



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 4:45pm - Stations of the Cross
5:30pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 8.30am - Sunday Mass
10:30am - Sunday Mass
11.45am - Baptism
Wednesday 9:30am - Mass
11:00am - Funeral - Bernie O'Farrell
Thursday 9.30am - Mass
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

23 March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
Psalm Response: Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v.8
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:17

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ,
Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ,
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ,

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Jesulin **CABRAL**, Agatha **CHAVES**,
Caleb **FARIA**, Charles **FIGUEREDO**,
Samford **FIGUEREDO**, Cesar **GABALES**,
Charles **HABER**, Neville **HUTCHINGS** (Swan Hill)
Margaret **MAGRI**, Diana **MASTRAMICO**,
Anastasia **MORTER**, Tom **MOWAT**, Emilia **POTROV-
SKY**, Amanda **REBELLO**, Maria **RODDA**, Derick
STEWART, Marcus **TAYLOR**, Dezirah **TUIMAUGA**,
Air **WILKENSON**,
Daniel **ZAMMIT**

Recently Deceased: Sam **FALVEY**,
Bernie **O' FARRELL**, Doris **WILLIAMSON**,
Martin **ZARAF**.

Anniversaries: Fr . Phillip **CROSBIE** (COLUMBAN
MISSION SOCIETY) , Vincenzo **DAVID**,
Raymond **FERNANDES**, Luiza **FERNANDES**,
Felisa **HIPOLITO**, Patrick & Rose **McVEIGH** &
Sabina **MIRANDA**.

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

Bearing fruit in our lives
3rd Sunday Lent

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. I saw these words
on a poster in an employment agency I blessed. Yes, so often we judge oth-
ers, based on first impressions. Once formed, first impressions can be difficult
to let go, in order for us to give someone another chance or see them anew.
It's not easy to change our opinions or judgements.

Thankfully, God doesn't relate to us in this way. God is "compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy," and offers us many chances and opportuni-
ties to change, and to free ourselves from whatever weighs us down or pre-
vents us from living as people of love committed to Christ and His Kingdom.
This week's gospel parable illustrates this truth perfectly.

A fig tree requires the right conditions to produce fruit. The tree in the parable
remains fruitless after three years. The vineyard owner wants the gardener to
cut it down because it's taking up ground that could be put to better use. The
hope-filled gardener appeals to the owner to leave it for another year, during
which time he will "dig round it and manure it." Just as the gardener is patient
with the fig tree, so God is patient with us, and gives us many chances to bear
fruit in our lives.

The challenge is not to waste the opportunities given to us. We must repent.
Jesus warns the people: "Unless you repent, you will all perish." Repentance
is a central demand of the Good News, and Jesus begins his mission to pro-
claim the Kingdom with: "Repent and believe the Good news." (Mk 1:15).

Repentance is not focussed on the past, but the future. It's a decision to turn
away from where we are and move towards God. To turn away from the dark-
ness in our lives and journey towards the light. To completely change our di-
rection and joyously 'come home' to God. Repentance calls us to leave behind
the past and all that has been, and to open our minds and hearts to the person
God wants us to be. God's grace will bring us to newness of life.

Sadly, a reluctance to believe that God really loves us, no matter what we've
done or where we've been in life, often hinders our willingness to repent and
change direction. All too often, our understanding of God is engulfed by fear
and anxiety, which trap and bind us from reaching out to God with faith, trust
and confidence.

God never gives up on us. Instead, God continually reaches out to us, helping
us to become the people that God yearns for us to be. Let's take heart this
Lenten season, that God who is compassion and love, is waiting patiently for
us, and will transform our repentant hearts, so that the vineyard of our lives will
bear.

David J Hore CSsR
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PREPARING FOR LENT: PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: Hope does not disappoint!



Our Lenten journey so far has called us to an encounter with God and to recognise his divine presence revealed in the world. Today, we turn our focus to *cultivating hope*.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree - a tree that has yet to bear fruit. Instead of cutting it down, the gardener pleads for time to tend and nourish it, hoping it will flourish.

In *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis warns that the frenetic pace of life, economic instability, and a culture driven by profit over people can weaken our hope.

