



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

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

8 March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent - Year A

- First Reading:** Exodus 17:3-7
- Psalms Response:** Ps 94:1-2, 6-9, R. v.8
- Second Reading:** Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
- Gospel Acclamation** See John 4:42, 15

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

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

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

Gospel: John 4:5-42

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**, Eileen **NEAL**, Willow **O'CALLAGHAN**, Betty **OWEN**. Karen **RODRIGUES-DELLER**, Lee **TAYLOR**, Marcus **TAYLOR**, & Jane **ZAMMIT**

Recently deceased: Maurie **SAUNDERS**

Anniversaries: Melanie **ANDABAKA** (6 wks), Raymond **ARMSTRONG**, Claudette **ARMSTRONG**, Peter **CANNON**, Clement **FRANCIS**, Philomena **FRANCIS**, Garry **REDDAN**, Jack **REDDAN**, Doris **Williamson** & Martin **ZERFA**

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

Jesus shows us the way to care
John 4:5-42

Breaking boundaries is not always a good thing! In fact, we do well, for the most part, to stay within the boundaries set by family, community, workplace, church and state.

However, if we are to grow in our calling to be missionary disciples of Jesus, we need to realise that Jesus himself was not afraid to question prejudices and break boundaries when the mission requires it.

This is precisely what happens in this week's story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. First of all, as a rabbi or teacher, he was not supposed to enter into dialogue with a woman, certainly not on a one-to-one basis. Second, as a Jew, he was supposed to despise Samaritan people – in much the same ways as many Jews in the State of Israel despise Palestinian people today.

However, Jesus pays scant regard to such cultural and religious taboos by asking the Samaritan woman for water. We might say her reaction shows she was totally freaked out: "What, you a Jew, ask me a Samaritan for a drink?" She then becomes almost hostile and even sarcastic when Jesus suggests he could give her "living water": "You have no bucket sir ... are you greater than our father Jacob?"

Jesus again speaks of the water he is offering as quenching people's thirst forever. Here Jesus breaks through the woman's defences. Jesus then demonstrates he is fully aware of the woman's irregular marriage situation – having had five husbands and now living with someone else! Yet, Jesus is not fazed by this, nor dismissive of the woman and her life-experiences.

To the contrary, Jesus draws the woman to pronounce him as a prophet as well as acknowledging something of her own faith in the God of Israel and the promised Messiah. Here is the only place in the ministry of Jesus where he identifies himself as the Messiah: "I who am speaking to you, I am he!"

The woman's response is immediate. She takes off to inform the other people of the village she has met Christ the Messiah. Many came to believe, not just because of the strength of her testimony, but on account of their own experience of Jesus as "Saviour of the World".

What we need to learn from this gospel story is that we are not called to be missionary disciples of Jesus on account of our own gifts or talents. The Samaritan woman was no paragon of virtue, yet Jesus, who knew everything about her, loved her and commissioned her to bring good news to others.

There is something else we can learn from the Samaritan woman, namely her honesty and straight-forward way of speaking. She does not pretend to be somebody other than who she is; yet, she is open to change her viewpoint and behaviour. She is also prepared to break boundaries by entering into dialogue with Jesus. Like the Samaritan woman, let us dialogue with Jesus and take his message of divine love and forgiveness to others.

Gerard Hall SM
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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.

PARISH BINGO

Your Parish Bingo session "Major Bingo" now has EFT available for purchase of your bingo books. Come along any **Thursday night - eyes down at 7.30 pm Sunbury Bowling club**, Riddell Rd. Last game guaranteed \$1000 prize along with other game prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$60. Plus Major raffle, Joker raffle and bingo pull aparts. For more info contact Gary Plummer on mobile 0419 301 760.

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.

TAIZE PRAYER

An experience of personal prayer and reflection through scripture, song, meditation and silence. During Lent you are invited to experience 45 minutes of Taize Prayer on **Thursday March 12 & 26th, 7.30pm at St Anne's church** followed by a cuppa. All are welcome. Enquires Lyn 0417503325

CITIZENS ADVOCACY

Have planned an information session to support ageing parents of an adult with intellectual disability. The meeting will be held at the **Hume Global Learning Centre, Sunday March 22 at 1pm**. Brochures with all information are found at our Welcome Desk.

Any questions call CA 9744 7378 or David 0408178614

THANK YOU & SUPPORT

Thanks everyone for your prayers over the past 8 months. Brian's Eggs are back. If you would like to put in an order by Wednesday we can bring them to 8:30 mass. Please collect outside at the car. Please text 0400341240. Brian

Walk with Mary on 15th March 2026.

Prayers and Mass at St Patrick Cathedral starts at 2.00pm. **SLOW Walk** with Mary's statue from St Patrick Cathedral along Collins Street to St Paul Anglican Cathedral for final prayers. Police in attendance blocking roads and directing traffic. Posters in Foyer. Always better in a group. Info 0477 677 248

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.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH

16th Peter Barcham Lecture 2026. The Very Rev. Fr Chris Dimolianis 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. Details on the Notice Board.

We joyfully welcome Maisie **HENDERSON**, Jackson **McGARRY-WRIGHT**, Tommy **ROSS** & Billie **SHIPP** who will be baptized in our parish



ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS & 2026 PATRICK ORATION

Date: 17 March Time: 6.00pm

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Mass will be celebrated at 6.00pm with the Oration to follow at 7:15pm. The Cathedral's doors will be open from 5.00pm. As the Patrick Oration will be broadcast live, please ensure you are seated by 7.15pm. The Oration will introduce Light into the City, the Archbishop's vision for the renewal of the Cathedral and its surrounds and a deepening of the connection between faith, culture and community.

SYNOD FOR ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENT

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

FROM YOUR PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

1. Invitation: "Vital Parishes Formation Day" is coming up on Saturday 14 March, 10.00-3.30, 576 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne. Through scripture, reflections and practical exercises the workshop explores how **collaboration** can be an effective tool in growing a **VITAL PARISH**. \$30 cost includes morning tea and lunch. Further information and to register: melbournecatholic.org

2. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Thank you, Glenn, for introducing us so well to the Knights of the Southern Cross last Sunday at the end of 8.30 mass. Your address and the cuppa that followed opened up opportunities for us to get alongside parishioners we didn't know so well prior to mass. The more welcoming we are as individuals, the more vibrant and joyful our parish becomes.

3. Invitation: The Combined Christian Churches of Sunbury are offering an ecumenical service at Sunfest on Sunday 15th March from 9.30 at St Mary's. All are most welcome.

OUR FINANCES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JAN - 31 DECEMBER 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)	\$2,287	Average weekly parish costs	\$5,092
Less contribution to Priests' Remuneration Fund	-\$686	Average weekly collection amount	\$4,078
Net available to support our Parish clergy	\$1,601		

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 - 31 Dec. 2025

Presbytery Collection:

Contributions up by 19% versus the average across full year 2024, and up 14% on the 2019 (Pre-Covid) average.

Tap and Give:

Total contributions increased by \$162 to \$659 per week compared to the average across full year 2024.

Thanksgiving Collection:

Contributions up 37% compared to average across full year 2024, and up 12% on the 2019 (Pre-Covid) average. Parish costs were 30% less than the average across full year 2024 and down 34% 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 across the year.
- Parish centre hire and offerings from baptisms etc. also contributed \$1204 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.