



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

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 - Vigil Mass
Sunday 8.30am - Sunday Mass
10.30am - Sunday Mass
11.45am - Baptism
Wednesday 9.30am - Mass - St Vincent, Marta
Thursday 9.30am - Mass
Friday 9.30am - Mass - St. Francis De
Sales
150 Anniversary of OLMC Church

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am - 10.30am St Anne's Church

Parish Priest: Rev Denis Stanley
Deacon: Rev Stephen Fernandes
Pastoral Assoc: Sr Jose 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

19 JANUARY 2025

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalms Response: Ps 95:1-3, 7-10. R. v.3
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel Acclamation: See 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 2:1-11

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Jesulin CABRAL, Agatha CHAVES, Caleb
FARIA, Charles FIGUEREDO, Samford
FIGUEREDO, Cesar GABALES, Charles HABER,
Neville HUTCHINGS (Swan Hill),
Emelda JAYASEKERA, Christie JAYASEKERA,
Margaret MAGRI, Diana MASTRAMICO,
Anastasia MORTER, Tom MOWAT,
Eileen PALSER, Emilia POTROVSKY, Karen RAN-
KIN, Maria RODDA, Derick STEWART, Terry
SWEENEY, Air WILKINSON, Daniel ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: Patricia BOND & Richard
POWELL

Anniversaries: Benvolio BASCUG, Giovanna
BRULLO, Jean DORNIE, S. Rama PRASD

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

**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL CHURCH:
THE WITNESS OF THE PAST AND PONDERING OUR FUTURE**

Many years ago I had the opportunity to visit the village that the Stanley family came from in northern England. The Parish church is an ancient building much rebuilt and renovated over the centuries. The oldest part of the building dates from 1050, witnessing to a continuous Christian presence in the village for over one thousand years. That is 1,000 Easters, 1,000 Christmasses, 1,000 years of Sundays. So when we come to celebrate the 150th of the blessing and opening of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, that visit puts our anniversary into some perspective for me. We only have 850 years to clock up our 1,000th anniversary.

People are much taken with ancient churches. They visit them, take a few photos and move on. Brides love them too. But what about the people who are committed to them as their house of worship and Christian community? The people who turn up every Sunday and make it a place of living worship and welcome and witness? A living chain of saints and sinners generation after generation who have found hope in the Gospel and in prayer, have discovered they cannot live without the love of the Good Shepherd and have come to appreciate the value of being connected to a community however imperfect. To keep that going for 150 years fills me with awe let alone stepping into a community where that has been going on for 1,000 years.

So when we come to the anniversary of a Our Lady of Mount Carmel church, I am thinking first of all of the people who were inspired and committed to build it in the first place, all those for whom the building has enabled them to live a life of faith and how that building has provided a witness every day to the eternal reality of God at the heart of all creation as people pass by walking their dog or are getting out of their cars going to the Ball Court hotel!

To focus **only** on the building is to undermine or even, and this is a strong word, to betray, the hopes and faith of our fathers and mothers who built it in the first place not simply for themselves but for their children and their children's children and so for us today as a shelter to gather us and celebrate our faith.

Let's take a step back 150 years ago. Sunbury was a small village in the 1850's when the first Mass was celebrated here and gathered the Catholic community together. The energy and purpose of gathering together for Mass and to have their children baptised set them to first establish a Catholic school in 1860 then to lay the foundation stone of a church in 1864. It took ten years to build Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church which was finally opened in 1875. Where they got the money from to build it is less of a miracle than the commitment to keep going!

As we know all too well, Sunbury is no longer a rural village so we have outgrown Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church while it still remains a treasured part of our parish story. We treasure it because it continues to witness to people like you and me whose faith and hope enabled them to step into an unknown future and commit themselves to building a Parish Church. It goes without saying that we will need the same faith and hope to navigate our own future. Can the past inspire the future?

Come to him...and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5

Fr Denis Stanley, the 16th Parish Priest of Sunbury

Christmas Thank you!

Fr Denis would like to thank all those who shared with him Christmas card greetings & gifts. **Many thanks.**

Congratulations: 40th Wedding Anniversary

On behalf of our Parish, I would like to extend to Deacon Stephen & his wife, Liza, our congratulations on their recent 40th Wedding Anniversary. We extend to them our prayerful best wishes for their partnership of life and love.

