



## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY, WILDWOOD  
ON WURUNDJERI COUNTRY



Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429 T: 9744 1060 Office Hours: Mon - Thur 9am -1pm Fri 9am - 5pm  
E: sunbury@cam.org.au W: olmcsunbury.com

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  
Tuesday 2.00pm - Funeral - Leanne Azuolas  
Wednesday 9.30am - NO MORNING MASS  
Friday 9.30am - NO MORNING 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

### 16 April 2023 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm Response: Psalm 117:2-4,13-15,22-24  
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Gospel Acclamation: John 20:29

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you  
have seen me; happy those who have not  
seen me, but still believe!**

**Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 20:19-31

### LET US PRAY FOR

**Sick:** Tom ALLEN, Kerry BAILEY, Joanna JAREKI, Claire KENNY, Maria MEVISSSEN, Jema MIRANDA, Karen RODRIGUEZ-DELLER, Thomas SILVEIRA, Jenny SIMPSON, Nelly Valencia, Lauro VISTAN, Doris WILLIAMSON Carolyn WOCKNER

**Recently deceased:** Leanne AZUOLAS  
Mesry WALI

**Anniversaries:** Carmen FLORES  
Eveleen REDDAN, Rachel TYQUIN

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

### **THOMAS—FROM DOUBT TO FAITH**

There are three elements in the story of Thomas doubting that Jesus had been raised from the dead that should give us great comfort.

### **DOUBTS LEAD TO MATURE FAITH**

Thomas doubts the central Christian message: that God raised Jesus from the dead. There are very few Catholics who go through life without asking some serious questions of God, about Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. These questions are good in themselves. They are necessary for a mature, adult faith. Thomas is the patron saint of those of us who seek the courage and patience to wait for the answers.

### **DOUBTERS SHOULD NOT BE EXPELLED**

In the earliest Church, where those filled with the presence of the Risen Lord did not expel Thomas as he was still with them a week later. They held on to Thomas in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself. Let us follow the model of the earliest Church and stay supportive to doubters today and help them come to see the transforming truth that has changed our lives.

### **THE TWO APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN LORD IN EIGHT DAYS**

The time between the appearances was seven days which parallels the story of creation in the Book of Genesis. This is a new creation. John's gospel was written for people like us who do not have access to the historical Jesus. The birth of the Church is ongoing act of God's creation in every generation. It takes time and people will be at different stages at different moments. Our Crucified God does not give up on us no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt. The second appearance of the Risen Christ in today's gospel occurs eight days later. Eight has become linked with the Resurrection. In our St Anne's Church, our altar, the Table of the Lord, has eight sides and also our Baptismal Font where baptism draws us into the new creation made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

### **JESUS BREATHES ON THE DISCIPLES**

There is another link with the Creation story where God breathes into the face of the creature made from the earth and the creature becomes a living being. (Genesis 2:7) The first disciples have the Spirit of new life breathed upon them by Jesus. They in turn are commissioned to offer new life to others in the forgiveness of sins and hold on to others in the life of the community.

### **MY LORD AND MY GOD**

Thomas despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him on the eighth day, he does not place his fingers on the wounds and proclaims immediately: "My Lord and my God." This is an extraordinary statement of faith for the first time, the only time in the four gospels, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, Prophet or Lord, but as God.

### **GOOD NEWS FROM THE VATICAN**

Pope Francis has appointed a new leader of the Committee of cardinals, bishops and three women who meet fortnightly and make recommendations to the Pope about future bishops. The new leader is Bishop Robert Prevost, raised in Chicago, and became an Augustinian friar. He was elected for two terms as world leader of the Augustinians. He has a similar vision as Pope Francis whom he meets weekly.

### Our Prayerful Sympathy

We offer to the family of Leanne Azuolas aged 44 who entered eternal life on 9 April after a lifetime of illness. Leanne attended Sacred Heart College Kyneton and later became an actor. Her family came to Sunbury in 2009. Her funeral will be held on Tuesday at 2pm.

....Kevin McIntosh

### Welcome

We welcome to our parish Fr Denis Stanley who will be our new Parish Priest. He will commence his ministry after 10 May. We look forward to welcoming him then.

### Lap Fundraising Collection

Just a gentle reminder – Our next fundraising collection will be at all Masses in two weeks on the **29 / 30 April**.

Your contribution will again help the LAP team in Jakarta provide essential nutrition and other support to over one hundred needy children living with HIV. Thank you for your generous support. OLMC LAP Fundraising Team.

### How are we being called??

During our Easter season of renewed hope and joy we are invited to consider how we could share our gifts within our community.

There has been an invitation to many ministries in the newsletter. Hopefully there is one, maybe two that would suit you.

At this time, we are focusing on Ministers of Communion, both in our Liturgies and to the sick and housebound and Lectors who will proclaim the Word of God. These roles of the Laity are so important in enhancing our Liturgies. Formation sessions are planned to prepare us through prayer and practical training in these ministries. Our second call is for those who are able to be rostered to occasionally clean our Church environment.

