



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 - Ash Wednesday
7:00pm - Mass
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

15 February 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm Response: Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Edith **BAERA**, Jaclyn **DEBENHAM**, Lloyd **D'CRUS**, Caleb **FARIA**, Darcy **FISHER**, Elaine **KING**, Lawrence **MALLIA**, Diana **MASTRAMICO**, Moya **MINTER**, Brian **MUNDY**, Willow **O'CALLAGHAN**, Betty **OWEN**. Andy **POUNDER**, Karen **RODRIGUES-DELLER**, Lee **TAYLOR**, Marcus **TAYLOR**, & Daniel **ZAMMIT**

Recently deceased: David **COYTE**

Anniversaries: Mara **VIDOVIC** & Teresa **DILLEN**

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

The truth of divine wisdom
Matthew 5:17-37

Australians have long grumbled about the "nanny state." We roll our eyes at tobacco excises, plain packaging laws, bicycle helmet requirements, and bans on advertising to kids. Yet, if we're honest, no one lying in a hospital bed with lung cancer, managing type 2 diabetes, or recovering from a head fracture, ever mutters, "This wouldn't have happened if the government had just stayed out of my business."

Deep down, we know that some laws exist not to stifle us but to save us. They're less about control and more about keeping us alive and well. This weekend's readings invite us to see God's law in that same light; not as divine overreach but as wisdom designed for *human flourishing*. Sirach reminds us just how much God respects human freedom: "If you choose, you can keep the commandments" (Sir 15:15). God does not impose the divine will upon us. Like public health policies, the commandments are set before us as a path of life, not as a compliance regime. Sirach's image of choosing between "life and death" (Sir 15:17) is less about punishment and more about recognising that our decisions shape who we become.

The psalmist sees the "wonders" of God's law (Ps 119:18). This isn't the awe of a bureaucrat admiring a perfectly filled-out form; it is the delight of someone who recognises that God's ways lead to peace, integrity, and deep contentment. The psalmist isn't one who revels in rules; but one who wonders at the simple and self-evident wisdom inherent in God's law.

Paul speaks of a hidden wisdom that the world doesn't easily recognise—wisdom rooted in love rather than self-interest, in the Cross rather than cleverness. God's wisdom does not operate like the shifting advice of "this age," which prioritises individual success over communal wellbeing. Divine wisdom seeks communion, justice, and healing: all the things that help humanity to flourish. It is revealed, Paul says, by the Spirit who searches "the depths of God" (1 Cor 2:10) and leads us into those depths ourselves.

Matthew's Jesus insists he has not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matt 5:17). But fulfilment doesn't mean tightening the rules; it means *deepening* them. Jesus directs our attention away from external actions to the dispositions of the heart. He's not adding more red tape. He's revealing that true obedience is not about external regulation but internal transformation – a radical change of heart and mind. The law's purpose is to form a people capable of love.

Which brings us back to our Australian examples. Just as no one on a hospital ward complains about the nanny state, so no one who has contemplated the "depths of God" complains that divine law is restrictive. God's law, like the best human laws, is given so we might flourish; not in fear, but in freedom shaped by sure wisdom and self-sacrificing love. And that, ultimately, is the kind of "plain-packaged" law worth a moment or two of wonder.

Ian J Elmer
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PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

ASH WEDNESDAY - 18 FEBRUARY

9:30am - St Anne's School Mass - St Anne's Church

12:00pm - OLMC school Mass - OLMC Church via school Office

7:00pm - Mass at St Anne's Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - COMMENCE 21 FEBRUARY

Saturday evening before the Vigil Mass during Lent at 4.45pm St Anne's Church

OSPREY

Confirmation Information for OSPREY Program will be held on 16 February. The First Session will be held on Wednesday, 4 March. OSPREY is our Parish sacramental program for children who do attend Catholic Primary School. Please register with the Parish Office

PARISH BINGO

Your Parish Bingo session "Major Bingo" has been dragged into the 21st century with EFT now available for purchase of your bingo books. Come along any Thursday night - eyes down at 7.30 pm Sunbury Bowling club, Riddell Rd. You will be made most welcome and who knows maybe go home a winner. Last game guaranteed \$1000 prize along with other game prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$60. Plus Major raffle, Joker raffle and bingo pull aparts. A great way to meet people, have some fun and support your parish financially. For more info contact Gary Plummer on mobile 0419 301 760.

PIETY STALL

Baby Items, Ceramics, Light up sphere, 2026 Columban calendars \$ 8. Wearable Rosary beads, Bracelets and Rings. Statues, Medals, Missals and Bibles From \$35. 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 to be held in St Anne's Hall 24th February 12.00pm. For More information and for catering call Joe Spiteri 0477 677 248.

PRAYING FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS WHO ARE SICK AND THE FRAIL.

A feature of every Parish Bulletin I have ever seen is a list of parishioners who are sick or whose health is frail. Naturally we reach out in loving prayerful concern when friends, family and neighbours are unwell. Those of us who are unwell are on a journey through illness to long term care or recovery or drawing near to the end of life. Our Bulletin Prayer list should reflect this. To make sure that it up to date, I propose that:

* Names offered for the Prayer List remain for no more the two months.

* Family can contact the Parish Office or speak to the Parish Priest or Deacon at the Liturgy to have the name either removed or kept on the List for a further two months and so let the Parish know how the journey of their illness is progressing.

Denis Stanley, Parish Priest

We joyfully welcome Kayce **FOGARTY** & Isabelle **PSAILA** who will be baptized in our parish



PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. Boxes are available in the foyer.

PALMS INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

Palms International Volunteering continues to serve overseas communities especially in Asia and the Pacific, and again we are seeking Australian Catholics to take up a Global Mission. Join Palms International Volunteering online in this special session where you'll learn about our diverse assignments suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events : **Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026



Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - SHARE YOUR VOICE IN SERVICE

The World Day of Prayer will be held on 4 March 2026 at 7:30pm at the Lutheran Church, 57 Brook St, Sunbury. The service this year will be prepared by the women of Nigeria. If you will be attending, please consider being a part of the service by leading one of the sections of intercessions (already prepared). Please contact the parish office to register your interest. Thank you!

AMBULANCE SERVICE VISIT

The Ambulance service is coming out to teach us how to save a life while they are on their way. All Welcome. St Anne's Hall 24th February 12.00pm. For More information and catering call Joe Spiteri 0477 677 248 .Posters in Foyer

EMMAUS CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Meets each week on Wednesday evenings at St. Anne's Church at 7.00pm. All welcome. For further info/transport please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 0418 322 596.

FROM YOUR PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

During the Jubilee year of Hope, the Migrant Jubilee Cross has travelled almost 6,000 kilometers around Australia and will be welcomed during Vespers at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 13th February (7pm) by the Archbishop. It carries with it the hopes and prayers of generations of Australia's migrant communities and is offered as a sacred sign of God's unfailing love for all people, especially those who have journeyed in search of safety, belonging and peace. The cross has relics of the Holy Family and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

The faithful are invited to join the pilgrimage and celebrate the vibrancy and contribution of our migrant communities in our Catholic Church as we pray for God's blessing upon Australia.

The Migrant Jubilee Cross will be at St Patrick's on 13 and 14 February and in other Victorian parishes as outlined in the website:<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/migrant-jubilee-cross-soon-to-arrive-in-melbourne>

Kung Hei Fat Choi & Chúc Mừng Năm Mới to all our Parishioners who are celebrating Chinese New year!