



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**

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

LITURGY TIMES: ALL AT ST ANNE'S CHURCH

Saturday	5.30pm - Sunday Mass
Sunday	8.30am
Sunday	10.30am
Tues	3.00pm - Riddell Gardens Aged Care 7.00pm - Penitential Service St Anne's
Wed	9.30am - Communion Service 1.30pm - Funeral - Kathleen Johnson 7.30pm - Blue Christmas St Andrews
Thu	2.00pm - Calvary Aged Care
Fri	9.30am - Communion Service
Sat 24	6.00pm - Christmas Mass 8.00pm - Christmas Mass 10.00pm - Christmas Mass
Sun 25	8.30am - Christmas Mass 10.30am - Christmas Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am - 10.30am St Anne's Church

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

18 December 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm Response: Psalm 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 1:23

Alleluia! Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Kerry BAILEY, Karina BURNS, Judy DAVIS, Larry DAVIS, Aileen JOHNSTON, Moira KELLY, Claire KENNY, Andrena MCGOVERN-TAYLOR, Jema MIRANDA, Cindy MORRISSEY, John O'MEARA, Bob POWLES, Thomas SILVEIRA, Andrew SWANN, Elaine VAN DER WEERDEN, Lauro VISTAN, Doris WILLIAMSON

Recently deceased: Kathleen JOHNSON
Peter TIMBS

Anniversaries: Kit DILLON Don MCCONVILLE
Albert POTENZIANI Patrick REDDAN Betty WARREN

SPECIAL COLLECTION - This weekend
Vinnies Christmas Appeal

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

JOSEPH, DO NOT BE AFRAID

On this final Sunday before Christmas, our Bible readings at Mass take us back into Jesus' origins in Israel. In our second reading, St Paul's Letter to the Romans, Paul speaks of Jesus as a son of David, and Son of God. Sometimes we have so emphasised Jesus as the Son of God that he overtook that he was also the son and child of Judaism. Judaism is a great gift of God to humanity. Next week, we will celebrate the birth of a Jewish child, born of Jewish parents and through this child, God comes to us.

THE ROLE OF JOSEPH

During next year, our Sunday gospel will be mainly from St Matthew who writing for the early Christians converted from Judaism, presents Jesus as the 'new Moses'. Like Moses, Christ brings a new Law to the people of Israel.

Today's gospel begins with Mary, Joseph's betrothed wife being pregnant before they had come to live together. Under Mosaic Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her and he determines he will do this quietly and protect Mary from shame and punishment. Later, Joseph trusts in the word of God given in a dream and goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family. Soon, he will lead Mary and the child Jesus to Egypt so that they can escape the murderer's plans of Herod.

Joseph's role is often overlooked. He is mentioned only once later when Jesus aged 12 years is lost in the Temple. Joseph 'models' keeping the Law as Jesus will later teach with forgiveness, mercy and compassion.

THE NAMES OF MARY'S CHILD

From our gospel today, it appears that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. "Joseph, you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins".

Our reading today ends "Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us'.

Throughout Jesus' life on earth, people will experience God's saving presence in their encounters with Jesus. After his resurrection, he will continue to be 'with' his Church in its communal life and world-wide mission to the end of time. Matthew ends his gospel with the Risen Christ saying: "And know I am with you always; yes to the end of time" (28:20). Christ is with us – in our joys and worries.

THE 36TH ANNUAL SUNBURY CAROLS

The Combined Churches of Sunbury presented the Carols at Rupertswood, a new venue, last Saturday. Blessed with wonderful weather, it is estimated 3,500 people gathered, more than expected. The venue worked really well, thanks to all the planning by the organising committee and the sponsors. Many community groups were involved – the Scouts, the SES, St John's Ambulance, school choirs, Salesian College. Three Hume City Councillors addressed the gathering. Our parish printed the programs.

CAROLS AND READINGS

This prayer service has a long history developed in England. It features key Bible readings outlining the promise and the fulfilment of the birth of our Saviour. This year, the service will be held tonight, 18 December at 7pm in St Andrew's Church.

A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE 2022

This service acknowledges the pain and sadness many people experience at Christmas time. The service began in Canada about 40 years ago and has now spread around the world. In recent years the service has been in various Sunbury Churches.

