



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 St Anne's
Mon 9.15am St Anne's—Liturgy of Word
Tues: 6.30pm OLMC
Wed: 9.15am St Anne's
Thurs 9.15am St Anne's
Fri: 9.15am 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

15 January 2017

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm Response

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Emmanuel AGIUS Ernesto CARASIG
Joe CAUCHI Rose CHETCUTI
Caleb FARIA Lionel MCGUIRE Fr Joe
MCMAHON Violeta MARIANO Josephine
MEHAS Bernadette NOONAN Kevin SMITH
Eufrocina VERGARA Frank WALKER Beth
WARBURTON

Anniversaries: Giovanna BRULLO
Corazon LIBAO Angela MILLETT
Ron PRIOR Upali SILVA



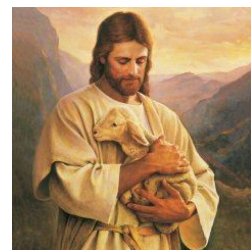
THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

Before we begin a semi-continuous reading from Matthew's gospel in 2017 we have today a small section from John's gospel (1:29-34) which teaches us who Jesus is.

"He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". In the Jewish religion, a lamb was sacrificed annually at Passover to atone of their sins. Such a sacrifice was costly to shepherds who only had a few sheep.

By calling Jesus the Lamb of God, tells us that Jesus is God's most precious gift. God's own self, given to the world. In the Aramaic language used by Jews, the word 'talya' was used for sheep and servants. So Jesus is the servant of God the Chosen One of God—Jesus is divine. Our first reading today (Isaiah 49:3-6) speaks of the servant formed by God.

Like John the Baptist, we are called to point out Christ to others, not so much by what we say, but by our lives as actions speak louder than words.



OUR BROKEN YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM— ONCE THE BEST:

Victoria's progressive approach to youth justice was seen in the lower rates of youth offending, imprisonment and recidivism. In recent years the youth justice has received less attention. The youth justice system sits between two much larger systems – those of child protection and of adult corrections. Two thirds of youth in the justice system have been in child protection.

For some years, both major parties have spoken of being 'tough on crime'. A sensational media has created fear. Less public servants have been employed in the youth system to form a relationship, to listen and learn from the youth so as to tackle the specific factors at the heart of their offending. Each young person is unique and needs to be supported on how to change their behaviour. The young people need to remain connected to family and community and be supported to successfully transition out of custody.

A summary of the article by Julie Edwards, the chief executive officer of Jesuit Social Services, Victoria published on 10 January 2017

WE MUST CELEBRATE OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS, NOT SHAME THEM:

The true measure of any society can be judged on how it treats its most vulnerable members, so Mahatma Ghandi said.

On 1st January 2017, the Federal government tightened the assets test of aged pensions. 330000 older Australians had their pensions decreased, according to reports in AAP.

Some cuts make good sense. However, social services organisations have questioned the government over these cuts to make sure those who genuinely need the pension are not forced to live in abject poverty during their retirement.

Last week, Liberal Democrat David Leyonhjelm said the cuts don't go far enough. His advice is that the pension should not be seen as something deserved, but in fact something to be ashamed of.

As a nation— rather than penalizing or shaming our elderly citizens— we should be celebrating their particular contributions, regardless of whether at some point in their lives they need to rely on a government payment.

Summary of article published on 8 January 2017 by Kasy Chambers, executive director of Anglicare Australia.

.....Kevin McIntosh

CONGRATULATIONS SR JOSE` ON GOLDEN JUBILEE: on 6 January 2017, Sr Jose` celebrated her 50th anniversary. She celebrated in Sydney with the Sisters of St Joseph and we will celebrate as a parish on Sunday 26 February at 10.30am Mass with a luncheon afterwards.



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

Jasper FREND

James ZAHRA-NILSSON

We joyfully welcome them to our parish community of the Church.



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

VALENTINES DAY DANCE: is being organized by the Youth Group for Saturday February 18 from 6.30pm-11pm in the Parish Centre. Tickets can be purchased via Garnet on 0411 286 428 or the Parish Office. Tickets are Adults \$20, Pensioners \$15, Family of 4 with 2 children under 12 \$50, children under 12 \$12. Food and music included in price of ticket.

Sponsors, Donations and Raffle prizes are welcome.

All profits will be donated to the Goonawarra House and the Youth Group.

Goonawarra House run a program to support young girls who suffer with bullying. Funds raised will pay for mentors for the girls.

The Youth Group will be looking to fund a bus trip for the parish community this year. Funds from the dance will be used to fund the bus trip.

YOUTH GROUP: Saturday 28th Jan, 2017 from 4 to 5PM Praise & Worship, Listen to the word of God, Reflect & Share! followed by Holy Mass at 5:30PM followed by supper of sausage rolls & fellowship!

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: 15 JANUARY 2017:

The theme is "Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless". Pope Francis has sent a message to the Church that we should be very aware of the most vulnerable of all people are the child migrants who are unfortunately treated very badly and exploited by unscrupulous adults. Due to circumstances well beyond the control of the child, they find themselves in desperate situations and can be used in ways that take the innocence of the child either through slavery, child soldiers, child labour, pornography, criminality in many different forms.

Children do not grow up with the intention of living a life in these circumstances. They grow with hopes and dreams of a good life and want to be surrounded with love and support. Some children will never know this as they find themselves in situations that compromise their dignity and take away their child like wonder and innocence. How sad to see hardness in the eyes of a child? That they have seen the world so harshly is not what God would have wanted.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." (Mk 6:37)

Let us remember these children in our prayers. And pray for the circumstances that led to their situation, to be changed throughout the world.



REFLECTION: Ours is an historical religion. It not only unfolds within the joys and disappointments of time and place, but it is rooted in actual events that took place in the lives of real people. The Christ to whom we commit ourselves is not a mythic character, a figment of communal religious imagination. He is someone who was born into history, at a specific period of time, in a particular place. He was known by real people like John the Baptist; he submitted himself to historical rituals like baptism. He had followers who testified to the truth of both his existence and his life. Jesus was a man of history.

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GOSPEL REFLECTION: Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.

The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

Living the Gospel – Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

Scriptural context – Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

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CATHOLIC BISHOPS– PEACEMAKERS: The Catholic Bishops in the Congo Republic have facilitated discussions between the government and the opposition working peacefully towards presidential elections. The US government has publicly supported the mediation efforts by the bishops.

In Columbia, the Catholic Bishops have been closely involved in the peace process which has brought a ceasefire between the government and the FARC rebels. A new peace deal was signed on 24 November 2016.

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: Natalie Xerri **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Lucy Gatt St Anne's Church – Nil **COUNTERS** Jack Sullivan Mimi Quattrone Janet Elliot Kerry Sanford **GIFT SHOP:** Roselle Duckworth Mary Wicks **LECTORS:** Felicity Wicks Della Oswald Terry Sweeney Jo Spiteri **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** 5.30pm Vicki Heath Paul Hogan Garnet Jacob Paul Fanning Albert & Diana Mastramico Val McManus Sashi Nair 8.30am Lili Lupa Liz Richards Glenda Shanahan Graeme & Lynne Simpson Andrew Swann Monica Allen Tom Allen 10.30am Moira Sullivan Bernadette Anderson John Bottams Christine Cassar Johanne Dajic Judith Davis Olga Ellul Johanna Fahey 5.30pm Will Honner Maria Mallia Rita Rocco