Fr Denis Stanley

OSPREY- Sacramental preparation program for young people

2025

Dates for the 2025 OSPREY Program are now available. If you, or if you know anyone, interested in participating in this program please email the parish office on Sunbury@cam.org.au.

Fr Denis Stanley PP

Baptisms 2025

Bookings for Baptism Preparation Meetings for 2025 can now be made via our webpage on Trybooking.com. **Next meeting is 5 February 2025.**

OLMC- 150th Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening

For your diary. Mass will be offered at **9.30am on Friday, 24th January 2025** in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church. Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Day the church was blessed and opened by Archbishop Goold on the 24th January 1875.

This will be followed by a morning tea (weather permitting) in the garden and veranda of the Presbytery. An historical display will be in the church to capture the spirit of the day.

On the Sunday Masses before the Feast Day the, **12/13th July**, we will celebrate our Patronal Day, with particular thanksgiving for 150 years of worship and witness of our parish.

Fr Denis Stanley PP

Front Page: Many thanks to those who enabled the front page article on the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Church in the local Sunbury and Macedone Ranges Star Weekly, especially Joan Koren for speaking to the Press.

The Historic Room will be open **this weekend** after all Masses. All are welcome to visit and learn about the history of our Parish

Proposed Changes to Disabled Parking Spaces around St Anne's Church

A tale of pedestrians and cars

First a word of thanks to our Parish Risk Assessment Team who have been checking potential risks associated with our Parish buildings.

The position and number of our Disabled parking spaces and cars driving along the pathway under the portico at the entrance of the church, have become issues of concern. Many parishioners use this pathway to walk into the entrance of the church. Pedestrians and cars are not a good mix.

We propose to increase the number of Disability parking spaces, providing spaces in front of the Parish Office and to the left of the Church, removing the two spaces presently available and closing the driveway during Mass times. This will end driving of cars under the portico.

I expect the necessary work will be undertaken in January.

This will ensure the greater safety of all our Parishioners.

Fr Denis Stanley

We joyfully welcome the following children who will be baptized in our parish: Tyler **Bishop**, Zander **Farfalla**, Tilly **Frederickson**, Tara Barbara **Roli**h Klepac, Koda **Scheurer**, & Zofia **Morris**.



A Wedding to Celebrate: Every blessing to Brittany Bland and Paul King on their marriage at St Anne's Church this Saturday, 18 January 2025.

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

Religious Shop.

Large A3 Posters & Books under \$30. Poster at Shop. Divine Mercy and Columban calendars only \$10 (SPECIAL). Religious 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. Inquiries at shop - orders taken or call Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248

Evergreens Social afternoon for over 60's will be on **Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 12.00 pm.** St. Anne's hall. Food, tea and chat. All welcome. Bring a friend. Call Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248 for info and transport.

St Vincent de Paul - Thank you!

Once again, even when times are tight, the Sunbury community have been extremely generous in their support of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The Christmas Appeal raised \$2,727.70, which will be used to support the less fortunate in our community. **A special thank you to all.**

Anne Smith - Sunbury Conference St Vincent de Paul

Magi Pilgrimages Australia is organising the following Jubilee Pilgrimages 2025. 1. Streams of Mercy (May), 2. Italy & Poland (May), 3. Marian Shrines (June), 4. Shrines of our Lady (August), 5. Pilgrimage of Hope (October). The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For itineraries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

From your Parish Coordinating Team

Parishioners may like to know what's been happening, while many of us have been on holiday, to prepare for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the opening of OLMC Church:

* The History Team has put together a photographic displays of great interest.

*Fr Denis has prepared a special liturgy beginning at 9.30am in OLMC Church on January 24th, the actual day the church was opened in 1875.

*Groups from the Parish Coordinating, Welcoming and Liturgy teams are organising morning tea gatherings on Sunday 19th after 8.30 mass in St Anne's foyer and on Friday 24th following 9.30am Mass in the bluestone church itself.

*Invitations have been sent to past parish priests, the Salesian Community and to the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

*Besides the information in the bulletin, we have attempted to contact older parishioners and families with special connections to OLMC Church. We ask your help in passing on the information to anyone you know who is likely to be interested, especially if they are no longer living in the parish.

*Posters and bulletin items in church newsletters warmly invite all parishioners to take part in the celebration.

*And a rare, much-anticipated event; the ringing of the church bell, has been organised.

Morning Tea - this Sunday: To celebrate the 150 Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. **All are welcome!**