This year, it will be held in St Andrew's Church on the Village Green on Wednesday 21 December at 7.30pm. The worship uses spaces of silence, readings and Advent Candles to invite us to hold the pains, the struggles and disappointments before god who came to share our humanity at the first Christmas. The service is followed by refreshments and gathering so that people can know they are not the only ones finding Christmas not so "Merry".

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

To prepare our hearts for the birth of our Saviour, there will be a prayer service on Tuesday at 7pm after which some visiting priests will be available to celebrate the Sacramental Absolution.

.... Kevin McIntosh

CHRISTMAS MASSES SETTING UP DAY

Our parish is very blessed to have amazing support from our parishioners, especially at this special time of year. We request helpers to set up St Anne's Church for Christmas Masses on Friday 23 December at 10am. If you are available please help us.

Christmas Remembrance

There are cards available in the foyer to record the names of those who are unable to join us at the Christmas celebrations. The cards are placed in the crib and we will remember them.

Parish Bingo-Christmas Special

Your Parish Bingo, Major Bingo, is conducting its final session for 2022 on **Thursday December 22**, eyes down 7.30pm at the Sunbury Bowling Club. This is our Christmas Bingo with a guaranteed last game of \$2000. Plenty of other prizes, gifts, a special guest caller and loads of fun. Come along for some Christmas cheer—you will be made most welcome. We will resume our weekly sessions on Thursday January 12, 2023. Enquiries to Gary 0419301760 or Graeme 0417503527

Religious Items Shop—News

Religious Christmas Cards - Pack of 8 cards for **\$3.00**. 2023 Columban Calendars still **ONLY \$10 each**. 'More with Jesus' is a 30-day faith exploration resource intended to help Catholics reflect on the significance of their baptism. Still **only \$6.00** Please order your copy Now and Don't be disappointed. Order at Religious items shop by leaving your name and mobile number. Reflections can be started anytime next year. Come and visit the store if we don't have it we can order it in. Inquires call Joseph Spiteri on 0477 677 248.

Parish Assembly Sunday 5th February 11.30am - 3.00pm

Enjoy a light lunch in the hall. Then gather in small groups to share with friends your questions and thoughts about Fr Frank Maloney's reflections on the church today in the light of our great Parish Vision. Sunday February 5th 2023 - Save the date!



CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASSES

Our parishioners shall gather to celebrate the birth of our Saviour on five occasions: **Saturday 24 December at 6.00pm, 8.00pm and 10.00pm. Sunday 25 December at 8.30am and 10.30am.** Children are invited to come in their Christmas costumes at the 6.00pm Mass. We will need volunteers to have these Masses run smoothly. If you are available to help in any way please register your name on the volunteer sheet on the table in the foyer. Thank you.

Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

This weekend, **December 17 & 18** you are invited to contribute to the Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. Contributions will assist many families of Sunbury to celebrate Christmas. Your generosity will be most appreciated.

Vinnie's Service Awards

Last week Vinnie's awarded four of our parishioners "Vinnie's Service Awards" in recognition of the time and energy spent serving the people of Sunbury. We congratulate and thank them most sincerely for their commitment.

Philomena Laird – 40 years

Ann Chircop – 20 years

Anita Armstrong – 5 years

Sarah Honner – 2 years

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land **11 – 28 April 2023**. If you are interested please visit our Parish Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733. Thank you.

The Combined Churches of Sunbury

Thank all volunteers for their help with Christmas at Rupertswood. If you have any comments or suggestions for next year, please write it down and hand it to any of the LEC committee members. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Vinnies Thank you

Over the past 12 months, the Sunbury Conference of St Vincent de Paul have helped around 312 families in the community with various assistance, with Food Vouchers, Education Expenses, Transport issues being some of the help offered. When major events such as bushfires and floods occur, St Vincent de Paul are not first responders. The Red Cross and Salvation Army assist in this role. St Vincent de Paul then assist in the time following with backup support. Our community in Sunbury have always been a very generous support to our Conference, and for this we are very grateful. A special thanks goes to the schools in our parish, who generously support the Conference with special gifts donated each year, for distribution to our families in need. Also a huge thank you to our volunteers who give their time to support these families. We wish all in our community a very special Christmas and a successful 2023.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from **Monday 26 December until Tuesday 3 January 2023**. Please note the office hours ongoing are 9am-1pm Monday—Thursday and 9am-5pm Friday.