



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 Agatha
Thursday 9.30am - Mass - St Paul Miki
Friday 9.30am - Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am - 10.30am St Anne's Church

Parish Priest: Rev Denis Stanley
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

02 FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm Response: Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10
Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18
Gospel Acclamation: Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
 and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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 RANKIN, Maria RODDA, Derick STEWART, Terry SWEENEY, Dezirah TUIMAUGA, Air WILKENSON, Daniel ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: John McMAHON and
 Stephen MODESTI

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

A child to light up the world
The Presentation of the Lord

Have you ever wondered what God looks like? Various images might come to mind, but why not turn to the person next to you who is made in the image and likeness of God? But, what if God looks like this baby? A child whose crying wakes us and worries us at moments as we hold them close, a child who depends on us for life.

Forty days after Christmas, Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem, where she is to present herself and her child, as the Law required. But there, in the Temple, something unexpected happens. They are amazed at what Simeon and Anna have to say about their baby, but it's not clear to them what it might mean – how could it be? – because God's ways often upend our way of doing things.

Before he utters his prophetic words, Simeon takes this baby in his arms and gives praise to God. That's what we're asked to do: to take Him in our arms, take God to heart, and give thanks. But often we're not too sure about this. We're open to it, but we hesitate, and Simeon reveals why, when he speaks of Him as being rejected by many in Israel and of a sword piercing Mary's soul.

Perhaps we find it difficult to imagine His birth and His death at the same time. Indeed, we may prefer to put any thought of the cross out of our minds for a while and think fondly of the baby in his crib or his mother's arms.

Of course, none of us is anticipating grief, but when grief enters our lives, how to respond? As the aunt of a baby who died soon after birth once said, "It's tough to believe that we will emerge from the darkness." Later she reflected, "In each of us we harbour both the living and the dying Christ." Recalling her words on first seeing her niece – "You are so beautiful. I love you so much" – she realised that's what God says to us ... always.

Taking to heart her words, when we hear of the Lord suddenly entering his Temple, not in power and might, as in the first reading, but in weakness and need as a baby, we see in this child a light to enlighten the world.

This child is our salvation. So today, which is also known as Candlemas Day, we might light a candle and give thanks for His coming amongst us. For He comes to free us from our fear of death, as the second reading says, so that, in time, we may find ourselves sharing the gift of His life with others. We're invited to take Him into our hearts and accompany Him as He grows in maturity, wisdom and grace.

Whatever the future holds, God is with us.

Damian Coleridge
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OSPREY- Sacramental preparation program for young people 2025

Dates for the 2025 OSPREY Program are now available. If you, or anyone you know, are 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.

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

I hope everyone has noticed the fresh and brightly marked disabled parking places around the church. This is the completion of the first stage of the plan to greater safety by ensuring that cars do not drive through the portico at the front of the Church. The next part of the initiative will be to close off the driveway under the portico.

Thank you for being patient with these changes.

Fr Denis Stanley

EMMAUS CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will resume meeting on **Wednesday, 5th February** at St. Anne's Church after 9.30 Mass. All welcome. For further info/transport please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 0418 322 596.

Knights of the Southern Cross: The next meeting for the Knights of the Southern Cross will be held on **Wednesday, 5th February** starting at 7.30pm at the Parish Centre. Fostering a Christian way of life throughout the nation.

Evergreens are going to the Melbourne Art Gallery entry is FREE on the **11th February** meeting at train station by 8-45am. Come and join us. **Inquiries** Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248

World day of Prayer Service: will be on **Thursday, 27th February**, 7:30 pm at St Andrew's Uniting Church. This year the service has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands.

Date for your diary: The Youth Group will be launched on **16th March 2025**. Please contact the Parish Office if you or anyone you know would be interested in being a part of the group.

Morning Tea: Hosted by the Legion of Mary this Sunday. Please stop for a chat and a treat. All are welcome.

Religious Shop.

Key rings, Large A3 Posters & Books under \$30. at Shop. Divine Mercy and Columban calendars only \$10 (SPECIAL). Rosary beads/rings as gifts, bracelets. Bibles, Missals. books: **Inquiries at shop, orders taken** or Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248

New Bishops: Please keep in your prayers our two new Auxiliary Bishops, ordained on Saturday, 1st February 2025 in St Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Rene Ramirez is the Bishop for our Northern Region, replacing Bishop Terry Curtin.

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



2025 Jubilee Year of Hope A Call to Hope and Renewal

The 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope is a time for renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth. It gives us a chance to rediscover God's love, reconcile with others, and contribute to building a more just and merciful world. Through indulgences, pilgrimages, and acts of charity, the Jubilee invites us to grow spiritually and embrace our roles as peacemakers and witnesses to Christ's love.

What Is a Jubilee?

The concept of a Jubilee originates in the Bible (Leviticus 25:10), where every 50th year was set aside as a time of restoration, freedom, and renewal for the people of Israel. During this sacred time, debts were forgiven, slaves were freed, and the land was allowed to rest. The Catholic Church has adopted this tradition, proclaiming Jubilee Years periodically as opportunities for spiritual renewal and reconciliation.

A Jubilee is a time to reflect on God's mercy and generosity, inviting believers to deepen their faith and strengthen their commitment to justice, peace, and love. Jubilee Years also serve as reminders of the Church's mission to heal divisions, restore relationships, and embrace hope. The 2025 Jubilee Year theme, *Spes Non Confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint), calls us to anchor our lives in the steadfast hope that comes from God. What is an Indulgence?

Each parish in the Archdiocese of Melbourne has been presented with a Jubilee Candle which is now in the Sanctuary and a Jubilee Banner is displayed on the fence facing Riddell Road - for all the world to see!

From your Parish Coordinating Team

The Parish Coordinating Team would like to acknowledge all those who made our Lady of Mt Carmel Jubilee Day so memorable on Jan 24th. In particular the numbers of our Parish community who attended and spent time chatting and reminiscing. Also, the many visitors including clergy, Salesians and Sisters of St Joseph and others with a link to the Parish. And of course, those involved in:

- the liturgy celebration,
- the transport of all that was needed at OLMC
- setting up and cleaning. This includes the generous support of OLMC school teachers
- the historical display
- the morning tea, both those who made and those who served
- the bell ringing

and countless other people who played a role that I may not have acknowledged. Thank you all.

Pauline Sharma, Chair PCT