



**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
olmcsubury.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
Monday	9:30am Mass - Australia Day
Wednesday	9:30am - Mass - Thomas Aquinas
Thursday	9:30am - Mass
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	

25 January 2026

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
Word of God Sunday**

First Reading:	Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3
Psalm Response:	Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1
Second Reading:	1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Gospel Acclamation	Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the Kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Edith BAERA, Mary BORG, Jaclyn DEBENHAM, Jesulin CABRAL, Agatha CHAVES, Lloyd D'CRUS, 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, Raymond PARKER, Emilia POTROVSKY, Andy POUNDER, Amanda REBELLO, Juan Carlos RODRIGUEZ-DELLER, Alan STEWART, Lee TAYLOR, Marcus TAYLOR, Delicia VILLELA, Air WILKENSON, & Daniel ZAMMIT

Recently deceased: Concetta MARROTTA, Joe PANZERA (Month's Mind) & Robert PELLY.

Anniversaries: Benvolio BASCUG, Ruby JACOB, Moira KELLY Sr., Karl LEMAIRE & S Rama PRASAD, Paula QUIMSON

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

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ".

St Jerome 342 – 420 AD Translator and teacher of the Scriptures

When sacred Scripture is read in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written, it remains ever new. The Old Testament is never old once it is part of the New, since all has been transformed thanks to the one Spirit who inspired it. The sacred text as a whole serves a prophetic function regarding not the future but the present of whoever is nourished by this word. Jesus himself clearly stated this at the beginning of his ministry: *"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing"* (Lk 4:21). Those who draw daily nourishment from God's word become, like Jesus, a contemporary of all those whom they encounter: they are not tempted to fall into sterile nostalgia for the past, or to dream of unreal utopias yet to come.

Sacred Scripture accomplishes its prophetic work above all in those who listen to it. It proves both sweet and bitter. We are reminded of the words of the prophet Ezekiel when, commanded by the Lord to eat the scroll of the book, he tells us: *"It was in my mouth as sweet as honey"* (3:3). John the Evangelist too, on the island of Patmos, echoes Ezekiel's experience of eating the scroll, but goes on to add: *"It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter"* (Rev 10:10).

The sweetness of God's word leads us to share it with all those whom we encounter in this life and to proclaim the sure hope that it contains (cf. 1 Pet 3:15-16). Its bitterness, in turn, often comes from our realization of how difficult it is to live that word consistently, or our personal experience of seeing it rejected as meaningless for life. We should never take God's word for granted, but instead let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters.

Yet another challenge raised by sacred Scripture has to do with love. God's word constantly reminds us of the merciful love of the Father who calls his children to live in love. The life of Jesus is the full and perfect expression of this divine love, which holds nothing back but offers itself to all without reserve. In the parable of Lazarus, we find a valuable teaching. When both Lazarus and the rich man die, the latter, seeing the poor man Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, asks that Lazarus be sent to his brothers to warn them to love their neighbour, lest they also experience his torment. Abraham's answer is biting: *"They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them"* (Lk 16:29). To listen to sacred Scripture and then to practise mercy: this is the great challenge before us in life. God's word has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity.

From the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis instituting the Sunday of the Word of God. 2019

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

AUSTRALIA DAY

Please note that Mass will be offered at 9:30am in St Anne's Church for Australia Day, 26 January 2026.

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

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.

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



Historical Committee Meeting

Monday 2nd February at 10.30am in the Meeting Room at St Anne's Church. Any interested parishioners most welcome.

The Spiritual Life

"The Spiritual Life" podcast, host James Martin, S.J., welcomes Trappist monk, poet and photographer, Br. Paul Quenon, to do a "spiritual reset and Sr Helen Prejeans on her fight to end the death penalty:

Search YouTube: Paul Quenon - how to do a spiritual reset 2026

Search YouTube: The spiritual journey behind Sr Helen Prejean's fight to end the death penalty.

We joyfully welcome Iyla **GALEA** & Lucas **BLAKE** who will be baptized in our parish



2025 Parish Statistics.

For your information & conversation

Baptisms of children:	168
First Communions	125
Confirmations	108
Marriages	4
Funerals	40

WE WANT YOU!

Do you have 15 minutes to spare before and after Mass to help setting up for the 10:30am Mass? This would be on a monthly basis, helping our existing Sacristans. It is quick and easy and guidance will be provided. Please contact the Parish Office to provide your details. Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist with the 5:30pm Mass. 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

MORNING TEA

1 February 2026 after 8:30am Mass, hosted by the Bingo Team.



FROM YOUR PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

As Monday January 26th comes and goes, let us pray for peace in this troubled world and in our nation. May we celebrate what unites us and makes us fully human as Jesus was and as God our Creator wishes us to be.

