



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

ON WURUNDJERI COUNTRY



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

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Newsletters are available on the parish website
olmcsunbury.com

Mass Times: all at St Anne's Church

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am	Mass
	10.30am	Mass
	12noon	Baptisms
Thurs	9.15am	Mass
Fri	10.30am	Mass with Anointing of Sick
Sat	10-10.45am	Sacrament of Reconciliation

According to the Victorian Government regulations, all participants must be **fully vaccinated** and show proof of vaccination before entering the church. Online Masses continue to be televised.

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
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 December 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18
Psalm Response: Isaiah 12:2-6
Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.
Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Val CARR Miguelito ELMA Rose HABER
Chris HULL Albert POTENZIANI Chris Reilly
Clive SUMNERS

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Perc HAMILTON Don
MCCONVILLE Bruno PENJALOV Fr Frank
YOUNG

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND
VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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

ADVENT A TIME FOR JOY

Our first two Bible readings today invite us to rejoice because at the halfway moment of Advent we are aware of how close we are to proximity of the salvation that will come to us at Christmas. To celebrate the theme of joy the liturgical colour can be rose, not penitential purple. Our rose-colour vestments were bought by our revered Fr Bert.

OUR IMAGE OF GOD

Some people think they can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life, for example: "I will be a better person if I get well" or "God keeps an account of my demerit points."

In our first reading from Zephaniah written in the seventh century before Christ, before the Israelites were forced into exile, we are assured that the Lord God "will renew you by his love and he will dance with shouts of joy for you".

St Paul insists in our second reading that his community rejoice. Joy stems above all from a sense of being loved. In the Christian community the experience of the Holy Spirit is essentially a sense that one is loved by God and are grasped within God's saving design. Paul writes "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord". (Philippians 4:4)

Of course, anxieties and worries remain. Paul's remedy for this is that they be taken to God in prayer. The great theologian St Thomas Aquinas teaches that we are to image God as a Divine Lover who loved us into existence, sustains in love and destines us for love.

RESPONDING TO LOVE

John Baptist called for a change of heart - to repent. He told tax collectors and soldiers working for Roman occupiers not to use their power to exploit the locals. He also called for his followers to share their clothing and food with the poor.

We can express our generosity simply having a positive, hope-filled and generous attitude in our approach to others which may often turn around a negative situation. Of course, practical sharing with poor is necessary. Christmas can be the hardest time of the year for struggling families. The Covid lockdowns have affected greatly many people. The Salesian students have collected 125 bags of necessary items for the poor to be distributed by Vinnies. The bags fill one of the rooms in our Parish Office.

OUR THREE CAROLS SERVICES

The first is online—"Carols on Your Screen" which the Churches of Sunbury have organised. School choirs from Sunbury Schools and the Sunbury Chorale will present the Carols and the Church Ministers will give brief reflections. The service will be available from **7pm on 10 December to Boxing Day** on Facebook-Sunbury Churches. Salesian students will sing part of "Silent Night" in the original German language from 1818.

The second is entitled Lessons and Carols is an English traditional service of readings from the Bible and Carols. The Sunbury Chorale will lead the singing. The service this year will be in St Anne's Church on **Sunday 19 December at 7pm.**

The third is entitled "Blue Christmas" for those finding the celebrations of Christmas a sad occasion due to a death or serious suffering. The service will be held in St Andrew's Church on the Village Green, Barkly Street on **Wednesday 22 December at 7.30pm.** Ministers from the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Church will be present.

OUR SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

Year 6 students from our three Schools will graduate at ceremonies on Tuesday and Wednesday. We congratulate their families and teachers for their great work, especially in the last two years.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Our parish will celebrate 7 masses over the Christmas weekend. We will need a number of volunteers to have them run smoothly. If you are available to help in any way please register your name on the table in the foyer. Thank you.

THANKS AND FAREWELL

Today, Fr John Papworth SDB is celebrating his last Mass with us before moving to his new appointment in Engadine, a Sydney Parish with two churches and two schools. John began his formation as a Salesian sixty years ago here in Sunbury; later was Principal of the College and for the last three years he has been the Vice Rector. This year he celebrated 50 years as a priest. We thank him for his service to us and will pray for him as he takes on a large role in Engadine. Morning Tea will be available after today's Mass.