How are we being called?? **There are sign-up sheets available in the foyer from this weekend. If you are already a Minister of Eucharist, a Lector or part of the cleaning ministry please add your name (details not necessary) to the list. Welcome to all!!**

### Power of Prayer

Would you like to be a member of our community that sets 1, 2, 10 minutes each week to pray, wherever you may be, for a special intention together? Each Monday morning at 9am and/or each Wednesday at 4pm we can sit in prayer. You may want to use scripture, song, a prayer of any form to pray in unison for an intention. This initiative evolved from those who attended the Lenten Reflection gatherings.

You are invited to suggest an intention or prayer by calling the Parish Office. For the month of April can we pray for **hope**, the hope of Easter to those struggling mentally, physically or financially?

### Project Collection Boxes

Can be returned to the Church over the next two weeks or the Parish Office. Thank you.

### Cancellation of Weekday Masses

Weekday Masses will be suspended until **12 May** due to the need for supply priests.

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

Sofia FRANZE

Astrid MARTELL

Ayden SULTANA

We joyfully welcome them to our parish.



### Parish Bingo – Win \$10,000

Our Parish Bingo session “Major Bingo” is holding a special “Big Bucks” Event on **Saturday April 22**. Eyes down at 7.30pm at the Sunbury Bowling Club. Guaranteed \$10,000 last game price plus plenty of other great game prices. Time is running out! Reserve your seat by booking between 5.30 -7pm at our weekly Thursday session. Enquiries to Graeme 0417503527 or Gary 0419301760

### Something New

Can I remember my first contacts with Catholics in OLMC Parish? What happened? How did I feel? How could I make this experience for new parishioners (even) better, today? Why not leave your suggestions for welcoming new families on the Welcome Desk?

(Question: When did I last check out the Welcome Desk in the church foyer? )

We are hiring! Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Desk:

**Parish Pastoral Coordinating Team (PCT)** is looking to replace **three** members. This team meets once a month to bring parishioners closer together and to coordinate existing parish teams.

The **Welcoming Team** is envisioning two more teams to **Provide a Cuppa** after 5.30 and 8.30 masses. Is this your thing?

**Sunbury Winter Shelter**. The St Anne's Team is gearing up to care for homeless people this coming winter. Will you help? The **Team Protecting People at Risk**. All the hard work of setting up this team has been done.

### Marriage Encounter Weekend

**“Live Your Best Life in Love”**

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples the tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details. **Date: 28 – 30 April 2023** in Melbourne. (Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

**Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture: Aid to the Church in Need** is launching an annual *George Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture* with the inaugural event to take place in Melbourne CBD on **Sunday 21 May**. The keynote speaker will be Mr David Pell, brother of the late Cardinal. For information and to register, please visit [www.trybooking.com/CGUDA](http://www.trybooking.com/CGUDA). See flyer on the noticeboard in foyer.

### Wills and Bequests

Are you writing your will or considering a change? Please consider leaving your legacy to the work of our Parish. Details can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office.

## **Farewell and Thanks**

As I reflect on 52 years of priestly ministry, there is so much to be grateful for—it has been a wonderful life as people have shared their lives with me.

I start with my parents Mary and Wal who supported my decision aged 17 to leave home and live at Werribee at the college for priestly formation. At the college, there developed life-long friends. We had great lecturers, the Jesuit Fathers, the Bible, liturgy, theology and pastoral practice.

In 1971, I began fifteen years as an assistant priest in Ormond, Bennettswood, Greensborough, Moreland and Sunbury Parishes.

In 1976, Archbishop Little asked me to work one day a week in the diocesan office of the Marriage Tribunal which I still serve. In late 1976, the international Catholic renewal group—'Movement for a Better World' - came to our parish. Later, I joined part-time helping in giving parishes retreats on the vision of Vatican II. I have attended conferences overseas in Rome, Poland and Papua New Guinea.

In 1986, I was appointed the first parish priest of the new parish of Greensborough North—St Thomas' named in memory of Fr Thomas Ashe, the uncle of our Bishop Martin Ashe. During the next 19 years, the Parish had a large Building Program—a hall, a presbytery, and a church. We had a great architect Leigh—we worked together for 25 years there and in Sunbury .

I have been blessed to have two sabbatical studies—in 1984 in Canberra and in 2001 in San Francisco. When Fr Martin Ashe was appointed to Ministry to Priests in 2005, this parish of Sunbury was advertised.

A wise friend encouraged me to apply, saying “there will be a bit of life there” - “a bit!”

During these past 18 years, I have had very good and some sad times. In 2006 and 2012, I lost two of my closest priest friends—Fr Peter Cross and Fr Peter Fulton went to their eternal rewards. In 2008, our Mum went to her reward, very alert at 93 years.

The very good times have been made possible by the two Marys, and Annette at the Presbytery, great pastoral workers—Irene, Richard, Lyn, Sr Jose; Marlene, Jo, Karen and Monica as secretaries and six good Principals and good accountants—Peter, Jim, Karen. We have great volunteers on our teams in finance, liturgy, safeguarding, inter-church, parish co-ordinating, etc.

Being among the oldest parish priests in Melbourne, I consider it is time to finish as a parish priest and follow medical advice. I hope to work on a part-time basis.

My new address is: George Maher House  
256 Queens Parade  
Clifton Hill

A facility for ten retired priests.

I thank you all for the great support over these years and your kind words lately.

May God continue to bless us all.

... Kevin McIntosh

