



**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  
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**\*\*In case of emergency after hours—Presbytery 9740 6503\*\***

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: AT ST ANNE'S CHURCH**

**Saturday** 5.30pm - Sunday Mass  
**Sunday** 8.30am  
**Sunday** 10.30am  
11.45am - Baptism  
**Thursday** 9.30am - Mass  
**Friday** 9.30am - Mass

**RECONCILIATION**

**Saturday 10am - 10.30am St Anne's Church**

**Parish Priest:** Rev Denis Stanley  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev Jossy  
Kizhakkethalackal  
**Deacon:** Rev Stephen Fernandes  
**Pastoral Assoc:** Sr Jose Noy RSJ  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Elena Rodrigues  
**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 February 2024**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**First Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15  
**Psalms Response:** Ps: 24:4-9  
**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Matthew 4:4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!**

**No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth  
of God.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!**

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

**LET US PRAY FOR**

**Sick:** Kerry BAILEY, Jalila DAWOOD,  
Cesar GABALES, Val HALLIFAX,  
Helen LEE, Joshua LEE,  
Diana MASTRAMICO,  
John MCGOVERN, Della OSWALD,  
Matthew PALSAR, David SIMPSON

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Eileen MCGOVERN,  
Patrick & Rose McVEIGH,  
Delphine RASANAYAGAM

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

Mark wrote his gospel for persecuted Christians living in Rome. These early believers lived in fear of being thrown to the wild beasts in the public square; their cruel and agonising deaths a source of grotesque 'entertainment' for Rome's citizens!

Interestingly, today's gospel situates Jesus with wild beasts in the wilderness, where Mark says that he was tempted by Satan. The word *satan* in Hebrew means an opponent, and in the Old Testament, it typically referred to human opponents. In time, the word also came to be understood as a kind of 'public prosecutor', someone who accused people before God.

Eventually, it came to mean God's adversary; a demonic spirit opposed to God. So, in the New Testament, Satan was seen as the powerful spirit of evil, engaged in a great tussle against God. By Jesus entering the wilderness, he 'took on' Satan on his home ground; an encounter which Jesus clearly won!

But when Jesus leaves the wilderness of temptation, we know it's an experience that he will encounter again and again at various stages throughout his public life and ministry, including those last hours in the garden and on the Cross.

For example, recall when Jesus tells Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's." So, in his preaching, Jesus, who is *the* way to God, urged his followers to see that the time had come for them to embrace God's way, to allow God to guide and direct their lives and to allow the Good News to illuminate their minds, hearts and actions. But for that to happen, they need to repent and believe.

For us, too, temptations and evil are part of our lives. Selfishness, greed, dishonesty, jealousy, revenge, resentment, control and power constantly surround and seduce us. But the true value, worth and beauty of life, comes with building and fostering a loving and just society, founded on Jesus the Way to God, and his Good News of truth, integrity, love, compassion, freedom and peace.

That's why we need this purifying period of Lent every year. If, in recent years, we let it pass us by largely unnoticed, let this year be different. Let it be a time to review our lives, reflect upon our thoughts, words and deeds, and concentrate our efforts more fully on the things of God, and to repent and believe.

At the beginning of Lent, the Church always takes us into the wilderness with Jesus, to confront the powers that are contrary to the gospel. The good news is that we face this lifelong task under the guidance, strength and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and with the powerful nourishment of the Eucharist, and together with the support and encouragement of our fellow pilgrims of faith gathered here with us today.

David J Hore CSsR  
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### **Stations of the Cross**

Saturday evenings at 4.45 before Vigil Mass

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday mornings at 10.00am St Anne's Church

### **Project Compassion Sunday - 18 February 2024**

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*. **Please donate to Project Compassion.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

### **Sacrament Program for Government School Children**

**The Information and Registration Evening for 2024 Confirmations will be held on MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY @ 6.30pm in the PARISH HALL.**

**Please note registrations will be taken at this meeting, not online.**

Confirmation **Sunday May 19th** at St Patrick's Cathedral First Eucharist Sunday **August 11th** at St Anne's Church.