....Kevin McIntosh

FESTIVE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 15 December 7pm. Cathedral Brass, with Anthony Halliday, organ. Brett Kelly, conductor. \$25—tickets online or at the door. Children under 15 are admitted free of charge. Online tickets: www.trybooking.com/BVJPD

PRESBYTERY COLLECTION – DIFFERENT WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

With the introduction of the collection bags as a Covid-safe way of contributing to collections at Mass, we thought it appropriate to reinforce the four different ways that parishioners can contribute to the First (Presbytery) Collection.

Briefly they are:

- Using the existing envelope method.
- Depositing cash in the collection bag at Mass.
- Using your credit or debit card at the "Tap and Give" terminal in the foyer of the church.
- Direct debiting your bank account with a specific amount by nominating the following specific parish presbytery account:

BSB

Account No. ...

Account Name:

Contributions you make using any of the above methods will help in financially supporting Fr. Kevin as well as the poorer parishes and 101 retired priests from Melbourne parishes.

Thank you for your support,
Parish Finance and Development Committee.

VISION THROUGH THE SPIRIT

A session of scripture, reflection, group discussion and prayer was held last Wednesday and repeated Thursday evening. You are very welcome to join either group, **Wednesday 15 December at 11am** or **Thursday 16 December at 7.30pm.**

ADVENT ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Will be celebrated on **Friday 17 December** at 10.30am within Mass.

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

Maya ALGER

Ella & Zara GERMAN

Elijah WOODS

We Joyfully welcome them to our parish.



2022 COLUMBAN CALENDARS The 100 years edition of this beautiful Calendar is available to purchase at the weekend Masses, for \$10 each. **Cash only.** These calendars make a lovely gift for family and friends.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Are available to purchase for \$2.25 for a pack of 8 cards, from the Piety Stall at the weekend Masses.

ACN AUSTRALIA: That Catholic Shop *Bringing Christ into Homes and Hearts.* Copies of the Christmas Catalogue of That Catholic Shop are available on the Welcome Desk. All proceeds assist the work and mission of Aid to the Church in Need. You can also visit www.thatcatholicshop.com to see the range and order online.

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN PROJECT: Due to the wonderful generosity of our parishioners, a total of \$1,578 was raised at last weekend's collection at our Masses for LAP. These funds will be urgently sent up to the LAP team in Jakarta to assist them in their ongoing care for the HIV AIDS children. Thank you again for your support - it is making a real difference to the children's wellbeing. Parish LAP Fundraising Team.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH WORKING BEE

There will be a working bee to spruce up St Anne's church on Saturday Dec 18 at 11am. Please come along with a vacuum cleaner, outdoor broom, long handle brooms or duster, your preferred weapon of choice. The windows have been cleaned already. Look forward to some cleaning fellowship.

VINNIES APPEAL

During December the Christmas Vinnies Appeal allows us to share our generosity with those who are less fortunate. A cash donation will assist Vinnies in supporting families with vouchers to purchase food and gifts suitable for their needs. The appeal will be conducted over the weekends of **December 18/19 and December 24/25/26.** Thank you for your support.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is celebrated each Saturday morning from 10am to 10.30am. **Next Saturday, December 18** there will be the opportunity for those unvaccinated to receive Reconciliation at St Anne's church outdoors, 10.30 to 10.45am.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Tue 14 Dec 7pm Parish Liturgy Team

Fri 17 Dec 2pm Parish Finance Committee - Parish Centre

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

Sunbury Parish Christmas Family Masses

Friday 24 December	6.00pm	St Anne's Church
	8.00pm	St Anne's Church
	10.00pm	St Anne's Church
Saturday 25 December	8.30am	St Anne's Church
	10.30am	St Anne's Church
Sunday 26 December	8.30am	St Anne's Church
	10.30am	St Anne's Church

Please note: Bookings are not required this year.