



**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](http://olmcnsunbury.com)

Our parish is committed to the Safety, Wellbeing and Dignity of all, including children and vulnerable adults.

Email: [Sunbury@cam.org.au](mailto:Sunbury@cam.org.au)  
<https://melbournecatholic.org>

**LITURGY TIMES: AT ST ANNE'S CHURCH**

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 5:30pm - Vigil Mass                |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 8.30am - Sunday Mass               |
|                  | 10:30am - Sunday Mass              |
|                  | 11:45am - Baptism                  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9:30am - Mass - St Agnes, Martyr   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 9:30am - Mass - St Vincent, Deacon |
| <b>Funeral</b>   | 11:00am - David Coyte              |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 9:30am - Mass                      |

**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

**18 January 2026**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

**Psalm Response:** Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

**Gospel Acclamation** John 1:14. 12

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17

**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, Sr. Cesar GABALES, Charles HABER, Fr. Tony KERIN, Hilda KOVIANIC, Dolores KRUSZYNSKI, Bernie LEONARD, Margaret MAGRI, Lawrence MALLIA, Sharon MAMO, Diana MASTRAMICO, Daniel MATA, Moya MINTER, Brian MUNDY, Willow O'CALLAGHAN, Steve OWEN, Emilia POTROVSKY, Andy POUNDER, Amanda REBELLO, Karen RODRIGUEZ-DELLER, Juan Carlos RODRIGUEZ-DELLER, Alan STEWART, Lee TAYLOR, Marcus TAYLOR, Delicia VILLELA, Air WILKENSON, Geoff WOODS & Daniel ZAMMIT

**Recently deceased:** Sr Leonie GLENNON (SR. Anita) Don KEMPSTER

**Anniversaries:** Helen BORG, Giovanna BRULLO, Antionette CASSAR, Charles ZAMMIT & Emanuel ZAMMIT

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

***The Perfume of Holiness***

I visited my mother quite often in the last years of her life and sometimes when she kissed me and gave me a big hug, I came away with the scent of 'Tea Rose' perfume lingering all over me. Mum loved that perfume and sometimes doused herself quite extravagantly. And some of it would rub off on me.

That is how we become 'holy'.

What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of ordinary people who aren't quite up to the mark in doing the right thing. It certainly doesn't mean an unattractive superiority: 'holier than thou'!

It means being so close to God, so much of an intimate with God, so much one of the close family of God, that God's holiness rubs off.

In today's Gospel, John says of Jesus that He will baptise people with the Holy Spirit. At our baptisms, we were given an extravagant dousing of the Holy Spirit, we were plunged and immersed into Holy Spirit, we emerged smelling of Holy Spirit, we were made holy. Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'you are my beloved son' or 'you are my beloved daughter'. We are family.

We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.

So, if St Paul were writing to us today, he would use the same terms he used in writing to the Corinthians. This is how it would run:

'... to the church of God that is in Sunbury made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'

Isn't that a beautiful understanding of who we are?

We are not a branch office of a multinational religious organisation with the Archbishop as the local manager. We have our own dignity. We are the church of God that is in this town made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.

But, we are not alone. There are many people gathering in a multitude of places around the world, people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. As St Paul would put it, we are *who* we are 'together with all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every meeting place'.

St Paul recognises the bonds which link us. But, how is the 'togetherness' held together?

What quickly emerged in the early church was the need for strong bonds to develop between the leaders of those 'who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ' in Jerusalem and the leaders of those who did the same out on the missions in the pagan world. With the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD, it was natural that the lynchpin, the strongest link, should be the successor of St Peter martyred in Rome.

Yes, we are 'Catholic', i.e. worldwide, and 'Roman Catholic' because we are in communion with the Bishop of Rome, the official role of the Pope.

So, at the base level, recall how St Paul describes us:

'Members of the Church of God that is in [this town], made up of those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.' That is who we are. We are those to whom St Paul sends his greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

## PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

### PARISH BINGO

Our Parish Bingo session (Major Bingo) is back for 2026 - bigger and better than ever. Every Thursday evening, eyes down at 7.30 pm conducted at Sunbury Bowling Club, Ridgell Rd. Guaranteed last game prize of \$1000 every week plus other game prizes of \$150, \$100 & \$60. Bingo lingo Joker raffle., main raffle and lots of fun. The biggest and best Bingo in the district. Get a group of friends together and come along and give it a try. You will be made most welcome. Enquiries to Gary Plummer 0419 301 760.

### PIETY STALL

PIETY STALL Religious Items. 2026 Columban calendars \$11. 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. Please contact/TEXT Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248.

