



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 web-site
olmcsunbury.com

Mass Times: all at St Anne's Church

Sat 10.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation
5.30pm Sunday Mass
Sun 8.30am Sunday Mass
10.30am Sunday Mass
Tue 11.00am Funeral Mass—Margaret McMahon

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
Priest Assisting: Fr Brian Ahearn SDB
Fr Frank Moloney 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

9 January 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm Response: Psalm 103:1-2,3-4,24-25, 27-30

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:16

Alleluia! Alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Val CARR Terry FORAN Rose HABER
Frank HEENAN Chris HULL Fr Noel MACKAY
Albert POTENZIANI Chris REILLY Clive SUMNERS Anthony VAN DER WEERDEN

Recently Deceased: Eileen DILLON Grat FALZON Margaret MCMAHON Les WHORLOW

Anniversaries: Jean DORNEY James MCGOVERN Shirley WHORLOW



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

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONCLUDES WITH THE MESSIAH REVEALED

While for some people, the Christmas season ends with the Boxing Day sales, for Christians today is the conclusion of the Christmas time when Jesus is revealed as the Messiah at his Baptism.

For centuries, the Prophets in the Old Testament, including Isaiah in our first reading today, taught that God would bring justice to the nations. The Prophet Isaiah wrote after the Jews returned from their exile in Babylon in the 6th century BCE. (before Christ).

In 1741, George Handel composed his famous "Messiah" using the words of Isaiah "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord - Here is the Lord coming with power" (Isaiah 40:9)

The long preparation for the Messiah culminates in John Baptist's ministry. Jesus comes out of obscurity and is impelled into public ministry. God's promise is fulfilled.

JESUS THE ANOINTED AT PRAYER

The term "Messiah" means the 'anointed' in English—as "Christos" in Greek means anointed. Only in Luke's version of Jesus' baptism, do we read that after his own baptism Jesus was at prayer (Luke 3:21). In Luke's gospel Jesus prays at significant moments in his ministry (6:12, 9:18, 22:40, 23:34).

Frequently, Luke presents Jesus withdrawing from his ministry in order to spend time in prayer, or teaching his disciples to pray. (Luke 5:16) Prayer erases the barrier between heaven and earth. While Jesus is praying the "heavens are opened".

FIRST REVELATION OF THE HOLY TRINITY

The event of Jesus' baptism reveals the trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, "You are my Son". This is the first time in the Bible where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the term Trinity is not used in the scriptures, by the time of St Paul's writing (70AD), blessings in the name of Jesus, God and Holy Spirit are frequent. The term "in the name" - reminds us there is the one name of the Divine Persons - meaning God is one.

THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD REVEALED

In our second reading from St Paul's letter to Titus, we learn that "God's grace has been revealed and it made salvation possible for the whole human race...his own compassion has saved us" (Titus 2:11; 3-4). Paul emphasises the free and gracious love of God. God is described as kind, loving, compassionate and generous. It is unfortunate many retain older images of God as a harsh, calculating judge.

At Jesus' baptism, he had a deeply interior spiritual experience of God, as "abba" (daddy in local language) - when the Spirit said "you are my beloved Son - my favour rests on you".

By our Baptism, we too become beloved sons and daughters of our loving God.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Will be our key Sunday gospel for this year. Journey is the main theme of Luke's

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Writing. He structures his gospel around Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem where the promise of salvation comes to fulfilment. His second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, is the story of the good news going from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Along the way, Luke puts special emphasis on Jesus' outreach to the poor and the weak, on God's mercy and forgiveness, on the importance of prayer, the work of the Spirit, and on women. Many parables are found only in Luke, eg The Good Samaritan and the Father forgiving his prodigal son. Luke presents Jesus as very critical of the rich and self-righteous.

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

We offer to Damica Galinac whose third son Nikola entered eternal life on 20 December aged 49 years. His father Vlado died in 2019. Nikola went to St Anthony's School, Melton South and later Footscray University where he was a brilliant student until aged 20 years he suffered profound and permanent brain damage when he was injured by a hit and run car driver. His funeral was held on Wednesday concluding at Sunbury Cemetery.

We offer to Amanda and Jacek Klukowski whose daughter Hannah was stillborn recently. With their son Gabriel they moved into the Parish in December. A memorial service was held on Wednesday.

We offer to the family of Margaret McMahon who entered eternal life on Christmas Day aged 94 years. Margaret lived her whole life in Sunbury. She was baptised, went to school and married in Sunbury. Her late husband John, known as JJ and Margaret were blessed with their eight children. Margaret enjoyed good health until a couple of months ago. She took part in Mass every Sunday and attended Mass at Riddell Gardens a week before Christmas. Her Funeral will commence with Rosary on Monday at 6.30pm at OLMC Church and her Mass will be celebrated at 11am on Tuesday 11 January at St Anne's Church.

We offer to the family of Les Whorlow who entered eternal life on Christmas Day aged 92 years. Les and his late wife Shirley married at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, Middle Park in 1958 and they were blessed with their six children. They came to our parish in 1970 where Les was always at Sunday Mass. He was a co-founder of Rotary in 1973. He was also very active in community service through Rotary which organised Meals on Wheels and youth groups. His Funeral was held on Friday concluding at Sunbury Cemetery. Fr Laurie Moate SDB Principal of Salesian College 1988-1993 concelebrated the Mass as a friend of Les for 50 years.

JILL GIBBS NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN

Our neighbourhood Garden next to St Anne's celebrated it's 10th Anniversary in November. There are 47 plots of garden being maintained. There are 4 vacant plots.

....Kevin McIntosh

CALVARY GOONAWARRA

Last month, Goonawarra Aged Care Facility became part of Calvary Health Care which was established in Australia in 1885 by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary—a congregation of Catholic religious sisters founded in England in 1877. Calvary Health Care in Australia now has 14 hospitals, 72 residential and retirement communities and 19 community care service centres

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note the new office hours ongoing are:

9am - 1pm Monday - Thursday and

9am - 5pm Friday.

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 083 347

Account No. 67446 6042

Account Name: OLMC Parish Presbytery Account

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.

OUR MASSES

Bookings are no longer required. On arrival please QR in. Masks are required at all times for those aged over 8 years. Please try to socially distance. After each Mass, the Church is sanitised.

PARISH BINGO CONTINUES

each **Thursday at 7.30pm** at the Sunbury Bowling Club, Riddell Road. All are welcome to attend. Meals are available before the game begins.

"HONORARY PARISH ACCOUNTANT - We are seeking the help of a partly or recently retired Accountant to assist in the administration of the Parish. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Office 97441060 to register their interest.

ST VINCENT de PAUL

A big THANK YOU to our 4 Parish schools plus our Parish congregation on a massive response to our St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas offering.

What a magnificent effort by our students preparing over 225 Christmas packs of personal items and Christmas goodies for our companions. The children received colouring books and pencils plus activity items for the holiday period.

Our Sunbury conference is very thankful to the most generous response to our Christmas appeal where a fraction under \$4,500- was donated. Our conference can assure all those generous Christians, this will make a big uplifting day in the lives of those less fortunate to us in Sunbury, when we are able to assist them with a 2nd hand washing machine, refrigerator, or new mattress for a good nights sleep, or assisting a child have a computer to assist with their studies. Thank you again and God Bless all you good and faithful people. Kind regards,
John Stafford President, on behalf of all conference members.