



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 4:45pm - Stations of the Cross
 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 Gregory of Narek

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

22 February 2026

First Sunday of Lent - Year A

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm Response: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17
Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

LET US PRAY FOR

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

Recently deceased: Sebastiana (Nella) TARTAGLIA.

Anniversaries: Raymond FERNANDES, Rex PADIDA & Ashby ROMEO

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

A nourishing desert
Matthew 4:1-11

Vast, bare and silent, the desert is a place of spare and rugged beauty. It is also very confronting: an arid, barren environment with extreme temperatures, searing heat by day and freezing cold by night.

The desert may serve as a metaphor for our experiences of desolation, when we are stripped bare of our confidence and must face our most vulnerable selves. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, there were no doubt moments when he was led into the desert when he experienced desolation, when he thought that God was absent or silent.

When faced with grief, loss, or hardship, we may find it difficult to persist in faith. Even waiting for God may seem like an added – even an unbearable – burden. But, as Simone Weil, in *Waiting for God*, reminds us: “we cannot take a step toward the heavens;” instead, we find that, in God’s immense love for our frail humanity, “God crosses the universe and comes to us.” God comes to us!

The three temptations faced by Jesus present examples of situations where we in our own lives may be tempted to rely on ourselves to overcome some very basic human challenges: the need to fill our hunger, the desire to be powerful or influential, and the need to feel safe and secure.

In his responses, Jesus teaches us not to succumb to the temptation to compensate for our human weaknesses by focusing on satisfying our desires. Instead, he invites us to lean ever more closely on God and to let God begin to work within us with great love and tenderness and fashion us every more closely in God’s image.

Jesus shows us that, even at our lowest ebb, God fills every hunger and quenches every thirst. He reminds us that any influence we may wield comes not from being powerful but by walking with others in humility, solidarity and love. He reminds us to remain steadfast; for we can rest secure in the trust that God embraces our every vulnerability.

Through God’s transforming presence, we can begin to experience the desert not as a place of despair or desolation, but as a place of deep encounter with God and transformation. Stripped bare of everything superfluous to our needs, and utterly dependent on God, we become open to a profound conversion of heart and real growth.

When Anthony, one of the early Desert Fathers, emerged twenty years after his time in the desert, his brothers were surprised to see that he was not haggard, but instead looked well and was radiant with inner peace.

Amidst the suffering of any desert into which we are led, let us pray for the grace to respond as Jesus did – to open ourselves utterly to God. Let us awaken to the divine within and around us and respond to him, to the beauty of his creation, and to each other in an entirely new, grace-filled and life-giving way.

Sophie Clements
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PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Saturday during Lent at 4:45pm before the Vigil Mass.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO LENT

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat. On all other Fridays the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following: Prayer - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways. Self-Denial - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia. Helping Others - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened; or in other ways. The Season of Lent is a time of penance - The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament.

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.

AMBULANCE SERVICE VISIT

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

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.

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.

OLMC SUNBURY MENALIVE PROGRAM

The next gathering is on 6 March 2026 10am at the St Joseph's Convent, Sunbury. Please register with Trevor at 0434581902.

We joyfully welcome Luna & Lennon **ADDISON-WALSH**, Paris & Miles **DARMANIN & Lincoln POW-ER**, 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.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH

16th Peter Barcham Lecture 2026. The Very Rev. Fr Chris Dimolianis (Protopresbyter) is presently the Parish Priest of the Greek Orthodox Church of Sts Raphael, Nicholas and Irene in Bentleigh. He will be giving a lecture at the Gisborne Uniting Church, 23 Brantome Street, Gisborne on 16 March at 10.00am. Entry is free and morning tea will be provided. Please contact Neil on 0408 378 722.

THE RITE OF ELECTION – A MOMENT OF INTENSE PRAYER-FUL AND JOYFUL CELEBRATION - "BONNES NOUVELLES"

This Sunday afternoon our Catechumens and Candidates, their Sponsors and members of our Parish RCIA team. will travel to St Patrick's Cathedral for the Rite of Election – the formal acceptance by Archbishop Peter that they are called to the Easter Sacraments. They will be joined by Catechumens and Candidates from all the parishes of Melbourne. Indications from those preparing the Rite of Election is that the numbers will be large. This is Lent as it should be – a time of renewal and witness.

Recently I read that in France the increase in the number of young people and adults requesting baptism has been noticeable for the past five years. But at the beginning of 2025, those numbers rose significantly again. In the Archdiocese of Paris, 2,652 adults were baptized on Easter 2025. Nationwide, the number of adult baptisms skyrocketed to 17,800 catechumens baptized during the Easter Vigil on April 19, 2025, including 10,384 adults and more than 7,400 young people ages 11 to 17. The scale of the movement is beginning to have a real impact on the lives of Catholics in France. If any one knows the history of the Church in France this is all remarkable.

The presence of adults amongst us requesting the Easter Sacraments forces us to ponder two points. Firstly, why is this happening? Secondly, the great challenge that presents itself to us now is to **make disciples**. We must not simply imagine some procedures for 'after' baptism, but **all our parish communities must become aware of their collective mission**.

By the way, many of the young people being welcomed into the church spoke about how important their grandparents were to them. Now there is another thought.

Nous chantons notre chant de louange, "Gloire à Dieu au plus haut des cieux!"

MORNING TEA

The Knights of the Southern Cross will be hosting morning tea next weekend, 1 March, after 8:30am Mass. Please stay for a chat and a cuppa!



FROM YOUR PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

At our February meeting we welcomed Peter Daly, a new addition to the team, and we look forward to benefitting from the many gifts he is generously offering the parish.