### EVERGREENS SOCIAL AFTERNOON

**Watch this space,** Interesting things are coming. **Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 12-00pm.** At St Anne Hall, behind the church. A nice cup of tea with biscuits supplied. The Evergreens is **FREE** for all Seniors, Come and join us for a chat and enjoy. We love to see you. Call Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248 for info and transport. Evergreens lunch at Itahlia was enjoyed by 32 happy people making friends for 2.5 hours.

### RESULTS FROM MARCH 2025 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN:

Below are some of the key points arising from an assessment of the Thanksgiving campaign

- A comparison of the contributions to the Thanksgiving and Presbytery collections over the six months following the campaign versus the previous six months shows a very generous increase of between 25% and 30% in both.
- There was a distinct change from contributing via cash to direct debits – a move that both reduced the cost and increased the security of collecting and delivering the cash to the bank.
- Through an organising committee and a number of volunteers, the parish was able to conduct the campaign using our own resources, thus saving almost \$20,000 in external consulting fees.

Through the generosity of our parishioners, we are now in a stronger position to plan for the significant maintenance work in both churches. Thank you for your wonderful support.

**Fr. Denis Stanley**

Parish Priest

### 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



We joyfully welcome Benji & Freya McCarthy who will be baptized in our parish.



### WE WANT YOU!

Do you have 15 minutes to spare before and after Mass to help setting up for the 5:30pm & 10:30am Mass? This would be on a monthly basis, helping our existing Sacristans. It is quick and easy and guidance will be provided. Your service would be welcomed and greatly appreciated.

### 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 .

### CARING FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN THE CHURCH - WORKSHOP

Mental Health First Aid teaches participants about the different types of mental illness and through a practical action plan participants learn the skills to recognise and respond to someone experiencing a mental health problem or mental health crisis.

Date: 7 & 14 February 2026

Cost: \$75 per person

Venue: St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 49 Fisher Street, Gisborne.

Enquiries: Pastor Wayne McArdle - 0466 648 400 or [pastor@gisbornepresbyterian.com.au](mailto:pastor@gisbornepresbyterian.com.au)

### FROM YOUR PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

**1. Have you got a spare room?** A respectable, middle-aged, Sunbury Christian man is asking if anyone knows of a room he can rent. He is unable to afford a house rental. He has become gun shy of shared accommodation but wants to be in touch with other people he can trust. In your network, do you know of anyone who can help him? **Sunbury Winter Shelter** (Di and Jane) are in regular contact with him and can be readily contacted on 0497 216 118. We would love to hear from you.

### **2. PCT's Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

Have concerning issues about the parish been bothering you? Alternatively, have you got suggestions as to how parish events and groups may be improved?

The PCT responds immediately to a concern or suggestion, informing the respondent that we have either acted directly or have passed the item on to the group or individual most qualified to deal with it.

The **HELP DESK** in the foyer has **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FORMS**. Please pop completed forms into the orange box or email them to the parish office at [sunbury@cam.org.au](mailto:sunbury@cam.org.au)

## OUR FINANCES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JAN - 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

| PRESBYTERY (1st) COLLECTION  | THANKSGIVING (2nd) COLLECTION  |
|--|--|
| Supports our Parish clergy and contributes to the Archdiocese's fund for poorer parishes and retired priests | Enables us to provide liturgies and pastoral support across the parish, as well as maintaining parish facilities |
| Total weekly contribution (average)  | \$2,264  |
| Less contribution to Priests' Remuneration Fund  | <b>-\$679</b>  |
| Net available to support our Parish clergy   | \$1,585  |
| <b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY</b>   |  |

Our parish is supported by the generosity of our Parishioners (together with contributions from our great Bingo Team).

Comments on Contributions for the period 1 Jan - 30 Sept 2025

### Presbytery Collection:

Contributions up by 17% versus the average across full year 2024, and up 13% on the 2019 (Pre-Covid) average.

### Tap and Give:

Total contributions increased by \$117 to \$613 per week compared to the average across full year 2024.

### Thanksgiving Collection:

Contributions up 28% compared to average across full year 2024, and up 4.5% on the 2019 (Pre-Covid) average. Parish costs were 39% less than the average across full year 2024 and down 42% on the 2019 (Pre-Covid) average -this was due to a general reduction in expenses this year and two sets of insurance premiums being paid in 2024.

### Other (additional) Income:

- Bingo continues to contribute significant income, averaging \$2466 per week across the nine months
- Parish centre hire and offerings from baptisms etc. also contributed \$1327 per week

### Credit Card or Direct Deposit Contributions:

The Parish encourages credit card or direct deposit contributions as the preferred method of donating. Could you please contact the Parish Office if you would like to change your contributions to card or direct deposit. Thank you.