



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 - St Agnes, Martyr
Thursday 9:30am - Mass - St Vincent, Deacon
Funeral 11:00am - David Coyte
Friday 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**, Emi-
lia **POTROVSKY**, Andy **POUNDER**, Amanda **REBEL-
LO**, Karen **RODRIGUEZ-DELLER**, Juan Carlos **RODRÍ-
GUEZ-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 some-
times 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 cor-
rect, 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 Ho-
ly 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 linchpin, 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.'

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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, Rid-dell 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. Stat-ues, 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 assess-ment 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 mainte-nance work in both churches. Thank you for your wonder-ful 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 discus-sions / 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 great-ly appreciated.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

PARISH TOUR BOOKLET

The OLMC Historical Committee members have put to-gether 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 availa-ble 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

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 accommoda-tion 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 con-tacted 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 bother-ing you? Alternatively, have you got **suggestions** as to how parish events and groups may be improved?

The PCT responds immediately to a concern or sugges-tion, informing the respondent that we have either act-ed 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 IM-PROVEMENT FORMS. Please pop completed forms into the orange box or email them to the parish office at 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	Average weekly parish costs	\$4,454
Less contribution to Priests' Remuneration Fund	-\$679	Average weekly collection amount	\$3,821
Net available to support our Parish clergy	\$1,585		

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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

The Parish does not receive any grants

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.