



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 Office Hours: Mon - Thur 9am -1pm Fri 9am - 5pm
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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
	11.45 - Baptisms
Wednesday	9.15am
	7.30pm - Lenten Reconciliation
Thursday	7.00pm - Rosary Rose Lucardie
Friday	9.15am
	11.00am - Funeral Rose Lucardie

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am-10.30am St Anne's Church
No Bookings Required

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

27 March 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm Response: Psalm 33:2-7

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

**Father, I have sinned against heaven and
against you.**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Nancy ALLEN Val CARR Marie EL-
LIOTT Doris FAHEY Terry FORAN Frank
HEENAN Chris HULL Corazorn MALLARI
Albert POTENZIANI Bob POWLES Clive
REES Chris REILLY Jean SKILLECORN
Marie SULLIVAN Clive SUMNERS Matthew
WARBURTON

Recently Deceased: Rose LUCARDIE

Anniversaries: Vincenzo DAVID Margaret
DILLON Matt DUGGAN Terrence FARIA
Philomena FRANCIS Marie MAHONY Jessie
SCHEMBRI

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 FATHER FORGIVES HIS TWO LOST SONS

The religious leaders at the time of Jesus felt that there was no place for sinners in God's kingdom. They complained that Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them. The Pharisees were scandalised by his abhorrent behaviour. Such activity made one unclean and sinner according to their code of purity.

Luke's gospel has a very strong focus on Jesus welcoming the outcasts, the poor and the 'lost' of his society.

THE YOUNGER SON

By asking now for his inheritance, the son was as good as saying to his father, "I wish you were dead". This makes the father's forgiveness all the more astounding. The son going to 'a distant country' shows that he has turned his back not only on his father but also on his faith. He has left his true heritage behind. His repentance and return becomes all the more poignant.

Accepting work with pigs shows just how low the son has sunk because pigs are unclean animals to the Jews and touching them rendered the son ritually unclean as well. Through his journey the younger son comes to realise, that his fulfilment lies with his father and returns.

THE LOVING FATHER

The father allows his younger son the freedom to choose his way and make his own mistakes, but he keeps the door of welcome open. There is a common misunderstanding that the word 'prodigal' means lost. However to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. In the parable, the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave his returning son—to eat beef was only on important feasts—the father puts on an extravagant welcome party with music, dancing and great food. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

THE ELDER SON

As the younger son returns, the elder son is like the Pharisees who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. The older son has been living a sterile life, not really relating well with his father, saying he has been like a "slave". He also distances himself from his brother—"this son of yours". The elder son becomes the one alienated and outside the feast. The reaction of the father is consistent: he leaves the celebration and goes outside to meet his elder son, now the lost one, to tell him, "All I have is yours".

RECONCILIATION - REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING

Reconciliation requires that we are open to give and to receive forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives in future. When Nelson Mandela came to be the national leader in South Africa, throwing off he evil power of white supremacy, he could have tried to 'get even', to revenge, at least have crime and punishment. However, he established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, where racism was admitted in public hearings and the person reconciled to the new national community. Civil war was averted.

...Kevin McIntosh

RUPERTSWOOD HARVEST

A celebration of agriculture and education will be held at Salesian College, Rupertswood on **Friday 1 April from 4.30 to 8.00pm**. All welcome.

COMMENTARY FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 2022

This Sunday as we listen to the familiar Gospel of "The Prodigal Son" we are reassured that there is always hope and the promise of forgiveness for those who repent and turn again to God. The father allows his youngest son the freedom to choose to make his own mistakes, but keeps the door of welcome open. The father "goes outside" to meet his elder son, who feels alienated and lost and tells him.... "All I have is yours".

This Wednesday evening we have the opportunity in our Lenten Reconciliation to reflect on the poor choices we have made, and turn back to God whose arms are always open. Be still and know your God.

WELCOME TO OUR MASSES

At each of our weekday and weekend Masses you are welcomed by our team. The wearing of masks in the church is no longer compulsory but optional. We will continue to consider safe distancing. After every gathering, the church is sanitized, thanks to our volunteers. We warmly welcome you to our liturgies and look forward to seeing you.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

A Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy will be celebrated on **March 30 at 7.30pm in St Anne's Church**. It will be a community prayer liturgy of readings and reflection during which we are able to ponder our failings and receive God's ever forgiving blessings. For those who wish, individual Absolution will be available at the end of the liturgy. Visiting priests will be available. All are welcome.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

In the past year the RCIA team have been supporting inquirers via Zoom and now in person as they discover more about our faith and their relationship with God. At 10.30 Mass this weekend four young ladies will be welcomed into our community and will accept a further commitment to their journey of faith. With them we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance. They will listen to the Word and Homily and then on occasions, as will happen this weekend they will be "dismissed" to further reflect on the Word of God and how it relates to their lives.

