



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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Newsletters are available on the parish website
olmc.sunbury.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

12 MAY 2024

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Apostles 1:1-11
Psalms Response: Ps:46:2-3, 6-9
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19, 20
Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Kerry BAILEY, Jalila DAWOOD,
Cesar GABALES, Joshua LEE,
Diana MASTRAMICO, John MCGOVERN,
Matthew PALSER

Recently Deceased: Josh BURNSIDE,
Monsignor Frank HICKEY

Anniversaries: Michael BUTLER,
Rita CREMONA, Mia HOGAN,
Lorna HONNER, Marg MCINTOSH,
Rose PULIS, Henry SIMMONS

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

Today is Ascension Day – a moment in the life of the resurrected Jesus that we struggle to understand, and too often take literally, as though heaven is somewhere out there, up in the sky, rather than understanding it as pointing to the sheer wonder of Christ as one with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It calls us to broaden our horizons, to recognise that our grasp of spiritual reality is at best partial, and to open our hearts and to new insights and deeper understanding.

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. Luke 24:50, 51

The meditation of the Apostle Philip
You'd think we'd have been dismayed, wouldn't you –
to lose Jesus again, so soon after he'd come back to us.
After all, we'd been shattered the first time,
left floundering like fish out of water once deprived of his presence.

True, this time was different –
no cross,
no agony, torment and death –
but he was gone nonetheless,
snatched away from us once more.

Only he wasn't,
that's the strange thing.
He was with us much more meaningfully,
not in the flesh but in Spirit –
around us,
beside us,
beyond us,
within us,
touching our lives in every part.

I can't quite explain it,
but suddenly we knew he was closer than we'd ever dreamt –
for he was not just the Messiah,
the risen Lord,
but God himself,
one with him,
one with us,
the divine in human form.
We'd walked and talked with him,
and we finally realised that we'd do so always, to the end of time.
No wonder he blessed us when he took his leave,
for though he's far away now at the Father's side,
through his Spirit he couldn't be more near.

Nick Fawcett - Reflection

Happy Birthday Sr Jose

Last week our Pastoral Associate, Sr Jose, celebrated her 80th birthday. We both wish her every blessing for her birthday and our constant thanks for her ministry in our Parish. We are amazed by her constant and unfailing energy. Sr Jose is a living link with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Mary MacKillop who have served our parish since 1916. Please reach out and extend your prayerful best wishes to her at this time.

Feast of Mary Help of Christians – our National Patron Saint, will be celebrated on **Friday 24th May**. I invite you to attend 9.15am Mass and pray for our nation.

Following Mass there will be Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and time for prayer including rosary. Fr Denis Stanley

Emmaus Charismatic Prayer Group will change our meeting day from Thursday to Wednesday after the 9.30 Mass. All welcome, including children. For further info/transport please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 0418 322 496

Evergreens will be enjoying lunch at the newly renovated Ball Court Hotel on **Tuesday 14 May at 12.00pm**. All welcome. Call Joe on 0477677248 for bookings.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

"For the times they are a-changin..." Thank you Bob Dylan. For many years Sacrificial Giving envelopes have been a standard and familiar way of supporting our parishes financially. They have enabled parishioners to thoughtfully budget each week and the parish to have a rough figure of how much has been pledged over the year. They have served us very well. However, all of us know how cash and banking systems are changing and we are being asked to change with them. The presence of two "Tap and Give" terminals in the foyer of the church are a sign of the times. Many parishioners now contribute financially to the parish through direct debits. Even arrangements for banking cash are not as straightforward as in years past. Cheques will be phased out as I recently discovered they have been in New Zealand. Because of these other options, the number of people using Sacrificial Giving or Thanksgiving envelopes has been steadily decreasing. For example, 12 months ago we purchased 200 sets of envelopes. 31 people asked to use a set. We are receiving an average of 25 a week. So we are now arriving at an historic moment where we have to decide whether it is truly worth purchasing and mailing out a further round of envelopes. This is an expense we need to seriously consider. The Parish Finance Committee have been aware of this for some time. I am writing this to prepare the parish with the news that during 2024 the venerable Sacrificial Giving envelope system will come to a conclusion as we adapt to new ways of committing ourselves to the financial support of the parish. If anyone needs help or advice about this change please speak with Glenn Morris, from the Finance Committee, who has had a particular concern about this issue. Thank you. Fr. Denis Stanley PP

2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For many years Christians in Australia have gathered between the Ascension and Pentecost to pray for the unity of the Church. The bonds of cooperation between the Churches in Sunbury have always been good and continues to be so – Thank God. But this cannot be taken for granted and needs deep and hopeful prayer to sustain such openness and willingness to work together for the mission of the church. The **Sunbury Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 7.30pm Wednesday, May 15th, Sunbury Baptist Church, 207 Gap Rd. Sunbury.**

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

Lincoln COWLING

Quinn, Remy, Liv & Cameron MIFSUD



Monthly 'Morning Cuppa'

We thank all the parish groups who have already, and will be hosting a *monthly cuppa* this year. We thank especially the Evergreens social group and the Knights of the Southern Cross who organised the last two Sunday Morning Teas. It is good to see so many parishioners getting involved in this friendly and social occasion.

Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal at which \$938.45 was raised. Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare Victoria can continue the mission; to create transformational personal impact, and empower every individual to reach their full potential and live life to the full.

Thank you for helping those in need!

Parish Bingo

Our weekly Parish bingo session "Major Bingo" continues every Thursday at Sunbury Bowling Club every evening at 7.30pm. \$1000 guaranteed last game prize. Upcoming special event - BINGO BONANZA **Saturday 11th May** with games of \$10,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, \$500, \$200 and minimum \$150. Seats selling fast. To reserve a place come along any Thursday and pay a deposit. Get a few friends together and come along and join in the fun whilst supporting your Parish - you will be most welcome. Enquiries to Gary 0419 301760 or Graeme 0417 503 527.

From your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT) What did we do in 2023?

We're getting close! **First Aid and Defibrillator Training** days **Saturday, May 18th and Saturday May 25th**, 9am to 4 pm. Please confirm your attendance with Liam.

What did we do in 2023? Acting on parishioner suggestions to reach out to, and include people on, the margins of society, the PCT then coordinated:

1. a welcome-to-Mass message from the altar to all, particularly to newcomers with an invitation to register contact details at the Help Desk,
2. social activities including monthly morning teas, the Bazinga, Together Again and Bingo nights to encourage the engagement of often isolated parishioners with others. Home and hospital visitor teams and the Evergreens do amazing work in this regard,
3. a campaign of talking to strangers after Mass and of getting to know names,
4. help for homeless and homed people facing all manner of hardship through the work of the Sunbury Winter Shelter, the Give Until It Hurts Charity (GUIH), Vinnies (Sunbury Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul), the LAP programme
5. information on The Voice and First Nations People prior to the referendum,
6. contact people to go between the PCT and our many parish teams. These teams work tirelessly behind the scenes and give existing, new or isolated parishioners wonderful opportunities to become more involved in parish life.

In 2024 we will continue to:

- reach out to the marginalised
- promote parish teams. We will showcase the 38 Parish groups in coming newsletters.