



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

Mass Times-all at St Anne's Church

Saturday	5.30pm
Sunday	8.30am
Sunday	10.30am
Sunday	5.00pm

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

6th December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent- Yr B

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm Response: Psalm 84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Mark ARIANS Pam BELL Chris DOUTRE Bishop Peter ELLIOT Marie LOMBARDI Roisin MCGOVERN Cassie O'KEEFE Lucy PERKOVIC Enriqueta VILLAMATER David WEATE

Recently Deceased: Nellie O'Donnell

Anniversaries: Claire DILLON Billy LAIRD Oscar MORRIS

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

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

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD: 2ND SUNDAY ADVENT

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

Historical Context – A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

Scriptural context – Mark

The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a 'no fuss' gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

Gospel Focus – Preparing the Way

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.



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*Jesus,
in the darkness of these Advent nights
let me be guided by the light of your word.
Give me the humility to be led by you
and the wisdom to learn from you.*

*I feel your light in my life
and in the world.
I am grateful for the Savior who awaits
us,
and eagerly await the time of rejoicing.
Let me look forward in hope
and turn to you with great trust,
knowing you will guide my steps
along the unknown path of this day.*

MASSES to 100: Premier Daniel Andrews announced that religious celebrations will be capped at 150. St Anne's is capped at 100 due to the restrictions quotient density rules of 1 person per 4sqm. The following instructions will need to be adhered to so our community remains safe:

There will be NO bookings for Masses.

The church will be open half an hour before Mass, all participants must be at the church by at least 10 minutes prior to Mass starting. Parishioners will need to register, name and contact phone number. Sanitiser and Masks will be mandatory

An usher will seat each person/family who must remain in that seat until receiving Eucharist

In receiving Eucharist, please extend your arms as far as possible to allow for correct social distancing

Unfortunately, we will need to clear the church immediately after Mass.

Each Mass will require the correct number of volunteers, if not Mass cannot go ahead. Please consider what role you are able to play in the celebration and phone the Parish Office with your offer.

Volunteers needed are: Set-Up /Lector /Musician/Singer/ Registrars x2/Minister of Communion/ Ushers x 4-5/Cleaners x 4

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

*Come and share your gifts to help welcome,
usher, sanitise our church as we receive one
another back to our Parish Masses.*

*You can help at any Masses in coming weeks.
Please call the Parish Office to let us know how
you will help.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Please note there will be no reconciliations Saturday morning December 5th. The sacrament will resume December 12th, thank you.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS: After much planning it is hoped that all children whose Sacraments were postponed in 2020 will celebrate Confirmation, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation early in 2021.

ADVENT SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: will be celebrated on Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm in a Covid-cautious setting.

↑8%

Projected
unemployment
rate for the Dec
2020 quarter.¹



66%

of families where
the main earner is
unemployed are at
risk of poverty.²



935K+

Australians were
unemployed as of
Sep 2020.³



740,000

Additional Australians are at
risk of poverty with cuts in
government support.⁴

Sacramental Absolution will be available for all penitents present. The service will last about 30 minutes to prepare us for Christmas.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Who are the voices that "cry in the wilderness" today? With the impact of the global pandemic this year, these voices are many and varied. John the Baptist, in our readings, came to make a straight path for the One who will initiate the coming of the Kingdom. That time is probably not measured in years, but in the quality of the lives of those like us who would live in it. We believe that in living as Christians, trying to live as Jesus showed us, we are helping to bring about the kingdom. Vinnies too are influenced by voices crying in the wilderness. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, Charles Gordon O'Neill, and Pope Francis cry out a very passionate but clear message: serving Christ in the people affected by poverty through love, respect, justice, hope and joy. There is an uncomfortable message in a secular society focussed only on looking after ourselves. As we prepare for the birth of the Christ-child may we continue in faith to hear the voices that influence our mission offering hope for the hopeless, shaping a more just and compassionate society. By donating to St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, you will help members and volunteers offer practical assistance directly to families and individuals who need it most. You will be also contributing to the large and varied network of support services for people in Victoria. St Vincent de Paul told his followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive, and none so poor that they have nothing to give.

If you are able to make a contribution to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, please do so by visiting vinnies.org.au or calling 13 18 12. Please help us to help others. There is a box in the foyer for any cash donations for Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Thanks you

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2021: are available for purchase for \$10 per copy. Please call the parish office on 9744 1060 for your copy of this beautiful calendar.

MASS COLLECTIONS: we sincerely thank those who are financially supporting the parish during these challenging times. Collection plates will not be handed around due to Covid restrictions. We have 2 boxes at each Mass for any envelopes or donations to be made. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

CAROLS ON THE SCREEN: After 34 years of celebrating Christmas Carols on the Village Green, this year the celebration will be online. Much effort has gone into the production with a working party first meeting in late August. The production will be available online after 7pm on 12 December for some days.

CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA (CHA) ON MENTAL HEALTH: CHA has commended the Productivity Commissions mental health report saying its recommendations could provide for greater support for vulnerable people. The report is a pathway that could transform the way we deliver mental health services, both in the short and long term. Mental ill health costs Australians \$220 billion a year.

MARY MACKILLOP TODAY: The following message has been received:
On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. We've had another wonderful year, raising approximately \$31000. A great effort from many, many people! From 2001 till now the total raised is \$409000. It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.
Thank you to our OLMC Parishioners who collect used stamps. Please leave at the Parish Office.
.... Sr Jose' Noy

BLUE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: will be celebrated at St Anne's Church on Thursday 17 December at 7.30pm. More details to come next week All Welcome!