The practice of Dismissal strengthens our love for the Word and heightens their expectation of the Liturgy of Eucharist as they prepare for their Sacraments of Initiation.

Please pray for these Catechumens, those being baptised and our Candidate who has been baptised in another Christian denomination.

BIBLE STUDY REFLECTION

All are invited to a fortnightly Bible Study/Reflection Group. The sessions will be held in St Anne's church commencing **Friday April 8 at 7pm**. Bibles and resources will be provided.

MEMORIAL MASS

Our Parish community have celebrated over 100 funerals in the past two years, many of which were only able to have 10 to 20 participants. Unfortunately there were many of us unable to attend and farewell our dearly loved parishioners.

We will celebrate the lives of our departed fellow parishioners at a Mass on **April 20, at 7.30pm**. Families are invited to bring along photo or memorabilia of their loved one.

We will be able to enjoy a cuppa after and share the wonderful memories we cherish.

All are welcome.

CENTENARY OF STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre has been offering care to seafarers for 100 years in Melbourne. The volunteers have been especially valued during Covid as seafarers have been forbidden to leave their ships on arrival in Melbourne. Stella Maris Centre at 600 Little Collins Street, Melbourne has provided groceries and other needs. (Ph: 9629 7494)

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

Harvey BELL
Florence CORI
Jai DICKSON
Mackenzie LOVETT
Chloe PAYNE

We joyfully welcome them to our parish.



PARISH BINGO

Our weekly session continues every **Thursday at 7.30pm**. Get a few friends together and come along and join in the fun at Club Sunbury. Enquiries to Gary Plummer 0419 301 760

ST VINCENT DE PAUL is here to help.

Anyone requiring assistance or help of any kind, please ring 1800 305 330 so members of our Sunbury Conference can assist you.

John Stafford | JP | Sunbury Conference President
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
M |0411 151 663
sunbury.conf.pres@svdp-vic.org.au

WAY OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are organized every Friday from 9.4am and 6.30pm at St Anne's Church and all are welcome to join in.

EVERGREENS

Lunch by popular demand, we had 25 people attend last month. Next lunch will be held on 5 April at 12noon at Itahlia Restaurant next to the cinema. Come along and bring your friends. For more info or transport call Joe 0477 677 248. Please book asap.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

Two Sunbury families are billeting refugees who have arrived from war-torn Ukraine.

SUNBURY WINTER SHELTER: You are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the newly incorporated Sunbury Winter Shelter. You may become a member of SWS (Inc.) at this meeting and then you are entitled to exercise voting rights.

The meeting will be held at:

St. Andrew's Uniting Church, corner Brook and Barkly Streets, Sunbury, at 7.30pm, March 30.

All Executive Committee positions will be declared vacant.

Maybe you are considering furthering your commitment to the programme and wish to nominate for a position: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer. Venue Co-ordinators are normally nominated by our partner churches but this year we have two shelter nights that are available for nomination: Venue Co-ordinator/s for Tuesday Venue Co-ordinator/s for Sunday. Your consideration of these positions would be appreciated. Nominations will close COB March 23. Hand deliver to Secretary SWS, 32 Fullwood Drive, Sunbury, mail to: PO Box 206, Sunbury or email to: imo27704@bigpond.net.au

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

We offer to the six children of Rose Lucardie who entered eternal life on 21 March aged 94 years. Rose grew up in Chinkapook and Swan Hill where she was very involved in the Parish. In 1994, Rose came to our Parish where she was very devout, a member of the Legion of Mary and the Evergreens. She had good health until five years ago. The Rosary will be prayed at 7pm on Thursday and her Funeral Mass will be celebrated at **11am on Friday** concluding at Sunbury Cemetery.

REJOICING SUNDAY

The liturgical colour today is rose, a sign of rejoicing. The father and friends in today's parable rejoiced when the lost son returned home.