



## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,

SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

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### Liturgy Times this Week

|       |         |                           |
|-------|---------|---------------------------|
| Mon   | 9.15am  | St Anne's-Liturgy of Word |
| Tue   | 6.30pm  | OLMC                      |
| Wed   | 9.15am  | St Anne's                 |
| Thurs | 9.15am  | St Anne's                 |
| Frid  | 9.15am  | St Anne's                 |
| Sat   | 5.30pm  | St Anne's                 |
| Sun   | 8.30am  | St Anne's                 |
|       | 10.30am | St Anne's                 |
|       | 5.00pm  | OLMC                      |

### RECONCILIATION OLMC Church

10am-10.30am Saturday

Baptisms celebrated on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office for details of the next Baptismal Preparation meeting.

**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  
**Principal:** Julie Freeman

25th February 2018

### Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

Psalm Response: Psalm 115:10,15-19

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 17:5

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

**From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

### LET US PRAY FOR

**Sick:** Sue ANNETTE Joan ATKINS Vera FENTON Christopher HABER Louise HEARN Harvey HUGHES Diamond JACOB Jan & Peter KEOGH Lloyd MACEY Lorna MACKENZIE Fred MENZIES Sharron RING Tina SANTIAGO Sofia-Rose SORBELLO Caesar TANNAGAN Christine VELTHUIS Carolyn WOCKNER

**Recently Deceased:** Jack BIRD May MCCOMB

**Anniversaries:** Vincenzo BRULLO John FERNANDES Jose' GALLO Joe GRECH Jack REDDAN Gary REDDAN Esme RODRIGUES Ashby ROMEO James & Irene TYQUIN

*Special Collection This Weekend  
Overseas Humanitarian Project*

### HE DESCENDED INTO HELL

The following article appeared in the parish bulletin some months ago. At the request of a parishioner, who is still troubled by that phrase in the creed which says "**he descended into hell**", it is repeated.

Possibly the most intriguing part in the Apostles' Creed (our profession of faith) is the phrase, '**he descended into hell**'. What are we to make of it? How are we meant to understand that peculiar phrase? Surely, Jesus did not visit the hell where Satan, his dark angels and the damned are to be found! What then does the Catechism of the Catholic Church teach about those strange words in the Creed?

The word '**hell**' is derived from the German '**hel**' (realm of the dead). The frequent New Testament affirmations that Jesus was '**raised from the dead**' presuppose that the crucified one sojourned in the realm of the dead prior to his resurrection. This was the first meaning given to the apostolic preaching to Christ's descent into hell: that Jesus, like all men, experienced death, and in his soul joined the others in the realm of the dead. Between his dying on the cross and his rising on the third day Christ entered into the realm of the dead. He descended there as Saviour, proclaiming the Good News of salvation to the spirits imprisoned there.

Scripture calls the abode of the dead, to which the dead Christ descended, '**hell**' – *Sheol* in Hebrew, *Hades* in Greek – because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God. Such is the case for all the righteous dead while they await their redeemer. Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation. He went to free the just who had gone to their death before him. The Gospel was preached even to the dead. Christ's descent into '**hell**' brings the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfilment. This is the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission, a phase condensed in time, but far-reaching in its application. The saving death and resurrection of Jesus is spread to encompass all who dwelt on earth, those who went before him and those who came after him. Christ went down into the depths of death so that '*the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live*' (Jn 5:25).

### IN BRIEF

By the expression "**He descended into hell**" the Apostolic Creed confesses that Jesus did really die and through his death for us conquered death and the devil, "*who has the power of death*" (Heb 2:14). In his human soul united to his divine person, the dead Christ went down to the realm of the dead. He opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him. Jesus' '*descent into hell*' as found in the Apostles' Creed is the '**underworld**' rather than the place of damnation. By dying Jesus entered the company of the just souls of those who had died before him, and therefore shared with them the fruits of his saving mission. In that brief period of time between his dying on the cross on that Friday afternoon and his rising on Sunday morning, Jesus reached out to those in the shadow of death and extended to them the grace of eternal salvation.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

**PROJECT COMPASSION 2018:** Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Parishes and schools around Australia generously participate in Project Compassion during Lent. We are encouraged to support Project Compassion through prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Boxes are available in the church. **Please take your box and return by end March. Thank you.**

### MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

|                |         |  |
|----------------|---------|--|
| Tuesday 27 Feb | 2pm     | Information on Reconciliation for Govt School Children |
|                | 7.30pm  | Information on Reconciliation for Govt School Children |
|                | 7.30pm  | Sunbury Interchurch Council St Mary's Parish           |
| Wed 28 Feb     | 10.30am | Stewardship Program                                    |
|                | 1.30pm  | Parish/School Coordination Meeting                     |
| Friday 2 March | 5-7pm   | Well Being Expo OLMC School                            |

Parents whose children attend other schools than our two parish schools are advised of meetings this week beginning the Religious Education program so that their children can take part in the sacramental life of the Church. For those preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, these are the two information and registration meetings on Tuesday at 2pm and 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

**PARISH EVENT– ST PATRICK'S DAY 2018 :** The Ripcords will be rocking up a storm in our **Parish Centre on Saturday 17 March– St Patrick's Day.** We will have Irish dancing display and lots of other fun. The band play a mixture of music from the 50's, 60's and 70's so get ready to dance the night away! BYO food and drink .Tickets can be bought from the Parish Office at \$20 per head. Time: 7.30pm. All proceeds will go to the Parish Overseas Humanitarian Project to support the HIV/AIDS affected orphans in Jakarta.

**OUR THREE PARISH SCHOOLS IN 2019:** Holy Trinity School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and St Anne's School will have an information session for enrolment in 2019 on Wednesday 14 March at 10.30am and 7.30pm in our Parish Centre. The three Principals will be present and will outline the procedures for applying for enrolment. Not all 2018 applications were successful due to the esteem of our schools. A large sign on Mitchells Lane indicates the site of Holy Trinity School being built this year.

**OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN PROJECT:** A fundraising appeal to assist the LAP Group in Jakarta to continue their critical work will be held at all Masses this Sunday.

Thank you again for your continued support ..... Mick Hetherington, Frank O'Connor, Victoria Fitzpatrick, Teresa Quin, Jill and Tony Kiley

**MORNING TEA:** Special invitation from the LAP fundraising team to get together over morning tea after the 8:30 mass this Sunday. Everyone welcome.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON MASS:** next month, on 4 March, celebration of this Mass returns to OLMC Church at 5pm.

**FIRST VISIT IN 59 YEARS:** on 5 February, President Erdogan of Turkey visited Pope Francis in Rome, the first such visit by a Turkish leader in 59 years. The meeting centred on the 'situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the status of Jerusalem, highlighting the need to promote peace and stability in the region through dialogue and negotiation, with respect for human rights and international law" (Vatican Statement) Turkey occupies a strategic role as a bridge between Asia and Europe.

**BEIJING PRAISES "WISDOM" OF POPE FRANCIS:** A popular, state run newspaper says the Vatican and Beijing will re-establish diplomatic ties "sooner than later and that any problems related to a deal will be solved by the 'wisdom' of Pope Francis. This would be a major breakthrough in the 70– year attempt by the Vatican to normalize diplomatic relations with Beijing.

Since 1793 the Holy See's diplomatic service has relations today with 183 countries. A crucial role is paid by the Pope's Foreign Minister Archbishop Paul Gallagher who was the Papal Nuncio in Canberra a few years ago.

**EVERGREENS COMMITTEE:** will meet on Tues 27 Feb at 1.30pm in St Anne's Meeting Room.

**RCIA EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:** RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a process of developing our relationship with God, each other and the Catholic community, while learning more about Jesus and His church. If you or someone you know, would like to learn more about the catholic faith please contact the Parish Office on 9744 1060.

**SACRED HEART PARISH, YEA/ST PATS RACES:** Sacred Heart Parish Yea is one of the smallest parishes in the Diocese with the St Pats Races their main fund raising activity. A day at the St Pats Races in Yea offers a family friendly day at the picnic races in the country with a wide range of catering options, entertainment and kids activities. Support Sacred Heart Parish Yea by enjoying a picnic day at the races on Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 For more information and bookings visit our website: [country.racing.com/yea-st-pats](http://country.racing.com/yea-st-pats). Leonard

## **LENTEN PERSONAL REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:**

What do we look for on a mountaintop? A family returned from a holiday and were retelling the story of a climb they had undertaken. It took a morning and was steeper and harder than any of them had thought it would be. One of the teenagers, looking up from her phone, observed that 'they could do more with that place you know, like they could have a coffee cart or a food truck or something up there.' We all look for different things on our mountain tops!

