



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.

Email: Sunbury@cam.org.au

<https://melbournecatholic.org>

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
Funeral: 11:00am - Ivana Roberts
Thursday 9:30am - Mass
Funeral 1:00pm - Josef (Joe) Koren
Friday 9:30am - Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am - 10.30am St Anne's Church
4:30pm-5:15pm 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

14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
Psalms Response: Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Edith **BAERA**, Mary **BORG**, Jaclyn **DEBENHAM**,
Jesulin **CABRAL**, Agatha **CHAVES**, Vivianne **DELLER**,
Caleb **FARIA**, Charles **FIGUEREDO**, Samford
FIGUEREDO, Darcy **FISHER**, Cesar **GABALES**, Charles
HABER, Hilda **KOVIANIC**, Dolores **KRUSZYNSKI**,
Bernie **LEONARD**, Margaret **MAGRI**, Lawrence
MALLIA, Sharon **MAMO**, Diana **MASTRAMICO**,
Daniel **MATA**, Brian **MUNDY**, Willow **O'CALLA-**
GHAN, Steve **OWEN**, Emilia **POTROVSKY**, Amanda
REBELLO, Karen **RODRIGUEZ-DELLER**, Alan **STEW-**
ART, Lee **TAYLOR**, Marcus **TAYLOR**, Delicia **VILLELA**,
Air **WILKINSON**, Daniel **ZAMMIT**

Recently deceased: Joe Koren, Ivana Roberts, Rev
Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE

Anniversaries: Irene **BUTLER** & Don **McCONVILLE**

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

Sharing the light during Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

What are you like at waiting? As one person said: "I'm no good at waiting, but one day as I stood in line at a local supermarket, I realised I was waiting. Waiting! I was doing what Advent is all about."

That's what John the Baptist, one of the striking Advent figures, is doing in this week's gospel. Waiting in prison for news of the Messiah, wondering is this the one he'd been expecting? We all know the feeling given the expectations we might have of Jesus.

But Jesus says to John's disciples, tell him what you see and hear, that the blind, the lame, the deaf, the lives of those cast out have been transformed. He isn't fulfilling John's expectations so much as calling our attention to the prophecy of Isaiah which is referred to in the first reading.

The lives of those cast out are transformed and, as in Isaiah, where the wilderness blooms now the exile in Babylon is over, they too may return from a kind of exile, full of hope. In the gospel these are the signs of the kingdom that Jesus points too, rather than God's retribution.

So, what do we see and hear? Can we glimpse the working of God among us in Advent? This may seem a daunting task because we're so caught up in the 'festive season' that any talk of slowing down is best left till Boxing Day. But what if we're able to see something else in what we're already doing? That's what the woman standing in the queue at the supermarket is doing; she's waiting and that's what Advent is about.

Could standing there, or wherever we find ourselves waiting, be such a moment? Why not put the phone away and wait? And what about a more formal moment, as we light the third, pink candle of the Advent wreath, on Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday?

Amidst the call to pray and to fast, we seek to light a candle and share that light with the forgotten ones, inviting them to eat with us, welcoming them into our lives. In pointing to the Christ who is to come John bears witness to this light. That's the point of his life, doubts and all, and why Jesus says there is none greater.

The point of our lives is to become more Christ-like and discover our 'greatness' in him. In doing so 'the least in the kingdom of Heaven will be greater' than John is. We rejoice that we're invited to help build up the kingdom and to enable this we must learn to be patient. As the second reading says, waiting in expectation of the Lord's coming, for he will come and is already present among us, not attempting to force God's hand.

In Advent, we're preparing a way for the Lord, realising, once again, that God so loves the world.

Damian Coleridge
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PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

RECONCILIATION - DURING ADVENT

In addition to the existing time of 10-10:30am on Saturday, Reconciliation will also be offered from 4:30 – 5:15pm on Saturdays before the Vigil Mass, during Advent.

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Wednesday, 24 December: 6pm & 9pm

Thursday, 25 December: 8:30am & 10:30am

Thursday, 1 January 2026: 9:30am

There will be no Mass at 9:30am on Wednesday, 24 December.