Cultivating hope requires care - both for ourselves and for others. Like the fig tree, hope must be nourished. When we foster peace, care for the vulnerable, and stand with those in need, we become gardeners of hope, ensuring that faith and love continue to bear fruit in our world.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual Confession every Saturday morning of Lent 10.00am St Anne's Church

Lenten Penitential Liturgy Wednesday 9th April St Anne's Church 7.00pm. Community Liturgy of the Word, Examination

Evergreens Social afternoon on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 12:00 pm. Victoria Police will be coming to explain how they help our community with Welfare checks, and talking about how to avoid scams and dangerous situations. A nice cup of tea with biscuits supplied. The **Evergreens** is FREE for all **Seniors**, Come and join us and enjoy. We love to see you. Call Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248 for info and transport.

Parish Bingo: Our Parish bingo session "**Major Bingo**" continues every Thursday evening down 7.30 pm at Club Sunbury., Riddell Rd. Get a few friends together and come along and join in the fun, you will be made most welcome - and you might even win the weekly guaranteed jackpot of \$1000. **Special upcoming event- JUMBO BINGO - Saturday 10th May.** 30 games of bingo with guaranteed game prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500 and minimum \$200. Bookings required - reserve your seat at Club Sunbury any Thursday from 5.30 pm. Tickets selling fast, so get in quick. You've got to be in it to win it! Enquiries to Graeme Edmonds on 0417 503 527 or Gary Plummer on 0419 301 760

Lost and Found: A piece of jewelry has been found in the grounds of the Church. Please contact the Parish Office to describe and claim.

Historical Committee: The Historical Committee are next meeting on Monday 31st March at 10.30am in the meeting room in St Anne's Church.

Caring for Creation

Earth Hour: Millions of participants (individuals as well as institutions and corporations) around the world will switch off their lights for one hour at 8:30 pm local time on Saturday 22nd March to demonstrate their support of the environment. This symbolic action can highlight Pope Francis' hope that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of the victims of natural disasters and climatic change.

Parish Thanksgiving Campaign

Last weekend, we began the Offertory Thanksgiving Program, which will take place over the next two weeks.

This Sunday we welcome Gary Plummer, Maree Shields and Jeremy Honner, who will speak at each Mass, about what parish life means to them.

The call to generosity is God's invitation for us to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christians. You are encouraged to prayerfully engage with this time of reflection and discernment. Contributions from parishioners have supported our clergy and helped sustain our parish over the years and now we again seek your generosity to enable our parish to continue to grow. During this time parishioners will be invited to reflect on their contributions to the Presbytery and Thanksgiving collections.

- Letters and pledge cards have been prepared for each parishioner or family who have completed a census card or are current contributors.
- If you have not collected your pledge envelope yet, please do so. Pledge envelopes not collected will need to be posted at a cost to the Parish
- Dedicated boxes are available in the foyer to return your completed card.
- If you are considering Direct Debits, a Direct Debit Form is available for collection after Mass
- Can't find a pledge card? Blanks are available in the foyer.

If you have any particular questions about our Parish Thanksgiving Program, Dwain Lemaire who has guided our planning group will be happy to answer your enquires at dwain.lemaire@outlook.com or ring the Parish Office with your concerns.

Communion to the sick

Please speak to Fr Denis after Mass or contact the Parish Office if you are taking Communion to someone who is not a relative. Many thanks.

Altar Servers Don't just come to Mass, they help Father and the community to celebrate it. Join the team ... enquiries Michael 0417332186

Men Alive

Dear Parishioners,
OLMC Social Group is organising a retreat for Men facilitated by MenAlive an Australian Catholic Faith Group who are well known for its success in engaging with men building on their faith and strengthening their belongingness to their parish and the community. OLMC Parish are organising this retreat on 14th and 15th June 2025. In this regard we need a few men who can join the organising committee to help in the planning and coordinating of this special gathering for our men. If you can be part of this team please contact Garnet before 24th March on 0411286428 please as we need your assistance. The flyers are displayed on the notice board.

OLMC Youth Group: A chance to register for the OLMC Youth Group! Ages 13 – 18. Dinner /Watch a video/ Group discussions/ Games + Prayer nights. Parents/guardians to scan QR code and register.



Any questions, please contact Liam Daniels - 0488541844

From Your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)

* July 16th is the Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel in this our 150th Anniversary year. If you'd like to be involved in planning for this special time as members of a PCT sub-committee, please forward your expressions of interest and your contact details to the Parish Office.

* Many thanks to all who work away helping to build the parish and whose quiet efforts go largely unnoticed. Please remember that **Safeguarding Compliance Training** is a requirement for every parish worker who needs to complete the Safeguarding Essentials Training once every three years at this website: [online Safeguarding Essentials training](https://www.safeguardingessentials.com.au). This will include a declaration form to pass to the OLMC Safeguarding Officer, Deon Armstrong on completion of the training.