



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 and Newsletters are available on the parish website olmcsunbury.com

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

12 July 2020

Fifteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm Response: Psalm 64: 10-14

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Bonnie BIRD Carmel CORKER Brian HETHERINGTON Dale MAHER Rebecca MCGREGOR Fr Bernard O'BRIEN Lucy PERKOVIC Trevor SALTER Ren WILSON

Recently Deceased: Ken DRISCOLL

Anniversary: Elizabeth ROZARIO



Our Parish is committed to the Safety, Wellbeing And Dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

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

GOD'S KINGDOM WILL COME

Though we know it is necessary, with our six-week lockdown, we may be feeling frustrated and disappointed.

The very early Christians felt the same way. They were disappointed and discouraged by the opposition from without and the tensions within their early Christian community. They had been expelled from their Jewish community. They were disappointed that Christ's message was not being accepted more widely and more enthusiastically.

To give his readers new heart and new hope, Matthew recalls Jesus' parable about the sower and the seed. The sower scatters seed in a casual fashion— the wind blows the seeds onto the path, onto rocky soil, among thorns and on rich soil. The sower knows though that each seed falling on rich soil will provide excessive yields of a hundred, sixty or thirty-fold. The yield from the rich soil will compensate from the losses on poor soil.

The parable teaches us the generosity of God and how the kingdom of God will come. God is the Lord of the harvest. Jesus did not lose confidence in his message and neither should we.

LOCKDOWN— A TIME OF GRACE:

For forty years, the Franciscan priest, Raniero Cantalamessa has served as the preacher to the Papal Household. On 30 May, he wrote, "I believe there is grace in the current situation: that of the Eucharist being removed from its worst enemy, which is being turned into just a routine habit, into something we take for granted or reduced to no more than a pious practice. In 2005 St John Paul II spoke of the need to rediscover "Eucharistic amazement". "Our current "Eucharistic fast" can let us experience what our brothers and sisters in the Amazon are going through when deprived of the Eucharist for years, not only for a few months."

On 27th March, Pope Francis offered in an empty St Peter's Basilica, his diagnosis of the situation: "In a sick world we thought we could stay healthy...."

It took the tragedy of the last world war to forge unity for Europe. Today, in a globalised world, the horizon is even wider; we must create and strengthen structures of unity across the planet. Not only so that the world can avoid wars and environmental disasters, but to address the imbalance between those who have everything and those who are deprived of everything.

Today only the Holy Spirit can transform the chaos of the world into something more beautiful, more peaceful and more just. "Lord, send your Spirit and renew the face of the Earth."

FOUR "MARKS" OF THE CHURCH POST- COVID19:

Christopher Lamb, a well-regarded journalist in Rome and a biographer of Pope Francis, wrote on 30th May of four marks of the Church emerging from the pandemic.

The first is missionary simplicity. Pope Francis says we are to focus on taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the places where the most vulnerable, the poorest and the forgotten are to be found.

The second mark might be the Church is smaller, with less numbers and income. Throughout the history of the Church there has been a pruning away followed by new growth. A nimbler institution, clearer in its priorities, better able to respond to where the needs are greatest can act as a leaven in society.

The third mark will be a renewed relationship with the natural world and with science. By closing churches and suspending the liturgies, Church leaders are responding to scientific advice. Pope Francis' letter on the environment paid attention to the

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Insights of modern science. The relationship between faith and science is one of mutual enrichment as shown by St Francis of Assisi.

The fourth feature will be liturgical and pastoral creativity. New ways have been found to bring the gospel message by virtual means. We are to move away from being merely passive religious consumers. Spiritual guidance is given by Zoom. Home liturgies have grown.

While Covid-19 has hit Christians and the followers of all religions hard, there are signs too, of new life, as we trust in the promise left by Jesus to "do greater works than these." (John 14:12)

MORAL LEADERSHIP AFTER THE PANDEMIC: The Vatican is stepping up its preparations for offering moral leadership after Covid-19. One idea that is gathering support is that of a Universal Basic Income for which Pope Francis has offered tentative backing. Fr Augusto Davies is leading the Church's Covid-19 response: "This is not about ideology, nor about socialism or capitalism. What we are trying to implement is the preferential option for the poor."

POPE FRANCIS AND THE MEDIA: The Pope has created a very different relationship between the papacy and the media. He has given more interviews to journalists and biographers than any other Pope. He has engaged with the press, the broadcast media and now social media platforms in a relatively open, proactive way in contrast to the caution of his predecessors. Francis defends and trusts good journalism. Last year, he told reporters that freedom of the press was an important indicator of a country's health.