In the biblical tradition, important things happen on mountains: our ancestors saw the mountain top as a place where people were closer to God and the transcendent. This week, Jesus leads Peter, James and John to the top of a 'high' mountain and then something astonishing happens. They see Jesus in a new light—perhaps in a way that would not have been possible if they had not been alone with him in an isolated place. They suddenly realize what a close relationship Jesus had with their ancestors, and they were fearful. Their powerful experience concludes with them hearing God anoint Jesus as his son and with the request to 'listen to him'. As 21st century readers of the Gospel we know that the drama of the story is building and that Jesus is set now for certain suffering. But how can we listen to what this means for hearts and souls?

Perhaps there is something we can learn this week about being attentive. An insight about the 'science of attention' might help: *"The science of attention teaches us that we tend to pay attention to what we have been taught to value and that we tend to be astonishingly blind to change until something disrupts our pattern and makes us see what has been invisible before. The same science also teaches us that we don't have to depend on surprise, crisis or trauma to help us see better. Rather, we can seek out the best partners, tools and methods to help us see. We can internalize the message of the basic brain science of attention."* (Now you can see it: how the brain science of attention will transform the way we live, work and learn p 243)

Perhaps this is a week for being attentive.

### **Reflections this week:**

- How is your prayer life? Do you mainly pray only when you want something?
- What are my blind spots?
- To what should I be paying more attention?

**Prayer:** *Lord, during this holy retreat time of Lent, encourage us in our efforts to be more prayerful and to be more attentive to the whisperings of your spirit in our lives. Amen*

Cf Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne Lenten reflection resources

**WHERE THERE IS PAIN THERE IS LOVE:** and where there is love, there is God. Jesus proved that on the Cross. Love, too, can transport us to uncharted places." quote Sr Hilda Scott OSB (cf 'Surrender" Diocese of Wollongong Lenten Resource)

Where people have experienced major pain in their lives— whether through illness, separation, grief, depression for example— their life becomes different— transformed if you will. Life will never again be the same because they have been through so much and are now stronger, wiser perhaps. "Because of pain, one can know for sure that there are depths to life and uncharted waters of hope and insight that we have never seen or known." writes Sr Hilda Scott.

Love in our lives has the same affect. The English poet and playwright, Robert Browning, wrote about two people who had fallen in love. She looked at him— he looked at her, as only a lover can, "and suddenly life awoke." Love changes our lives in similar ways as pain does.

"Love and its good friend, pain, will open the door of mystery and ultimately show us God." (Surrender, pg 22)

*Any woman who has endured pregnancy and labour will endorse that love and pain go directly together. As Jesus endured the pain and suffering of the Cross, was the greatness of his love for us.*

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** will be held on Wednesday 7 March at 7.30pm at Sunbury Uniting Church.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT:** will be prayed every Friday during Lent after morning Mass (except if there is a funeral scheduled) and led by the Legion of Mary. All are welcome.

## **ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND**

**ALTAR CARE:** Julie Wright **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— **Not required St Anne's Church** – Nil **COUNTERS:** Kelly Stark Vern & Maureen Walters **GIFT SHOP:** Carmel Wiegerink Teo Alvares **LECTORS:** Moira Sullivan Colin & Coreen Wilson Christine Wallace Jo S **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** **5.30pm** Patricia & Angelo Altair Mary Baensch Anne Burnside Vicki Heath Calvin Ryan Garnet Jacob Paul Fanning **8.30am** Colin & Coreen Wilson Ann Chircop Lloyd D'Crus Rex Jacob Lili Lupa Liz Richards Kathy Thompson **10.30am** Mimi Quattrone Sean Quigley Anne Smith Gary Plummer John & Sheila Stafford Carmen Micallef **5.00pm** Christine Wallace **Assistance Required**