First Reconciliation **October 16th** at St Anne's Church

You are welcome to contact by phone or email the Parish Office for further information on 9744 1060 or [sunbury@cam.org.au](mailto:sunbury@cam.org.au)

### **Welcome to Christine Chidlow**

It is my happy duty to inform you that Chris Chidlow has been appointed as part time Parish Secretary to work alongside Karen Morris. Chris brings with her many skills of administration, working with a wide range of people and bookkeeping to our Parish. We warmly welcome her and look forward to working together in the parish office which is a key hub of our parish's mission and maintenance. Fr Denis Stanley PP

### **World Marriage Day**

Inviting all "Encountered Couples/Spouses/Priests" to join us in **Celebrating 50 Years of WWME in Australia. Saturday 16 March 2024** at St John's Parish, Mitcham (Enter via Elizabeth Street) A Formation Day—"Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; the Respect He Desperately Longs for". A light lunch will be provided and an evening of celebration starting at 6pm. Catered Spit Roast Dinner. BYO drinks and a wedding photo. For further details and to register contact Steve & Sue Hollowood - 0431477556/ 0412130845.

### **Don Bosco Feast Day**

The Salesian College community invite you to the upcoming Don Bosco Feast Day, a free event which promises to bring plenty of fun for all, **25 February 2024** - St John the Baptist Church—21 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill. See flyer on the noticeboard.

### **Evergreens**

**Social afternoon on Tuesday 27th February** at 12.00 pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome to bring a friend, bring a plate or lunch, a cuppa provided, a chat and share a smile. Everybody is Welcome. Enquiries Joe on 0477 677 248.

### **Parish Bingo**

Our Parish Bingo session "Major Bingo" is back bigger than ever with \$60, \$100, \$150 and \$1000 game prizes. Plus bingo lingo and joker raffle jackpotting every week. Come along and join in the fun, you will be made most welcome. Enquiries to Gary Plummer Mob. 0419 301 760.

### **Children's Liturgy 2024**

Has started again in St Anne's Church for Term 1, at **Saturday 5.30pm Mass or Sunday 10.30am Mass.**

Children's Liturgy is offered so that Mass is adapted to the needs of the children. Our leaders encourage discussions and offer activities. We look forward to seeing as many primary school age children attend these weekly sessions. **All primary school age children are welcome.**

### **Religious shop**

We have 2 Pieta Lenten reflections book at \$13 "How to Pray the Rosary" on laminated card with Rosary beads for \$1. Gifts for Baby, Enameled Crucifixes, medals, Children books, Rosary beads as gifts, Key rings, Guardian angel statues. KJV Bible, Catechism, for special items & inquiries Joe on 0477 677 248.

### **Tap & Give**

A second Tap & Give donation terminal is now operational and located at the internal entry doors to the Church. This additional terminal provides donation value choices of \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20. Donations from the Tap & Give terminals are shared between the Church (70%) and the support of our clergy (30%).

### **From Your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)**

**Ecospirituality 2023 - Report on Ideas and Issues**

**Parishioners Raised at the Parish Assembly** A call for members of the Caring for Creation group was made in the parish newsletter. We were not overcome with interest. A meeting of the group was held with 4 attendees on 30th November. Websites and Catholic documents such as Laudato Si were discussed and a number of suggestions considered. A meeting at approximately 6-weekly interval was agreed upon. The group will liaise with the Liturgy Team regarding times of the year to include ecospirituality/sustainability/cosmology suggestions in liturgy and homilies when appropriate. Issues of involvement of parishioners and making links with schools was considered at length. During the year, the parish newsletter highlighted the sustainability work being undertaken in some of our schools. Sustainable alternatives to plastics and other non-recyclables were discussed and implemented at events like Bazinga and Together Again. During 2024 we will continue to highlight 'walking the talk' in sustainable practices within the parish and promote the involvement of parishioners in this. Use of technology in raising awareness of sacred documents and information in practical areas will be explored and utilized if possible. A connection with each of our schools will be made or extended, as well as with parish groups.

### **Timings for Defibrillator and First Aid Training**

Training sessions will be held on **Saturday 9th March** and **Saturday 23rd March** in the parish hall. Start time is 9.30am, finishing no later than 4.00pm. Please confirm your availability with the parish office.

**Shrove Tuesday** at St Andrew's Uniting Church was a fun morning getting to know fellow Christians better over a cuppa with pancakes, of course. Keep the date for 2025!