



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
Thursday 9:30am - Mass
Friday 9:30am - Mass - St Stephen

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

21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm Response: Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

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**, Severino **FLORES** Sr.
Cesar **GABALES**, Charles **HABER**, Fr. Tony **KERIN**,
Hilda **KOVIANIC**, Dolores **KRUSZYNSKI**, Bernie
LEONARD, Margaret **MAGRI**, Lawrence **MALLIA**,
Sharon **MAMO**, Diana **MASTRAMICO**, Daniel **MA-**
TA, Moya **MINTER**, 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 **WILKENSON**, Daniel **ZAMMIT**

Recently deceased: Joe **PANZERA**

Anniversaries: Rose **MIZZI**, Peta **NOONAN**, Cassan-
dra **O' KEEFE**, Maria Conceicao **RODRIGUES**, Betty
WARREN.

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

0.4% the logic of littleness:

A reflection on the witness of the mustard seed at Christmas time.

Recently Pope Leo made his first journey out of Italy as the Holy Father. He travelled to Türkiye to celebrate the 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed, confirmed by a meeting of bishops in 325 in the town of Nicaea. Just in passing I mention that the Creed is not simply a doctrinal formula; it is an invitation to seek the unity and essential core of the Christian faith centred on Christ. Nicaea still asks us: Who is Jesus for us?

In Istanbul – once called Constantinople – Pope Leo visited the small Christian community reminding them of the long history of Christianity in that part of the world. St Paul was a frequent visitor there, it's the home of the great church, Hagia Sophia, that was the centre of the Eastern Church, and of the many saints and great thinkers about our faith, for many centuries a large Christian community lived there. Today all the Christians in Türkiye make up only 0.4% of the population.

Pope Leo shared with them, "your communities emerged from the richness of this long history...The history that precedes you is not something merely to be remembered and then venerated as a glorious past while we look with resignation at how small the Christian Church has become numerically."

He then encourages them, "When we look with God's eyes, we discover that he has chosen the way of littleness, descending into our midst. This is the way of the Lord, to which we are all called to bear witness. The prophets announce God's promise by speaking of a small shoot that will spring forth (cf. Is 11:1). Jesus praises the little ones who trust in him (cf. Mk 10:13–16). He teaches that God's kingdom does not impose itself with displays of power (cf. Lk 17:20–21), but grows like the smallest of all the seeds planted in the earth (cf. Mk 4:31), "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Lk 12:32).

How can it be that the logic of littleness is the Church's true strength? It does not lie in her resources or structures, nor do the fruits of her mission depend on numbers, economic power or social influence. This is a very challenging thing to say.

With the Christmas liturgies our Church will be full. We warmly welcome all, we prayerfully witness for all. Although some might say, "Put Christ back into Christmas", for the community of faith, Christ has always been part of Christmas. He never left. It is our mission and delight to tell His story in the Word, in the Eucharist and our community's presence. We do that Sunday by Sunday. So even if the Sunday after Christmas our gathering for Mass is smaller, we ponder Pope Leo's, "logic of littleness", and his surprising encouragement to a Christian community of 0.4%.

Pope Leo concluded his reflection to these brave Christians, praying, "May Mary Most Holy, the Theotokos, intercede for you and keep you in her care." How can we forget that our Parish too is under the care of her we invoke as Our Lady of Mt Carmel, mother of that little, vulnerable infant who is yet Emmanuel – God with us.

Fr Denis Stanley PP

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

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

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.

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.

THANK YOU!

We thank all volunteers for their help with Christmas at Rupertswood. If you have any comments or suggestions for next year, please pass it on to any of the Committee members. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.



We joyfully welcome Leah **STOPRYA** & Levi & Sophie **GALE** who will be baptized in our parish.



Remembering those who are unable to be with us at

Christmas: near but far

Christmas is one of few times in the year when there is powerful expectation and hope that families can be together. This can and does take many forms as families are often dispersed by work or distance or the need to with other members of the family. Sometimes it is not possible to gather at Christmas at all.

The Parish Liturgy Group have prepared a simple card to write the name of a family member whom you cannot be present with over Christmas and feel the distance and disconnection. These cards are near our beautiful nativity display beside the altar.

You are invited to write the names of those you cannot be with this Christmas and place it in the manger itself.

Denis Stanley

RESPONDING TO HATRED, VIOLENCE AND DEATH IN THE MIDST OF OUR COMMUNITY.

All of us have had, and continue to have, strong reactions to the recent violent attack in Sydney last Sunday evening, ending in the tragic death of 15 people and the serious injury of many others. We remember all those who were present and experienced the sudden and terrible fear of that evening. An attack we now know was aimed at the members of the Jewish community celebrating the beginning of the Hannukah Festival.

To help us we look to the leadership of our community – their words may help us as we try to find our own words. On the Notice board in the foyer of the church are the Responses of our own **Archbishop Peter Comensoli**, the President of the Australian Bishops Conference, **Archbishop Tim Costelloe** and the **Victorian Council of Churches**.

From Your Parish Coordinating Team (PCT)

The Parish Tour Guide to local places having a historical Catholic connection has landed on the Help Desk in the church foyer. **Congratulations and heartfelt thanks** to the Historical Committee for producing this valuable parish resource so useful and satisfying for parishioners and visitors alike.

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 Sunday 21st December at St Andrew's Uniting Church on the Village Green. Refreshments provided.

Happy Christmas! Your PCT members Pauline, Fr Denis, Carole, Jane, Maree, Mary, Paul and Peter thank you for your contributions to making ours such a vibrant parish, and wish parishioners and their families a joyful, peaceful Christmas.

