



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
Tuesday 11:30am - Funeral - Carol Lamb
Wednesday 9:30am - Mass
Thursday 9:30am - Mass
12:00pm - Funeral - Peter Hoogwerf
Friday 9:30am - Mass - St Stanislaus

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am - 10.30am St Anne's Church

Parish Priest: Rev Denis Stanley
Deacon: Rev Stephen Fernandes

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

06 April 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalms Response: Ps 125. R. v.3
Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel Acclamation: Joel 2:12-13

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ,
Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ,
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ,

Gospel: John 8:1-11

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Jesulin CABRAL, Agatha CHAVES, Breda CONNORS (Eire), Caleb FARIA, Charles FIGUEROA, Samford FIGUEROA, Cesar GABALES, Charles HABER, Margaret MAGRI, Diana MASTRAMICO, Anastasia MORTER, Tom MOWAT, Emilia POTROVSKY, Amanda REBELLO, Maria RODDA, Derick STEWART, Marcus TAYLOR, Dezirah TUIMAUGA, Air WILKINSON, Daniel ZAMMIT

Recently Deceased: Godefriedus Petrus (Peter) HOOGWERF, Neville HUTCHINGS (Swan Hill), Carol Maree LAMB

Anniversaries: Austin & Leonie D'MONTE, Brian RILEY, Rogelio RIVERA, Spiro ZAHRA

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

HOLY WEEK AND THE SACRED THREE DAYS: A FESTIVAL OF FAITH OR A TEST OF OUR ENDURANCE?

Soon it be Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. One of the features of this week is the length of the liturgies. I am always amused when people comment about this.

We Western Christians have little idea how long the Eastern Liturgies for Holy Week are. The Paschal Vigil of the Eastern Churches goes for many hours. From the Russian community on Holy Saturday night I have rarely returned home before 3.00am in the morning. The Liturgies are long and complex. The parish pours every single resource they possess into them, especially the singing. All for one night. People joke, "Christ is Risen. The priest is dead!"

Our own Western Catholic tradition confirms how important Easter is, "The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is thus the culmination of the entire liturgical year. What Sunday is to the week, the solemnity of Easter is to the liturgical year." Interestingly the church does not say this about Christmas.

We in the West like our liturgies to be short and indeed our liturgies are short. So Easter comes as a shock when the liturgies are long. People who usually attend the 45 minute Saturday Evening Vigil Mass or those who do not attend a Sunday Mass at all and find themselves at the Easter Vigil, struggle with its length. This year – thank God – the Easter Vigil will be longer because we are blessed with the baptism and welcome into the church of seven adults. Yes, bring it on I say! I can't wait.

So when you are attending the Holy Week Liturgies, my humble advice is sit back and relax, accept that the liturgy will be longer than usual. Of course with pews it's a hard to get out, go outside for a breath of fresh air, get a glass of water, relax and chat to a friend before going back into the church, as they can do in the Eastern churches. Remember many Eastern churches don't have pews, it's literally standing room only.

But also it is worth embracing **now** what we are celebrating during Holy Week and Easter so that we are **prepared**. This is what Pope Francis says about what is going on at the Liturgy and how we are involved.

If the resurrection were for us a concept, an idea, a thought; if the Risen One were for us the recollection of the recollection of others, however authoritative, as, for example, of the Apostles; if there were not given also to us the possibility of a true encounter with Him, that would be to declare the newness of the Word made flesh to have been all used up. Christian faith is either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist.

The Liturgy guarantees for us the possibility of such an encounter. For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him. In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us. The saving power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments.

I am Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by haemorrhages, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the thief and Peter both pardoned. The Lord Jesus who dies no more, who lives forever with the signs of his Passion continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments.

Pope Francis. *Desiderio Desideravi*. 2022.

Fr Denis Stanley PP

PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

PREPARING FOR LENT: PREPARING FOR HOLY

WEEK AND EASTER: Hope does not disappoint!



Thanks to Kevin Carville for these Lenten Reflections for the Jubilee Year.

"...Because He is putting water in the wilderness, rivers in the wild."

As we draw closer to Holy Week, today's readings call us to reflect on God's boundless mercy.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!

In *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis reminds us that works of mercy are also works of hope; they give rise to immense gratitude.