On 24 May, World Communications Day, the Pope stressed the importance of "sharing constructive stories that help us to understand that we are all part of a story that is larger than ourselves."

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST ANNE'S CHURCH: on 15 July 1990, our Church capable of holding 600 worshippers was overcrowded as Archbishop Frank Little consecrated and dedicated the new Church. Past parishioners, priests, members of other Sunbury Churches and local civic leaders attended. With the growth of Sunbury following its opening of Tullamarine airport, OLMC Church could not cater for the numbers. St Andrew's Uniting Church had already expanded their church. Inspired by the courage of parish pioneers and with faith in the generosity of present and future parishioners the Parish Finance Committee decided to proceed appointing Jack Clarke, the former Essendon footballer, as architect.

Let us give thanks for those in the past and the present who have paid for our church and the volunteer cleaners and gardeners who continue to make our church so inviting. We have been blessed to have our church for 10957 days, during which about 7000 Sunday Masses have been celebrated.

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY: we offer to Yvonne Driscoll and her children Sarah and Paul as her husband of 49 years, Ken, entered eternal life on 7th July aged 76 years. Ken fell ill to Polio in primary school. Ken was a federal public servant for 30 years. In 1971, Ken and Yvonne were married at St Patrick's Church, Kilmore by Monsignor Ken Morrison OBE. In 1971, Ken and Yvonne came to our parish where they have always been active parishioners. Ken was an avid golfer for 30 years. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated this week, concluding at Sunbury Cemetery.

MASS DISPENSATION: during this time of Covid 19, the Australian Catholic Bishops have dispensed all Catholics from the obligation to take part in Sunday Masses.

CONGRATULATIONS FR FRANK:

Yesterday was your 50th Jubilee as an ordained priest in the Salesian Congregation. After receiving a Ph.D. from Oxford University, and a doctorate from Baltimore University, Fr Frank has taught New Testament in Rome, Jerusalem, Washington and Melbourne. He now resides in Sunbury.

WELL DONE HUY: among the 2019 Academic Prizes granted at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne was the prize for the most outstanding English as a Second Language student given to Huy Nguyen who was among us last year on his pastoral placement.

SEA SUNDAY-12 JULY: today we recognise the important work by seafarers as 95% of global trade is carried by ships. Being an island nation, Australia relies greatly on shipping. During the pandemic, the seafarers are more burdened than most other workers, being denied shore leave. Presently, Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers continue telephone counselling provide essential care packs, etc. To support this ministry go to www.aos-australia.org

FAITH IMPORTANT IN LOCKDOWN: Paul Farmer is the chief Executive of the British mental health charity, Mind, established in 1970. He said in May, "Livestreaming Masses is reassuring people, and that is very important at a time like this. Faith is keeping a lot of people going; it's part of our mental health toolbox and the Church hopping online is very impressive." Paul Farmer's mental health tips for lockdown:

- * Sleep well
- * Eat well
- * Exercise well
- * Meditate and pray well
- * Identify someone you trust who you can talk to— *really* talk to
- * Improve your listening skills
- * Avoid social media and too much news
- * Take up or revive a pastime or hobby

....Kevin McIntosh

SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES: Due to Stage 3 restrictions in Hume, we cannot celebrate Masses in our Churches for the next 6 weeks at least. Masses will be recorded and available on line each week via the parish website olmcsunbury.com. We will update parishioners when changes will occur and any actions will be in accordance to Victorian Government restrictions and the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: due to Covid-19 the Parish Office operating hours are temporarily changed to Tues, Wed, Friday 9am-5pm (closed lunch time 1-2pm). **The office is not open for face-to-face contact for safety of all staff and public.** Please make all enquiries via telephone 9744 1060 or email sunbury@cam.org.au. To drop anything to the office, please use the locked box near the front door of the parish office. Staff are still checking messages, email's and letter boxes. Thank you for your understanding.

VINNIES COVID-19 WINTER APPEAL.: Thank you in advance for your support of the Winter Appeal. Now more than ever, the funds raised during this appeal are critical in ensuring that Vinnies can continue to do our Good Works and be there for people when they need us most. This year we ask all donations to be given via phoning 13 18 12 OR Online by emailing: vinnies.org.au all donations are tax deductible. Thanking you for your support.
John Stafford Sunbury Conference President

Prayer of Pope Francis Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment 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