



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,

SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429 Ph: 9744 1060

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Parish Masses are available on the parish website
olmcsunbury.com

The Parish Newsletter is also available on the Parish Website at
olmcsunbury.com/Newsletter

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
Priest Assisting: Fr John Papworth SDB
Pastoral Assoc.: Sr Jose Noy RSJ
Pastoral Co-ord: Lyn Plummer
St Anne's School: 8746 6800
Principal: Noelene Hussey
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School: 9740 7344
Principal: Julie Freeman
Holy Trinity School: 8746 6464
Principal: Krystine Hocking

19 April 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm Response: Psalm 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: John 20:29

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you
have seen me; happy those who have not
seen me, but still believe.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Frank HEENAN Ruby KECHAYAS
Dale MAHER Margaret MCCONVILLE
Martin MULLINS Lucy PERKOVIC Hubert
ROZARIO Christine RUSH Trevor SALTER
Veronica SEQUEIRA Chris TELFER Carmel
TRENTO Ren WILSON

Recently Deceased: John DENYS Barry
REDMAN

Anniversaries: Giovanna BRULLO



**Parish Vision: Christlike relationships of friendship and faith,
valuing one another and sharing our gifts for the good of all**

THOMAS THE BELIEVER

While Thomas is included in all the lists of the twelve apostles in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, it is only in John's Gospel where Thomas' speeches are recorded on three occasions.

The first occasion is when Jesus says he is going to the dead Lazarus "to wake him.. Let us go to him." then Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us go too, and die with him." (John 11:16). Thomas resolves to go with Jesus to Bethany even if it means dying with him.

Our second occasion, Thomas reveals himself as an honest person at the Last Supper. Jesus says: "I am going now to prepare you a place, I shall return to take you with me: so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said, "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." (John 14:3-5). Others present probably wanted to ask the same question but were too embarrassed to ask. Thomas is honest and open. We believers have benefited from his question.

The third episode occurred because Thomas was absent from the community of the disciples on the first Easter Sunday when Jesus appeared. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord." Thomas answered, "Unless I see the holes in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe." Eight days later, (on the next Sunday), the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you." Then Jesus spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:24-29).

Jesus does not rebuke Thomas for his doubts, but allowed him to see his wounds. Thomas does not even physically touch the wounds. Rather, Jesus' intimate presence to Thomas demolishes his doubts and Thomas professes the most profound act of faith in any of the four gospels, "My Lord and my God!" Nowhere in the gospels does anyone else call Jesus "God". So the title "doubting" Thomas is not scriptural and unfair. The Apostle Thomas teaches us that our questions about God, about Jesus and the Church are a good thing and can lead us to a mature and adult faith. We are all at different stages on our journeys of faith. Hence, we need patience and the support of a community, as Thomas in his questions was not excluded from the early Christian community. Let us support each other in prayer and friendship on our way "to the many rooms in my Father's house" (John 14:2).

THE EIGHTH DAY- SYMBOL OF THE NEW AGE: In the first century of the Christian era, the Jews believed that God would bring a new age when evil would end and God's spirit would be unleashed. The early Christians took up this idea and symbolised the dawn of this new age by speaking of the 'eighth day', the day after the Sabbath. In our gospel today, the second appearance of the Risen Christ was 'eight days later'. The symbolism of the 'eighth day' continued in Christian architecture and today many baptismal fonts including ours, are eight sided. The waters of baptism draw us into the new creation made possible in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our altar is also eight sided.

C. Mary Coloe PBVM, Box Hill

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY: we offer to Irene Denys as her husband of 53 years John Denys, entered eternal life aged 73 years on 13 April. John and Irene came to live in our parish in 1972. In fact, Irene returned to Sunbury as she had earlier received her education to Grade 8 at Our Lady of Mt Carmel School from 1950. They were blessed with four sons: Paul, John, Peter and Stephen. As their families belonged to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, John's funeral will be led by the Ukrainian priest, Father Andrew from Ardeer on Tuesday.

.....Kevin McIntosh

POPE CREATES COMMISSION TO RESPOND TO PANDEMIC:

"Pope Frances is convinced that we are living through an epochal change and he is reflecting on what will follow the crisis, on the economic and social consequences of Covid-19, on what we will have to face, and above all, on how the church can offer itself as a safe point of reference to the world lost in the face of an unexpected event." The Commission has five working groups.

.... Cardinal Peter Tuckson, Rome 15 April

PHONE BUDDIES: As other Churches in Sunbury and around Australia, we have set up telephone contacts by volunteers to some 1030 of our parishioners. We need a few more volunteers. Please contact the Parish Office by telephone.

CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY: As directive from Our Bishops our Parish Masses have been suspended until further notice. During this time, more so than ever, we must remain connected as a community.

We hope to establish a list of volunteers who are able to call our regular Mass goers to check in on them.