PARISH BINGO

Big upcoming event - **Major Bingo Christmas Special. Thursday 18th December**, Eyes down 7.30 pm. Club Sunbury (Bowling Club), Riddell Rd. **Guaranteed \$2000 last game prize**, gifts, special guest caller and loads of fun. Get a group of friends together and come along to join in the festivities whilst supporting your Parish. You will be made most welcome. Our weekly session continues every Thursday at the Bowling Club - eyes down 7.30 pm. \$1000 last game prize, raffles etc. Why not come along and give it a try. Your Parish would appreciate your support.

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 Anne's Church. It is designed to complement the training of First Aiders and Defibrillator operators. We are inviting all existing wardens, collectors, welcomers and any interested parishioners to attend one of two sessions on **Saturday 20 December after 5.30pm Mass or Sunday 21 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.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

PARISH TOUR BOOKLET

The OLMC Historical Committee members have put together a small booklet which takes us on a journey around the district and places that have formed part of our parish history over the years. The booklet is available as a fitting end to this Anniversary year. Copies will continue to be available at the help desk and will be part of the welcome pack to new parishioners.

EMMAUS PRAYER GROUP

will meet for the last time this year on Wednesday December 17th at St. Anne's church at 7.00pm. Meetings will resume on Wednesday February 4th next year.

PIETY STALL

PIETY STALL Religious Items. 2026 Columban calendars \$11. Religious Christmas cards pack of 8 at \$4. Wearable Rosary beads, Bracelets and Rings. Statues, Medals, Missals and Bibles \$35. Many NEW items. Quality at cost price. Always happy to order what we DO not have in stock. If you made inquiries without leaving your phone number? Please contact Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248.



We joyfully welcome Deja Nymeria **RODRIGO** who will be baptized in our parish.



Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod

The Most Rev Peter Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne has initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ will assist in leading this process, drawing on the Pathways for the Implementation Phases of the Synod 2025-2028, endorsed by Pope Leo XIV. Ms Cathy Jenkins has been appointed as the Synod Program Lead. A copy of the announcement is available at the Information Desk.

Call for Volunteers - Christmas Masses

We would like to thank all those who have volunteered to assist with Christmas Masses: Greeters & Ushers, AV Operators, Sacristans, Collectors etc. Thank you!

St Vincent de Paul

On behalf of the Sunbury Conference of St Vincent de Paul, I would like to sincerely thank the people of our Parish, who so generously supported our Christmas Appeal last week. A grand total of \$2,617 was raised to support our community. I would also like to give special thanks to Salesian College for their fantastic support again this year. Along with Our Lady of Mt Carmel and Holy Trinity Primary Schools, their support towards our Christmas giving was fantastic as usual, and St Anne's support during the year was greatly appreciated.

Mary Glowrey -For your information

Pope Leo XIV announced his recognition of heroic virtues for Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ - now known as Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey. This significant step in her cause for canonisation makes her only the second Australian, after St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to be accorded this honour. Born in the Victorian town of Birregurra in 1887, Glowrey was an experienced doctor in Melbourne hospitals and private practice when she travelled to India, aged 32, and entered religious life in Guntur, located in present day Andhra Pradesh. She spent 37 years in service to marginalized women and children. A proud daughter of Melbourne, Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey was a trailblazer- one of our early female doctors—before answering the call to serve in India, Glowrey completed her secondary and tertiary education in Melbourne through scholarships, graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1910 (MBBS) and 1919 (MD). She joined a Dutch religious congregation in India in 1920. She dedicated her life to caring for marginalised women and children in India by providing medical treatment and establishing healthcare facilities, training programs, and support networks. In 1943, Glowrey founded what is now India's largest non-government healthcare network, the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI). She died in Bangalore (Bengaluru) in 1957.

From Your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)

Join an Advent challenge

The PCT joyfully supports the call to join fellow Christians for readings of God's word and carol singing at 2 pm next Sunday 21st December at St Andrew's Uniting Church on the Village Green. Refreshments provided.

