



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
	11.45am - Baptisms
Fri	9.30am

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

25 December 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
Psalm Response: Psalm 95:1-3, 11-13
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel Acclamation: Luke: 2:10-11
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Kerry BAILEY, Karina BURNS, Judy DAVIS, Larry DAVIS, Aileen JOHNSTON, Clementine JOURY Moira KELLY, Claire KENNY Andreana 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: Fr Joseph Hynan P.E

Anniversaries: Frank FLORES, Charles FLORES, Carmen FLORES, Margaret MCMAHON, Ronald WOLFE

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday	6.00pm
	8.00pm
	10.00pm
Sunday	8.30am
	10.30am

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

JESUS IS THE GREATEST GIFT

Amidst our gift giving and receiving at Christmas we celebrate Christ Jesus is our greatest gift. At St Andrew's Uniting Church, there is a sign "Jesus is the reason for this Season".

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

St Luke's gospel situates the birth of Christ in history when the famous Caesar Augustus was the great Roman Emperor ruling over Europe. Monuments described Caesar as saviour and peacemaker, as there were no wars at that time.

Luke teaches us that Caesar is not the saviour, rather our Saviour is the powerless child, born in the insignificant town in Palestine. Jesus fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah in our first reading today being the Prince of everlasting peace. (Isaiah 9:6) The whole world is Christ's domain, if it would accept him, shown by our spreading peace in our own small worlds of family, friends and workplaces.

BORN AT BETHLEHEM

Due to the Census, Joseph and the pregnant Mary must travel to Bethlehem to be registered. So Jesus is born not in the familiarity of his own home surrounded by his celebrating family and relatives, rather among strangers in Bethlehem, where there were many visitors for the census—so the birth place was not like a motel, rather in a one-room house. During the winter, animals were sheltered in the house, giving some warmth to the family, hence there was present a eating trough, a 'manger'. Luke informs us that the sheep were outside being minded, so there was some space with straw—a perfect place for the birth of a child. It was the poor who were willing to give what they had in hospitality to Mary, Joseph and child Jesus.

THE FIRST TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

The shepherds were men who lived in the fields with their flocks—they were homeless. They were considered the lowest in society and treated very poorly—they were not accepted as witnesses in court. However, they are the first to hear the news of Christ's birth from the angels and to acknowledge their Christ and Lord. It was not the high and mighty who were summoned to the birth place. This was a reversal of the value systems of the world. Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus is on the side of the poor and unfortunate.

OUR RESPONSE

We are to go and find the Child of Peace and to glorify and praise God. We will not find the Child laid in the manger, rather we hear his Word in the Bible and find Christ at the Eucharistic table, but also in our sisters and brothers. We then go home changed. As Paul teaches us in this second reading today, we are to avoid worldly ambitions and live good and religious lives. (Titus 2:13) With our gift of Christian faith, whatever strife still troubles our world, the birth of Christ promises us peace and joy.

CENTENARY OF SALESIANS IN AUSTRALIA

March 2023 marks 100 years since the first six Salesians arrived in Fremantle from France. They arrived with high hopes, not knowing what the future held for them in this vast continent—half a world away from their home in Europe. Beginning in Broome, two hundred Salesians have educated countless young people in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific inspired by the charism of St Don Bosco. The Salesians came to Sunbury in 1927 after buying the Rupertswood property of 8,000 acres.

.... Kevin McIntosh

Our Prayerful Sympathy

We offer to the family of Kathleen Johnson who entered eternal life on 12 December aged 92 years. She and her late husband Len came to our parish in 1994. Kathleen was involved in Probus and our Parish Evergreens group and regularly at Sunday Mass with her daughter Jennifer Poon. Her funeral was celebrated last Wednesday concluding at Sunbury Cemetery.

Growth In Faith

This year we have welcomed 133 including some adults into our Parish Community by celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism. Also 116 children commenced receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We farewelled 33 parishioners celebrating their funerals in our Church.

Congratulations on Diamond Anniversary

Tomorrow, **Maria and Jack Mevissen** of our Parish will celebrate 60 years of marriage. May God continue to bless you.

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.

Parish Bingo

After another successful year, the Bingo Team will be taking a short break but will be back **January 12th, 2023** to commence celebrations for our 30th Year of Major Bingo!! Eyes down, 7.30pm, Sunbury Bowling Club 49 Riddell Road. All welcome. Enquiries to Gary 0419301760 or Graeme 0417503527

Religious Items Shop

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.

Congratulations

And Happy Birthday to Francesca Altair who will be turning 100 on Christmas Day.

Parish Assembly Sunday 5th February 11.30am - 3.00pm

It's Christmas! Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Give glory to God also when you experience our Parish Vision **in action** at the **Parish Assembly, Sunday February 5th 2023**. Highlight the date on your calendar today.

Christmas Wishes

Denise, Pauline, Lyn, Fr Kevin, Sr Jose, Juan Carlos, Garnet, Liam, Mary and Jane from the Parish Pastoral Coordinating Team (PPCT) wish parishioners a very joyful and peaceful Christmas.



Christmas Masses Set Up

Our thanks goes to those who generously gave up their time, at this busy time of the year, to set up for the large numbers who we welcome to our parish liturgies at Christmas. The extra seating needs to be returned on **Tuesday December 27 at 10am**. The pull-down should be completed within 45mins. Any help would be appreciated, thank you.

Vinnies Special Collection—Last Weekend

The Sunbury Conference of St Vincent de Paul, sends a huge thank you to our parishioners for your generosity last weekend. A grand total of \$2047.20 was donated. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all our generous contributors to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. If you missed out on the collection there is a donation box at the Crib. Thank you.

Nativity Scene

Once again our thanks goes to the family who have set up the Crib and the gentleman who erects the lighting display. This year the Christmas cards received at the Masses, display a photo of another Nativity Scene that has been made by one of our parishioners, Stella. She created it during lockdown and has displayed the scene in her home. The pattern was generously shared by Jona Giammalva. Thanks to all who remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Melbourne Catholic Schools

In 2021, a new organisational structure was set up to inspire and enable every student to flourish and enrich the world. Over 180 years, our schools have provided the best education possible forming lives of faith, hope and love. Now there are 112,000 students in nearly 300 schools which have a staff of 16,000. The new structure is MACS—Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

Catholic Care Victoria

This year, 31,691 Victorians of all ages were helped disrupting disadvantage and helped to 'live to the full'. Services provided were counselling, social housing, homeless services, prison ministry, bushfire and flood recovery.

Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land creatively blends live music, media and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love and human destiny. Join Christopher West and team as they offer a vision of the Gospel through the lens of St John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Choose from: **Tuesday 24 January 2023, St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 290 Childs Rd, Mill Park. Wednesday 25 January 2023, St Mary's Community Centre, 26 New Street, Dandenong.** Schedule: **6pm - food for purchase, 7pm start, 9.30pm finish** Open to all. All children under 18 years must be supervised by an adult. Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 concession/ student, free for children 10 and under. Register: www.trybooking.com/CETXQ