Secondly, our elderly may find themselves isolated and unable to shop, please let us know if you are able to pick up some shopping, occasionally for someone in need. If you can spare an hour or so a week please contact the Parish Office 9744 1060 If you have any questions or worries please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office

5 STEPS TO LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY DURING

CORONAVIRUS: some practical information can be found on our parish website to help you keep sane & safe during Coronavirus pandemic. Consider the following points:

Under our control: Wash hands, Social Distance, limit travel, Kindness and Compassion, limit news consumption and a helpful response to uncertainty.

Not under our control: How the virus evolves, when the pandemic will end, accuracy of statistics, other people's actions, your anxiety and presence of uncertainty.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE: A copy of our Parish Newsletter will be available outside St Anne's church over each weekend and during the week. **Please use gloves when opening the box for the protection of all.** Please pick one up for your family and a neighbour who may require one in their letterbox. Thank you.

SUNBURY CAREWORKS NEED YOUR HELP: We are currently endeavouring to increase our supply of basic pantry items to ensure we are covered for any contingency that may arise due to the escalating impact of COVID-19. We are looking for donations of: Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce, Baked beans, Soups, Cereal, Peanut Butter (small), Jams, Honey, Tea Bags (small), Coffee (small)

CURRENT RESOURCES FOR FAITH REFLECTION:

www.cam.org.au

www.melbournecatholic.org.au

www.salesians.org.au/info/audiodivina

www.cam.org.au/Summit

cathnews-prayer resources

Prayer and reflection App. – De La Daily

Prayer of Pope Francis Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

LAP HUMANITARIAN PROJECT: Due to the temporary suspension of Masses, we were unfortunately not able to hold the planned fundraising collection recently to support the HIV AIDS children living in the slums of Jakarta. However, thanks to the generosity of a number of regular pledge-givers, the parish has been able to forward a total of \$4,400 to the LAP Team in Jakarta from the donations accumulated over the past six months. This means a lot as it will (at least partially) cover the cost of supplying critical milk and vitamins to the 100-plus children they currently care for. If you would like to make a single or regular donation to support the work of the LAP team in Jakarta – could you please contact the Parish Office who will arrange this for you.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Parish LAP Support Committee



OLMC PRIMARY SCHOOL: this weekend would have marked our Parish celebrations for the opening of OLMC Primary School 160 Years ago. It has been transferred to Sunday 15 November 2020.

In 1860, 25 years after the settlement of Sunbury, 32 children were enrolled at OLMC Primary School. The first school cost £400 and was built out of stone and timber measuring 42 by 31 feet. At the time, the school was used as a church and was the first permanent public place of worship in the Sunbury district. Interestingly, the school was known as St Mary's. It was the first school in Sunbury.

In 1875, the school building was removed to allow for the completion of OLMC Church. The parents of the district assembled to decide an alternative for the education of their children and the decision was made to erect a new stone schoolhouse.

In 1881, the new brick school was opened. In 1872, the Education Act was introduced which meant that government funding was not available to denominational (including Catholic) schools. Teachers were normally lay teachers, so parishes turned to Religious Orders to help educate the children in Catholic schools. When the Sisters of St Joseph arrived in our parish in 1916, they took on the major role of educating the children of Sunbury parish. The Sisters were warmly welcomed and were charged with educating 106 pupils in years Prep through to Year 8. By 1923, numbers had reached 144. In 1972 government funding changed to enable non-government schools access to school capital grants and recurrent costs grants which helped secure the financial viability of Catholic education. Lay teachers increased in numbers at Catholic schools which meant that the Sisters of St Joseph could be involved in Pastoral Care in the schools and parish.

In 1976, Fr Feenan established a School Education Board which investigated building a new church and school elsewhere in the parish. Sisters of St Joseph were principals at OLMC Primary School until 1990 when the first Lay Principal was appointed, Jennifer Poon.

In 2009, Fr Kevin accepted a Federal Government offer to upgrade OLMC Primary School. Over nearly 2 years old classrooms were demolished and a new two storey facility with six classrooms, two specialist rooms, lift and kitchen was constructed. The new facility, with interactive white boards in all classrooms, helped to bring 21st century education to the children of OLMC Primary School.

The logo of OLMC was designed in the 1970's. The symbolism of the logo was very powerful, operating on two levels. The mountain range represented Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, renowned for its sun drenched desert environment and the important role of water. On the local level, the mountain range depicted the rise to Goonawarra, with the Australian sun overlooking the life giving waters of Jackson's Creek. In 2006, the two previous logos were incorporated into one. The school motto, "Semper Fidelis" was translated into "Forever Faithful" and included into the now coloured logo. It is opportune to give thanks to those who have come before us and the contributions they have made to our community over 160 years. Their wisdom and foresight into the needs of our growing community have enabled us to provide world class education to the children of our parish.

May we continue to be people who show wisdom and foresight for the future generations who will continue to live and grow in our beloved town.

Cf. Parish History Book "Led by the Spirit"