



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
<http://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 Annunciation of the Lord
& Second Rite Reconciliation
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

22 March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm Response: Ps 129. R. v.7
Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

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

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

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

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Edith **BAERA**, Jaclyn **DEBENHAM**, Lloyd **D'CRUS**, Barbara **DONOHUE**, Caleb **FARIA**, Adele **HUDSON**, Elaine **KING**, Lawrence **MALLIA**, Diana **MASTRAMICO**, Brian **MUNDY**, Willow **O'CALLAGHAN**, Betty **OWEN**, Karen **RODRIGUES-DELLER**, Jean **SKILLECORN**, Lee **TAYLOR**, Marcus **TAYLOR**, & Jane **ZAMMIT**

Recently deceased: Alison **BORCKERT-KROHN**, Eileen **NEAL**,

Anniversaries: Michael **O'CONNOR**, Lance **O'CONNOR**, Mary **HOULIHAN-TAYLOR**, Alec **TAYLOR**

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

Jesus is the true Messiah
John 11:1-45

What an extraordinary Lenten journey it's been! Five weeks ago, we began with the temptation of Jesus. We heard that Jesus was subjected to tests and trials, just as we are, yet without sinning. The following week, the gospel called for a decision.

After his transfiguration, and with the assurance of being God's beloved Son, Jesus faced a difficult choice to journey to Jerusalem. Over the next two weeks, we encountered two unique faith stories. For the Samaritan woman, faith called her to be an apostle to her village, and for the man blind from birth, faith resulted in him being driven out of his community. Today, we contemplate the reality of death, and Jesus' promise that "whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

The dramatic story of Lazarus' resurrection is Jesus' last sign and miracle before his own passion and death. In a way, Lazarus' death and resurrection, points to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Both events show that Jesus is the true Messiah. However, while Lazarus was raised to a renewed earthly life, Jesus was raised forever.

Martha and Mary show the vulnerability of faith in the midst of heart-ache. They have faith, but they demand Jesus' physical presence, which gives rise to a sense of hopelessness when Jesus doesn't arrive in time to prevent Lazarus' death: "If you had been here my brother would not have died." But the promise given is that God's gift of eternal life breaks opens the constraints of mortal life. Jesus says to Lazarus, "Unbind him. Let him go free." Death is *never* the end of the road.

'Hopelessness' doesn't exist in the vocabulary of those who believe in the resurrection that Jesus promised. Jesus embraced hopelessness and became hope for the world. Fear loses its control over those who believe in the resurrection. Just as Jesus took away the stone from Lazarus' tomb, he takes away the stones of despair in our lives. Our disappointments, failures, frustrations and losses become the seedbeds of hope and new life.

To Martha, and to us, Jesus poignantly asks: "Do you believe this?" We must never underestimate the power of this question. It's asked of us every time we bury a loved one, and it's central in preparing for our own death. Martha's response to Jesus' question, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ the Son of God," is an extraordinary act of faith in Jesus *before* his resurrection.

Jesus shows that there is a life beyond the grave, even as our mortal bodies await resurrection at the end of time. While physical life will cease, the God-life (eternal life) that has been given to us through Jesus will never cease. Jesus made eternal life possible for all of us through the gift of his life, and it's already at work in our lives.

David J Hore CSsR

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 25 March at 7:00pm
A Second Rite will be celebrated.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY) MARCH 28/29TH

5.30pm Vigil Mass and **8.30am** & **10.30am** Sunday Mass.
We begin the Liturgy outside the Church for the Blessing of Palms
and the Gospel of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Monday of Holy Week 30th March

9.30am Mass. St Anne's Church.

Tuesday of Holy Week 31st March

No Mass at St Anne's Church.

Chrism Mass. St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. 10.00am

Wednesday of Holy Week April 1st

9.30am Mass. St Anne's Church

Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 2nd April

7.00pm Mass. St Anne's Church.

Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3rd April

9.00am Way of the Cross. Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church grounds,
Macedon Street.

10.00am Ecumenical **Good Friday Service**. Combined
Churches of Sunbury. St Anne's Church, Riddell Road.

3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. St Anne's Church.

Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection 4th April

7.00pm St Anne's Church.

Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection 5th April

8.30am & **10.30am** Mass. St Anne's Church.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY:

When we gather on Palm Sunday everyone is welcome to
bring a sprig or branch of greenery from home to be
blessed. If you have plenty to share, please bring them on
Palm Sunday. If you have large palm fronds at home to
decorate the Church they would be much appreciated.
Many thanks



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 26th,**
7.30pm at St Anne's church followed by a cuppa.
All are welcome. Enquires Lyn 0417 503 325

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

OSPREY

Bookings for First Eucharist are now able to be made online via Try-
booking. <https://www.trybooking.com/DEUJB>

ALTAR SERVERS

Congratulations and welcome back to Katarina who has rejoined our
Altar Servers Team.

We joyfully welcome Mia **AGIUS**, Zoey **DOWLING**, Sophia
GESSAROLI, Isabella **GESSAROLI**, Margot **GRIFFITHS**,
Lilliana **LONG**, Sebastian **MAREVIC** who will be baptized in our parish



PROJECT COMPASSION

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to
provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.
Please return your Project Compassion boxes before Easter.
A basket is next to the lectern for this purpose.

THE RELIGIOUS SHOP/PIETY STALL.

We are looking for Volunteers to help in the shop 10 minutes after
Mass. Training is available support provided. We are short at the 5-30
pm. Mass Saturday. PLEASE HELP. Call Joe on 0477677248 for a
tour before you make up your mind.

EVERGREENS

Social afternoon to be held in St Anne's Hall 24th March 12.00pm.
For More information call Joe Spiteri 0477 677 248.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: SAVE THE DATE!

The OLMC Together Again Social Committee is organising a
Karaoke / May Queen Dinner Dance Night on Saturday, **30th May** at
St Anne's Parish Hall.

We are looking for volunteers to help with planning and organising this
special event. If you are able to support, please register by sending a
text to Garnet on 0411 286 428.

First Planning Meeting: Tuesday, 24th March at 6:30 PM. RSVP by
23rd March please. St Anne's Church Meeting Room. Your support
would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to working together to
make this a wonderful parish event!

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.

MEN ALIVE GATHERING

A place where faith, friendship and fellowship lead to fraternity.
Men of all age groups are welcome to join a growing brotherhood
where we support one another and journey together with purpose.
Location: 37 Macedon Street, Sunbury VIC 3429
When? Saturdays - Fortnightly: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
More Information: please contact Trevor: 0434 581 902

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
I feel more trust in God
than ever.
Mary MacKillop.
13 April 1874.

PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

Vital Parish Formation On Saturday 14th March a number of PCT
members attended a *Take the Way of the Gospel* workshop organised
by the Proclaim Office for Mission Renewal, Catholic Archdiocese of
Melbourne, and facilitated by Sr Cathy Solano, RSM. 110 people from
33 parishes attended. During this excellent workshop we considered/
discerned, through prayer, scripture, reflection and practical activities,
the role of collaboration in growing vital parishes with our diverse com-
munities of parishioners. We plan to share our findings with you over
coming months.

For more, check out the Parish Resource Guide from the Proclaim
Office at <https://mission.melbournecatholic.org>