



**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  
**Wednesday** 9.30am - Mass  
11.00am - Funeral Mass - Pauline & Moses Busuttill  
7.00pm - Lent Parish Reconciliation  
**Thursday** 9.30am - Mass  
2.30pm - Mass - Riddell Gardens  
**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

**10 March 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**First Reading:** Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
**Psalms Response:** Ps: 136  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:4-10  
**Gospel Acclamation:** John 3:16  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
**Gospel:** John 3:14-21

**LET US PRAY FOR**

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

**Recently Deceased:** Penny BELL, Pauline & Moses BUSUTTIL, Mila REVINA, Ethan RUSSO

**Anniversaries:** Vincenzo COCCOLUTO, Harry KILKENNY, Kevin SMITH, Jan TYQUIN

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

The 4th Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday, so called because of the first word "Rejoice" in the Entrance Antiphon of the liturgy. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Midway on our long Lenten journey to Easter, our energy and enthusiasm may well be flagging.

Today's readings remind us of the source of our joy as Christians and prompt us to renew our resolve and to persevere for the rest of the journey. In the gospel, we hear the reason for our rejoicing: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16).

In the Old Testament, from Genesis on, the constant thread in all the books is the steadfast love that God has for God's people. No matter how many times the people and their leaders faltered in their faith and hope in God, from Exodus to the Prophets, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, to the Kings, such as David and Solomon, and in the time of the Exile in Babylon after Jerusalem was besieged and captured and the people were exiled from Israel, God stood by and cared for the people and, each time they wavered and fell, God called them back and reminded them to try again and be faithful.

In the reading from John's gospel, we learn about Nicodemus, a prominent member of Jewish society, who wanted to speak to Jesus but, perhaps afraid or confused or embarrassed, went to meet him under the cover of darkness. He was an admirer of Jesus but he was unsure about who Jesus really was: Did Jesus really perform miracles and was he the Messiah?

Jesus reveals to Nicodemus the astonishing truth at the heart of our faith and the source of our joy: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son . . . God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." In Jesus, this overflowing super-abundant love of God for the world is revealed in its unsurpassable fullness. He is the Light of the World. No amount of darkness will ever be able to cover it or shroud it.

So, as we continue to journey through this Lenten period, let us stop for a moment on this Laetare Sunday, to marvel, celebrate, give thanks, and rejoice in God's abundant and faithful love that continues to overflow in and around us in spite of the many troubles in the world. We may waver in our hope and faith, but God will never give up on us, even when we give up on ourselves and lose hope.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. The gift of God's Son was the ultimate gift of love. Let us rejoice! And let us press on with our Lenten journey.

Mark Chia CSsR  
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### Palms for Palm Sunday

When we gather on Palm Sunday everyone is welcome to bring a sprig or branch of greenery from home to be blessed. If you have some to share, please bring it along for others. Did you know that the greenery that remains is kept, dried and burnt to provide the ashes for Ash Wednesday? A particular request is that if you have large palm fronds (see illustration) at home to decorate the Church they would be much appreciated. Many thanks Fr Denis Stanley



### Parish Lent Reconciliation Liturgy and Confession

**Wednesday 13 March 7.00pm**

Lent as we know, is the season of Repentance and Renewal. A keyway in which we experience that is in the sacrament of confession.

I warmly invite all to our Parish Lent Reconciliation Liturgy and individual confession that follows. Fr Denis Stanley

### Project Compassion Sunday - 11 February 2024

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. **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 in the church foyer or by calling 1800 024 413.

### Attention vandalism

It has been drawn to my attention that recently we have had some vandalism in the toilets in the church. Senseless acts of vandalism are always troubling, annoying and costly. Please be attentive to the maintenance of the place where we all gather together in and share. Report to myself or the Parish Office any damage you see or unacceptable behaviour. Fr Denis Stanley

### Legion of Mary

Many thanks to the Parish Legion of Mary for hosting the morning tea last Sunday after the 8.30am Mass. A small but precious and much appreciated gift from a group in our parish whose spirit and ministry are inspired by the example of Mary, "*behold I and the handmaid of the Lord.*" Fr Denis Stanley

### Palms Australia

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours. Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives. Learn more: Join our Mission, 63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self-reliant, community development together. Contact: 02 9560 5333.

### Jill Gibbs Neighbourhood Garden

Has two vacant plots available. Each plot measures 3mx10m or 30sqm. The annual rental is \$42 and you must have a WWCC. Come join the Garden Party. Call Jo Wiegerink on 0410 834 272 for more information.

### Parish Bingo

Has commenced for another year. Eyes down at 7.30pm at the Sunbury Bowling Club. For enquiries contact Gary on 0419301760.

We joyfully welcome the following children who will be baptised in our parish this weekend:

Alfred FERGUSON, Harvey & Marah GRIFFITHS



### Altar Server

"Congratulations and welcome to Hannah the newest member of our Altar Server Team. New members always welcome – enquiries to Michael 0417332186"

### Evergreens

On **Tuesday 12 March** are going to watch **The Great Escape**, with Michael Cain and Glenda Jackson, followed by lunch at the Olive Tree. Booking for lunch, inquiries or transport call Joe on 0477 677 248. All welcome to bring a friend.

For those who remember **Sunbury Music Festival** 50 years ago. The Library is showing the movie on **Thursday 18 April**. **Tickets are FREE** but booking is required as soon as possible. For booking and inquiries Joe on 0477 677 248.

### Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme ("Nils")

Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions and low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical and dental services, car repairs, etc. with no interest or fees! For more information: enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au

### From Your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)

**Vacancies** Do you have a passion to enhance the faith journeys of our parishioners, and a desire to work collaboratively in a team environment? Why not apply to fill one of two vacancies on the Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)? Role descriptions and application forms are available from the Help Desk in the foyer. Completed forms may be left in the Parish Office following which meetings will be arranged with the parish priest and PCT representatives.

The next report on ideas and issues parishioners raised at the Parish Assembly around the theme of youth and families will appear in next week's newsletter.

**HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE - 2024**  
**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Sunbury**

**PALM SUNDAY MASSES**  
**Saturday March 23rd, 5.30pm**  
**Sunday March 24th, 8.30am & 10.30am**

**HOLY THURSDAY**  
**Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**Thursday March 28th, 7.00pm**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Friday 29th March**  
**9.00am - Way of the Cross**  
**OLMC Church grounds**  
**10.00am - Ecumenical Good Friday Service**  
**St Anne's Catholic Church**  
**3.00pm - Passion of the Lord**  
**St Anne's Church**

**EASTER VIGIL**  
**Saturday March 30th, 7.30pm**

**EASTER SUNDAY MASSES**  
**Sunday March 31st, 8.30am**  
**Sunday March 31st, 10.30am**