



**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH**  
**BULLA CLARKEFIELD DIGGERS REST SUNBURY WILDWOOD**  
**ON WURUNDJERI COUNTRY**



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429 T: 9744 1060 Office Hours: Mon - Thur 9am -1pm Fri 9am - 5pm After Hours: 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.

Email: [Sunbury@cam.org.au](mailto:Sunbury@cam.org.au)

**LITURGY TIMES: AT ST ANNE'S CHURCH**

**Saturday** 5.30pm - Vigil Mass  
**Sunday** 8.30am - Sunday Mass  
 10:30am - Sunday Mass  
 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 José Noy RSJ  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Deon Armstrong

**St Anne's School:** 8746 6800  
**Principal:** Stephen Arthurson  
**Our Lady of Mount Carmel School:** 9740 7344  
**Principal:** Julie Freeman  
**Holy Trinity School:** 8746 6464  
**Principal:** Krystine Hocking

**24 November 2024**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**First Reading:** Daniel 7:13-14  
**Psalm Response:** Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1  
**Second Reading:** Revelation 1:5-8  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Mark 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** John 18:33-37

**LET US PRAY FOR**

**Sick:** Agatha CHAVES, Paul FANNING, Caleb FARIA, Charles FIGUEREDO, Cesar GABALES, Charles HABER, Emelda JAYASEKERA, Christie JAYASEKERA, Mary KLOSS, Margaret MAGRI, Diana MASTRAMICO, Anastasia MORTER, Tom MOWAT, Bianca PELLY, Emilia POTROVSKY, Karen RANKIN, Maria RODDA, Derick STEWART, Dawn WESTWOOD, Air WILKENSON & Daniel ZAMMIT

**Recently Deceased:** Sr Anne TUCK RSJ

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

**CHRIST THE KING – ADVENT – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:  
 A REFLECTION ON THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.**

This Sunday – the Solemnity of Christ the King – leads into Advent and our time of preparation for the Nativity of the Lord. A cycle of celebrations that proclaims Jesus is Emmanuel – God is with us – reigning both as Lord of all Creation and as King of our hearts.

This is a very ancient cycle of celebrations that was born out of the Gospel story and has enabled that story to leap off the page and into our lives in liturgy, songs, customs, holidays and even the food that we eat at this time of year. This cycle of celebrations the Christian church has handed on to our western culture and we Australians have adapted them to our own culture and our summer climate. Under the Southern Cross, December has its own feel and rhythm.

But this presents the Christian community with a tension that I wonder if you feel. The tension is the divide or the distinction between the celebration of this Advent time and Christmas as the wider community celebrate it and as the Christian community celebrates it. We have all heard of the complaints about the “commercialization” of Christmas that now celebrates these festivals without any mention whatsoever of the Lord Jesus’ advent and birth. Christmas is simply a celebration of family, gift giving, a time for doing a good deed, peace on earth (good luck with that), the end of the year and holiday time. The advent and birth of Christ is either forgotten, left behind or is simply an optional extra for those who like that sort of thing. Hence the cry, “*put Christ back into Christmas.*”

But have we arrived at a time when there are two Christmasses, one with the Lord Jesus and another without? Can we live with both stepping into one with family and friends and into the other with our parish or try to awkwardly combine the two? Does the wider community now own and define “Christmas” and the Christian community possess what we call the Nativity of the Lord – the church’s official title for feast? Christians don’t need to put Christ back into Christmas because he was and always will be part of it.

Part of this tension is the reality that the Christian community now finds itself in a different place than it used to be. It no longer forms a majority in the Australian community (43.9% at the 2021 Census) and different, stronger and more powerful voices and attitudes shape the way Australians think about and celebrate Christmas as well as a whole lot of other things about what it means to be a human being.

Do we get confused, annoyed and angry about this? Do we just shrug it off and not worry? Have we worked out a way of celebrating the Nativity of the Lord with prayerful integrity and still enjoy gift giving and a slice of plumb pudding at Christmas with our family, friends and neighbours? ***Is this a time and place when the strange wonder of the Nativity of the Lord can shine even more brightly because it is so different to what many people now think Christmas is?*** Is that our mission at this time in history and in our culture?

*...many people throughout the ages have concluded on the basis of reason alone that there must be a creative principle and a first cause, an infinite and necessary being who has brought all finite things into being and who sustains them in being. But no one, on the basis of reason alone, has ever inferred or guessed or imagined that such a perfect and infinite being would assume the form of a finite being, to be born as an infant and consent to be hit and spat upon and punched in the face and nailed to a cross and be put to death, without invoking any of his divine power in self-defence. From “Feasts for the Kingdom: Sermons for the Liturgical Year” by Fr Khaled Anatolios*

This is the strange wonder of the One we celebrate in the festivals of Christ the King and the Advent and Nativity of the Lord. We treasure this, witness and proclaim it in our worship and community life, putting Christ not just into Christmas, but being the people who put Christ into every day.

Fr Denis Stanley PP

### Advent – Preparing for the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. The Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican will be opened on 24 December 2024, inaugurating the Jubilee.

Inspired by Jubilees in the Old Testament, a Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years. Happily the coming Jubilee is also celebrating the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea (325 AD) which gave us the Nicæan Creed we recite at Mass – a foundation summary of the Christian faith. Happily too in 2025 Easter will be celebrated on the same date in the Western and Eastern Churches – the entire Christian community, with one voice, on the same day proclaiming, “Christ is risen! He is Risen indeed!”

The goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church’s witness to God’s loving mercy in and for the world.

Each Advent Sunday our prayers to light the Advent Wreath are inspired by the Letter that Pope Francis has written to announce and prepare for the Jubilee Year. The Letter is entitled, *Spes non confundit – Hope does not disappoint*

### Parish Census - 2025

Thank you for your participation in our Parish Census program. This is the last weekend for you to collect, complete and return your census cards if you have not already done so. However, cards are available in the sacristy if you need to complete one. This will assist us with our formal Thanksgiving Campaign which will occur in March 2025. Thank you!

### Overseas Humanitarian Project – Collection this Weekend (23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> November)

The special collection this weekend will be for the LAP Team who care for children living with HIV/AIDS in Jakarta.

If you are unable to attend Mass this weekend and would like to assist LAP with their work you can donate directly to the parish account established specifically for contributions to LAP.

Just contact the Parish Office who will be pleased to help you set this up. For all those attending 8:30 Mass, please join us for **Morning Tea** after Mass.

Thank you for your wonderful generosity over the past ten years **OLMC LAP Fundraising Team.**

### Parish Bingo

Our Parish bingo session "Major Bingo" continues every Thursday, eyes down 7.30 pm at Club Sunbury. On the last Thursday of each month to the end of the year we are holding "theme nights" with a guaranteed \$2000 last game prize. The Theme for **28<sup>th</sup> November** is "pyjama night" and of course our last game in December will be our Christmas special. No increase in cost for you just a chance to win more money. Get a few friends together and come along any Thursday and join in the fun. You will be made most welcome. Enquiries to Gary on 0419 301 760.

### Combined Churches of Sunbury

For many years the Combined Churches of Sunbury Group with the support of the local ministers, have organized the **Christmas Carols celebration for our community.** This year on **Saturday, 14th December**, the Christmas Carol celebration will be held on the oval at Salesian College. Last year, if you recall, it was washed out by rain. This year we are praying for more seasonable weather. **(Flyer on the Board)**

Of course if you would like to be a volunteer for the event, please let me know. For your information, there will be a **training evening on Tuesday 26th November 7.30pm at St Andrews Uniting Church.** Please consider and let me know. **Fr Denis Stanley PP**

**Combined lessons and carols service:** This year’s service will be held on **21 December at 7pm** in St Mary’s Chapel (bluestone building). All are welcome.

**HUME COUNCIL - Home energy saving events in November:** Various sessions being run by Council. Please see notice board for details.

**Josephite Companions meeting 1.00pm Wednesday 27 November** in St Anne’s Church Meeting Room. New Members most welcome.

We joyfully welcome the following children who will be baptized in our parish: Audrey Brown and Anthony Pino.



**OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY.** Our risk management group has developed an Emergency Procedure to be followed should we ever have to manage a medical situation, a disturbance or evacuate St Annes Church. It is designed to complement the recent training of First Aiders and Defibrillator operators. To launch the procedure, we are inviting all collectors and interested parishioners to attend one of two sessions on **Saturday 7 December after 5.30pm Mass or Sunday 8 December after 8:30am Mass.** The purpose of the session is to explain the process and the roles people play. Any enquiries to Michael 0417332186.

**Altar Servers - Altar Servers** - Develop and grow their teamwork skills ... Join the team - enquiries - Michael: 0417 332 186

### Piety Stall.

Divine Mercy and Columban calendars only \$11. Christmas cards X8, Nativity Statues, Rosary beads/rings as gifts, bracelets. Bibles, Missals. books: “After Suicide there is hope for them and you by Fr. Chris Alar”.

**We have sold 6 copies. “You are Not alone”.** **NEW stuff.** Inquiries at shop or Joe on 0477 677 248

**Evergreens Social for over 60’s** afternoon will be on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 12.00 pm.** St. Anne hall. Food and chat and Planning for 2025. All welcome, bring a friend. Call Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248 for info and transport.

**Historical Committee:** Will meet at **10:30am on 25 November** in St Anne’s Church Meeting Room.

**The Historic Room** will be open **Sunday, 1 December between 8:30am and 10:30am Masses.**

**The Parish Lunch** starts at **11.30 am this SUNDAY 24th November** in the parish hall. Menu: BBQ sausages ‘n onions ‘n bread. Extras include BYO cold drink or a covered salad or anything you fancy. Make a new friend or catch up with an old friend this weekend: “Walk the mile and share the load” with them.

### From your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)

**1. New Members for Parish Groups.** It’s never too late to fill out an application at the Help Desk in the church foyer to let a parish group know you’re interested in joining. The Josephite Companions, Legion of Mary and LAP are among the many groups who are keen to hear from you.

**2. Sunbury Winter Shelter (SWS)** members, volunteers and supporters are invited to a public meeting set for 10.30 am Saturday 30th November at St Andrew’s Uniting Church. Newcomers are also most welcome. Agenda: The 2024 Outreach Programme and Where to in 2025?

**3. Thank you.** The PCT thanks **Deon Armstrong** for taking on over leadership of the Parish Safeguarding Team from the stalwart, **Elena Rodrigues.** Thanks also to **Sarah Honner** for continuing to look after young people from government schools who are in the OSPREY programme preparing to receive the sacraments.

**5. “Holding the Light” memorial service** for victims and survivors of family violence at the Wesley Church, 136 Lonsdale St Wesley Church Thurs 5 pm 28th Nov

**Morning Tea:** Hosted by St Vincent De Paul on **Sunday, 8 December 2024** after 8:30am Mass. All welcome!