This hope is revealed in today's Gospel, where Jesus encounters the woman caught in adultery. His words to her - "*Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more.*" - sum up the heart of the Gospel: not condemnation, but mercy, healing, and transformation.

As Jesus lifts his gaze to her, we are taken back to the beginning of our Lenten journey, to Ash Wednesday, when we were commissioned with the words: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

In these final days of Lent, let us be reminded that God's mercy is always a new beginning, a source of grace, and a sign of hope that does not disappoint!

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 of Con-

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

From the OLMC Historical Committee

A request from the OLMC Historical Committee. Last weekend three of our parishioners shared with us their memories and experience of our parish. Your memories and experiences are also important and are invaluable in recording our parish history. Please write them down. Nothing is insignificant and will help in shaping the tapestry of our parish in present times for the benefit of future generations. Don't let your memories get lost in time.

Palms for Palm Sunday: Thank you to all those who have contributed large palms for Palm Sunday. We now have plenty to meet our requirements.

Call for Volunteers: The Lectors Team is looking for new members who have a passion for spreading the Word and contributing to our Parish community. If you would like to be part of this dynamic group, please email the Parish office with your contact details. All volunteers require a Working with Children Check. Training will be provided.

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

Evergreens Those who have booked for **The Buddy Holly Story** live on stage in Moonee Ponds on **Tuesday, 8th April 2025** to meet at Bus terminal/ train station by **9-20 am**. Enquiries Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248

We joyfully welcome the following children who will be baptized in our parish: Macklan **COWLING**, Sonny **GRAY**, Jillian **SABATO**, Evelyn & Archer **WALNE**



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER TO OUR PARISH ELECT

At the 10.30am Mass this Sunday those who are preparing for baptism and reception into the full communion with the church will receive the Our Father. The Creed - which they received two Sundays ago, and the Lord's Prayer embody what we believe and how we are to pray. The Creed and the Lord's Prayer are presented to the Elect in the weeks prior to Easter to help them prepare for baptism or reception into full communion with the church which will be preceded by a profession of faith using the words of the Creed and their sharing in the Eucharist will be preceded by their participation in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Final weekend of our Parish Offertory Program

Dear Parishioners, this is the final weekend of our Parish Offertory Program, and we want to thank you for your response. Your generosity is more than just financial support—it is an act of faith, trust, and gratitude to God. Every gift - of time, of volunteering, of worship and of finance - is a reflection of our relationship with Him and our commitment to His work in our parish.

If you have not yet returned your Pledge Card, I really encourage you to please return your pledge card in the boxes in foyer for this Sunday and next Sunday, by mail or at the Parish Office where our helpful parish staff will assist you. 240 addressed pledges were taken and 60 generic pledges shared. To date 60 have been returned.

Many thanks again to the Thanksgiving Renewal Campaign team - Dwain Lemaire, Mary McDermid and Tony Kiley.

Piety Stall: Thank you & call for volunteers

We would like to thank all Shop Volunteers but especially those who have had to retire after serving this Parish for so long. May God answer their prayers. We are now looking for volunteers to help, about once a month for 15 minutes. Very easy to pick up. **Come and meet the team on 11th April at St Anne meeting room at 10-00 am.** After mass.

Enquiries Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248.

Commitment to Safety. Collectors (Coordinators and Wardens) As we move into celebrating Easter Ceremonies will see increased numbers of regular Parishioners and Visitors attending. Please take a moment to reread the Emergency Procedures document from our launch. A couple of minutes preparation will be a great investment in the safe environment we create.

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 on 0411 286 428. **Flyer on the notice board.**

Morning Tea: will be hosted by the Pastoral Coordinating Team this weekend after 8:30am Mass. **Please stop for a chat and a cuppa!**

From Your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)

Thank you. In the first quarter of 2025 we have seen, and thank, so many people who have kept the parish running with their generous service be it with liturgy for adults and youth as well as children, with prayer, mass preparation, music and flowers, fellowship, with collections and fundraising, assisting the vulnerable, cleaning, property maintenance and development, funerals, baptisms, RCIA, administration, preserving our church history, opening the piety stall, visiting the sick and lonely, maintaining the gardens, the website and the newsletter, and of course the Thanksgiving Campaign which took huge amounts of time and effort. If you feel you are being called to take a more active role in parish life, why not apply to join one of our many parish groups? They really appreciate new members. Information and application forms are on the Help Desk in the church foyer.