Betty WARREN

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND JOSEPH

There are only two accounts of the birth of Jesus in the gospels, in Luke and in Matthew. Today we hear from Matthew who wrote for a Jewish Christian Community. He wants to establish that Jesus is descended from David, Israel's ideal shepherd-king. To achieve this Matthew focuses on Joseph rather than on Mary because Joseph is of David's line. According to the customs of a patriarchal society Jesus himself becomes a "son of David."

Joseph is presented to us as an icon of faith and integrity. He is open to God's plan which is beyond his dreams. Joseph surrenders himself to God's mysterious purposes and is guided by the Spirit of God.

On a visit to the Philippines in 2015, Pope Francis said on his table in his residence he has an image of St Joseph sleeping, and when he has a problem, he writes a little note and puts it underneath St Joseph so that he can dream about it.

In the gospels, Joseph is found twice resting as an angel reveals God's will to him in his dreams. Pope Francis continued that dreaming is very important in families. "How many difficulties in married life are resolved when we leave room for dreaming, when we stop a moment to think of our spouse, and we dream about the goodness present in the good things all around us."

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND MARY

In December 1940, the famous French author Jean-Paul Sartre, an atheist wrote as a prisoner in a Nazi internment camp, a nativity play for his fellow internees, including priests. A very tender portrait of Mary emerges: "She looks at her newborn child and thinks "This God is my son. The divine flesh is my flesh. He is made from me. He has my eyes, and the shape of his mouth is the shape of mine. He takes after me. He is God, and he takes after me. No other woman has ever had her God fall to her lot in this way. A small God whom I can take in my arms and cover with kisses. A warm God who breathes and smiles. A God who lives and whom I can touch.""

This is a great commentary of John's Gospel (1:14,18). "The Word was made flesh, he lived among us and is only the Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart who has made him known."

OUR SEASON OF THE BIRTH OF CHRISTMAS

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.

While the retail stores take down their Christmas decoration on 26 December to prepare for the Boxing Day sales, our Christmas season continues to the 8 January, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Congratulations to Sahail and Salesian College: Sahail Balak of Salesian College Sunbury gained 99.1 ATAR, the highest at any school in our region which includes Sunbury and Gisborne. Congratulations to Sahail and to his teachers at the college. The number of students at Salesian in Year 12 gaining an ATAR of 90+ increased by 50% this year.

Marriage Annulment Applications: more people are seeking to have their failed marriage declared null by the Church since Pope Francis streamlined the procedures. In Germany the increase of 50%, in England 100% while our state of Victoria has seen 300% increase.

Christmas on the Green: last Saturday was attended by about 2500 people, the largest in 30 years of Carols in Sunbury. Those present donated \$1246 for food parcels distributed to those in need in Sunbury by Careworks.

..... Kevin McIntosh

**Special Collection this Weekend
for Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

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 foyer at 12 noon. Please bring a plate to share.

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 beginning on Sunday 1 January 2017.

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

- 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

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 4 ENDURING LOVE: our Gospel today from St Paul reminds us of the love Joseph showed Mary when she was with child before living with him. It was customary to cancel the wedding if such an issue arose, but Joseph was a man of honour and spared Mary the indignity and scorn of the people in their town. Joseph vowed to raise Jesus as his own and was a loving father to his son. Joseph showed enduring love throughout his life for his family. Our world needs enduring love for peace to happen. Can we love our family better and have peace in our homes? Can we love our neighbours better to have peace in our towns? Can we have peace in our country so we can have peace in our world? Yes we can but it takes all of us.....we still haven't got it right so we must keep trying.

CONGRATULATIONS: to the 108 Year 6 students at our two schools who graduated at the two Masses celebrated last week. We thank their parents and teachers for their dedicated care towards their educational journey over the past seven years.

BEST WISHES: to the Year 12 2016 students who received their results last week. We pray that they will enjoy a fulfilling and happy future.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: this 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. (Please note that if you gave last weekend, you are not obligated to give again.)

YOUTH GROUP: On behalf of the Youth group and Holy Spirit interactive group, a big 'thank you' to Fr. Kevin, Fr. Bert, Sr Jose and Jo Spiteri for your support in 2016 and assistance provided towards the charity dance conducted on Sat 3rd Dec 2016. We had a wonderful night with family and friends! Funds raised were donated to five charitable events (\$250 to each). Thank you to all our parishioners and sponsors who had assisted in many ways and we look forward to your support in 2017. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, safe and Blessed New Year.
.....Garnet Jacob

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S CHILD

SAFE STANDARDS: The Victorian Government has introduced compulsory minimum Child Safe Standards that apply to organisations that provide services for children to help protect them from all forms of abuse. These are to be implemented by 1st January 2017. The emphasis of these new legislative requirements is to effect further cultural change; to attempt to change attitudes towards, and increase awareness of our obligations to the safety of our children. Our Parish has been working on these standards, in consultation with the Archdiocese, to build on our child safety measures already in place. A Child Safety Policy, Commitment to Children Statement, Reporting Child Abuse, Child Safety Code of Conduct, have been developed. A copy of these can be found in the church foyer, on our website or available at the office. Details of the 7 Child Safe Standards and further information can be found at www.dhs.vic.gov.au.

EMMANUEL: God is with us. Next Sunday is our annual reminder that God did not leave us alone; He sent His Son Jesus to be with us to give us joy, and hope and peace. This week, how can I tell people about my excitement for the real meaning of Christmas?

Please pray for more vocations to the priesthood; that more young men will bring us Jesus through their ministry as a number of our priests are retiring at 75 years of age and not being replaced.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS:

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Interview process will be in late January followed by a Training Day early 2017. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Website: www.mercyworks.org.au Mercy Connect Melbourne - Tel: 9326 1895

HAVE YOUR SAY: Hume City Council invite all residents to express their thoughts as they develop plans for the proposed Hume Learning Centre–Macedon St, Sunbury. The estimated cost is \$18 million, \$15 mill from Hume and \$3 million from Victorian Government. Please visit hume.vic.gov.au -> what's on and things to do -> your say -> Hume Learning Centre Sunbury.

FRENCH MUSLIMS MEET AT THE VATICAN: a delegation of the French Council of Muslim Faith (CFCM) joined in an inter religious meeting at the Vatican on 3 November. The president of CFCM, Anovar Kbibeche said "Our meeting with the Pope reflects the new dynamism of fraternity and consensus that we have fostered among Christians and Muslims." The CFCM said it would distribute in its mosques in France the text of the Pope's address at the meeting: "May it never happen again that the religious, because the conduct of some of their followers, convey a distorted message, out of time with that of mercy."

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: Elaine Van der Weerden **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Raquel Handley-Bowen Candice Bowen St Anne's Church – Nil **COUNTERS** No Teams **GIFT SHOP:** Carmel Wiegerink Pam Fairbairn **LECTORS:** Christmas Masses **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** 6pm, 8pm, 10pm: Christmas Masses– Helpers Required 8.30am Christmas Masses– Helpers Required 10.30am Christmas Masses– Helpers Required