



**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](http://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  
**Wednesday** 9.30am - Mass  
**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

**25 February 2024**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**First Reading:** Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18  
**Psalms Response:** Ps: 115:10, 15-19  
**Second Reading:** Romans 8:31-34  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Matthew 17:5  
**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
**From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.**  
**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
**Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10

**LET US PRAY FOR**

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

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Emmanuel BUTTIGIEG, Joanne GIALANZIE, Garry REDDAN, Jack REDDAN, Asbhy ROMEO

**NEXT SUNDAY - MORNING CUPPA After 8.30am Mass. Hosted by Legion of Mary**

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

Abraham is a problematic figure in the biblical story. He lies to Pharaoh about his wife, hanging her out to dry to protect his own skin. He does the same thing a few chapters later to another king, Abimelech. But when push comes to shove, at the moment of the test, he ... 'passed with flying colors' as we used to say in school.

Abraham was not perfect, but he did pass where Adam and Eve failed. The Parents of humanity were called to partnership with God in accomplishing his creation plan. They were given a privileged place of rule in the world; they named the animals; they were fruitful and multiplied. But when push came to shove, at the moment of the test, they took the fruit of the tree and ate it. They failed the test. The serpent deceived them, saying, in effect, that God, in forbidding them access to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, did not have their good in mind.

They needed to take for themselves the good thing that God held back from them. They decided to determine right and wrong for themselves. Taking the fruit was 'good in their own eyes'. They rejected the only possible path by which they—we—can find the fullness for which we were made.

That path is obedience to God's commands. In obedience we are liberated. To ride a bicycle you must *obey*, so to speak, the law of gravity. You must *trust* that collaborating with the bicycle's pedals, seat, and handlebars, and through them, the wheels, will work.

You must submit yourself to be free. Otherwise, you are going to get hurt. The price of being God's (GOD'S!) special collaborator in his creation project is obedience. Trust. We must trust that God has our good in mind, that our Creator is *supremely good*, even when—most especially when—we do not see *how* that can be the case.

Abraham is the Old Testament exemplar of obedience. He was put to the most difficult test imaginable. He trusted God's goodness even through the command to sacrifice his 'one and only son', Isaac. He trusted what God had *promised* him (through his numerous descendants all nations will be blessed) and what God *gifted* him to initiate the fulfillment of that promise (a son).

Obedience brings the blessing. For Abraham, this meant being the father of the people Israel, through whom, finally, the Messiah would come to bless all creation, to bring, in Jesus' words, *the kingdom of God*.

Beyond Abraham, the Messiah, Jesus, passed the test. That test reached its make-or-break moment in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he sweated drops of blood, bringing his fully human will to complete transparency with the divine will, obedience to the point of death, death on the cross. In that obedience, Christ Jesus won *the ultimate blessing* for himself, for humanity, for the world. And he makes us now his collaborators in the project.

W Chris Hackett  
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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 - 25 February 2024**

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

### **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

**Children's Liturgy** is held at the 5.30pm Vigil Mass & 10.30am Sunday Mass, during school term only.

### **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.

### **Parish Finance Summary**

Below is a summary of our average weekly income and expenditure for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023. The average weekly contribution to the Presbytery collection is approximately \$39 less than the average for 2022. The Thanksgiving contribution is approximately \$68 less. We will provide a further update in three months. Thank you for your continued generosity. Finance and Development Committee.

We joyfully welcome the following children who will be baptised in our parish this weekend:  
Jordan DENKO, Victoria NORMAN,  
Thomas & Patrick MCAINSH



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

Throughout 2023 the PCT worked on implementing parishioners' suggestions raised at the Parish Assembly in February. Today we bring you another summary of what was achieved in 2023 regarding the theme of adult faith formation.

#### **Adult Faith Formation**

- As far as possible, items from the PCT that were placed weekly in the church newsletter reinforced the anchoring of our faith to gospel values; "Christ-like relationships of friendship and faith, valuing one another and sharing our gifts for the good of all" is our Parish Vision.
  - Supported raising the profile of our Parish Vision by having the standing banner on permanent display, placing the Parish Vision permanently in such places as the church newsletter headline and in meeting minutes.
  - Discontinued evening Bible study after the slow take-up.
  - Strengthened ecumenical relationships with other Christians through support for inter-faith events such as Shrove Tuesday, Good Friday, World Day of Prayer and the Sunbury Winter Shelter program.
  - Supported parish groups' rosaries, Stations of the Cross, reflections on faith and scripture as part of their meetings, and supported the Liturgy Team's small-group discussions preparing parishioners for Lent, and another in Advent, for Christmas.
  - Encouraged groups that lapsed over the pandemic to re-start such as the Legion of Mary.
- In 2024 we will explore
- After-mass activities such as group-readings and discussions of important books or documents such as the Uluru Statement,
  - More small-group discussions to open up the Word of God as it relates to our day-to-day selves and to our relationships.
- Easter Biscuit Bake**: please see the flyer in the foyer for details.

### **Evergreens**

**Social afternoon on Tuesday 27th February** at 12.00 pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

#### **OUR FINANCES FOR THE YEAR UP TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

##### **PRESBYTERY (1st) COLLECTION**

Supports our Parish clergy and contributes to the Archdiocese's fund for poorer parishes and retired priests

Total weekly contribution (average)	\$1,669
Less contribution to the Archdiocese	-\$501
Net available to support our Parish clergy	\$1,168

Direct deposit contributions can be made using the following details

BSB No.: 083347  
Account No.: 67446 6042  
Account Name: OLMC Presbytery Account

##### **THANKSGIVING (2nd) COLLECTION**

Enables us to provide liturgies and pastoral support across the parish, as well as maintaining parish facilities

Average weekly parish costs	\$5,798
Average weekly collection amount	\$2,944

Direct deposit contributions can be made using the following details

BSB No.: 083347  
Account No.: 54635 8602  
Account Name: OLMC Church Account

#### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Our parish is supported by the generosity of our Parishioners (together with contributions from our great Bingo Team).  
The Parish does not receive any grants