



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 E: sunbury@cam.org.au W: olmcsunbury.com

****In case of emergency after hours—Presbytery 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 - St Catherine of Siena
Thursday 9:30am - Mass - Pius V
Friday 9:30am - Mass - St Joseph the Worker

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

26 April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

Psalm Response: Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:1-10

LET US PRAY FOR

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

Recently deceased: Mary **BORG** & William **MANDER**

Anniversaries: Bernie **McCONVILLE**, Bernie **MAHONY** & Spiro **ZAHARA**.

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

Gently guiding the flock
John 10:1-10

One of the most memorable moments in the Australian film Babe comes when the sheep explain that all border collies and kelpies are wolves. The dogs chase, nip, and intimidate. They move sheep by pressure and fear. Babe, however, learns another way. He listens. He speaks gently. And, astonishingly, the sheep follow him because they recognise that he means them no harm.

In this week's gospel, Jesus insists that "the sheep hear his voice" and follow him because they know it (John 10:3-4). This image does not sit comfortably with Australian experience. On a real property, sheep do not respond to the grazier's voice at all. The spoken commands are for the dog. "Come by!" "Away!" "Lie down!" The sheep move as the dogs circle them, cutting off any avenues of escape, applying constant force, until the mob are moved through the gate. It works; but it is leadership by proxy.

In John 10 there is no border collie, no intermediary barking commands or nipping heels on the shepherd's behalf. The relationship is direct. The sheep follow not because they are herded, but because they recognise who is calling them; and just as importantly, who is not. Strangers, thieves, and brigands do not get a hearing. The sheep run from those voices.

This distinction helps make sense of the other readings. In Acts, Peter's Pentecost sermon does not press its audience. Those listening are "cut to the heart" and ask, freely, "What must we do?" (Acts 2:37). Their response – repentance, baptism, and entry into the community – flows from recognition rather than force. Likewise, the letter of 1 Peter describes people who had "gone astray like sheep" but have now returned to "the shepherd and guardian" of their souls (1 Pet 2:25).

They are not driven back into line. They come back because they have learned where safety and life are found.

There is something quietly confronting here for contemporary Australians. We are rightly suspicious of authority exercised through fear, pressure, or manipulation. The gospel affirms that instinct. Jesus does not ask for blind obedience. Jesus calls for discernment and reason. Not every voice deserves our trust. Some voices do steal, kill, and destroy. Others promise freedom but operate like wolves in disguise.

Jesus, the good shepherd, does not "dog" our heels. He goes ahead of the flock rather than pushing from behind. He opens the gate rather than cornering the sheep. He leads the flock toward open pastures, not enclosed pens. And he promises not just survival, but life "to the full."

Perhaps the humour lies in recognising ourselves in Babe's sheep. We are not stupid, but we are vulnerable. We know pressure when we feel it, and we know when fear is being used to move us along. Easter's good news is that the risen Christ does not manage us like livestock. He calls us by name, invites trust, and teaches us to recognise His voice among all the others clamouring for attention.

Ian J Elmer

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PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

LOOK UP!

When you leave the church today look up at the spire and cross that crowns our Parish Church of St Anne's. It is now strengthened, renewed and beautified. One of the first major initiatives in our Maintenance Review. While in possession of a "cherry picker" a new LED light was also installed to more efficiently light the car park. Thanks to our builders, Tony Tanti who managed the project and the Finance Committee who started and supported the work.

Our next focus will be investigating the cause of the subsidence of the western corner of the church. Once the cause has been established we will engage a builder for the work to underpin the building. A smaller, but significant part of the Maintenance Review, the replacing of broken and chipped tiles around the ramp and bell tower at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, was carried out during the week. Once again thanks to Ray Mallia and Tony Tanti. **Fr Denis Stanley, PP**

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Will meet at 10am on **Friday, 1 May** in the Parish Centre.

OUR SIGN OF THE TIMES.

Do you know a Sign Writer or Advertiser? We would really like to upgrade our signs at the front of St Anne's and OLMC churches. We would really appreciate the contribution of a professional. Contact Fr Denis on 97441060

PARISH KEYS – ACTION REQUIRED

If you hold a key to the Church or Parish Centre, Archdiocesan safeguarding regulations require you to complete a National Police Check. If you no longer require your key, please return it to the Parish Office by **Friday 15 May 2026**. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE.

Calvary Goonawarra - Residential Aged Care is Presenting a Talk around navigating aged care and what the new changes entail. Parishioners are invited to attend this informative session, on Tuesday **26th May 2026** in **St Anne Hall** at 12.00 noon. Please call 0477 677 248 more information and posters soon.

OSPREY - FIRST EUCHARIST

Information session at 6.30pm on **27 April 2026** in the **Parish Centre**. Please contact the Parish Office for details

SUNBURY EVERGREENS

Social afternoon on **28th April 2026** **St Anne's Hall** at **12-00pm**. Come join us and enjoy a cuppa and a chat. Maybe join us for our monthly lunch or outings.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend to support CatholicCare.

CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action - empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. You can donate using the appeal envelope available at the Information Desk, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. "For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

We joyfully welcome Billy **MARTIN**, Layla & Jed **O'CONNOR**, Leia **RASILE**, John **TOLL** & Skyla & Indy **TYQUIN** who will be baptized in our parish.



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY—26 APRIL

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Leo tells us: *Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ.* Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

PARISH BINGO

At all Masses this weekend, a member of the Bingo Team will speak to us about volunteering for their team. Your Parish Bingo session "Major Bingo" now has EFT available for purchase of your bingo books. Come along any Thursday night at 7.00 pm Sunbury Bowling club, Riddell Rd. Contact Gary Plummer on 0419 301 760 if you would like to volunteer.

PRAYING THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

Before the Liturgy on Sundays **during May** the Rosary will be prayed, commencing at **5:00 PM on Saturdays and at 10:00 AM**. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the centre of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory.

MORNING TEA

RCIA Morning Tea - The team and those who received their sacraments at the Easter celebrations will host the morning tea after 8.30am Mass on May 3. Please join us for a cuppa and meet the newest members of our community.

PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

1. **NEWSLETTER.** Last year the PCT provided information about the responses to the questionnaire regarding the Parish Newsletter. To see the result of the discussion about all suggestions a final report has been completed and is available, along with last year's information, on the Help Desk. Please email the Parish Office, sunbury@cam.org.au, if you require further clarification. Thank you to all who responded.

2. **SAVE THE DATE!** Father Denis will formally acknowledge the wonderful contribution of OLMC volunteers to the successful running of the parish at a special lunch in the parish hall from 12.30 pm on **Sunday, July 12th. SAVE THE DATE!**

3. **Annual Dinner Dance Saturday May 23rd** - Ticket sales opening this weekend.

We are excited to announce that tickets for the **Annual Dinner Dance** will begin to be available for purchase in the church foyer after Mass from Sat 25th and Sun 26th April. Ticket Prices: Adults: \$25.00

Children (6 to 12 years): \$15.00

Don't miss out on this much-anticipated event. Grab your tickets early and join us for an unforgettable evening!

4. **Men Alive** Thanks to our most recently formed parish group for sharing information and morning tea with us last weekend. The new arrangement of tables reduced congestion and encouraged a more relaxed atmosphere.

5. **May - July** rosters for Ministers of Communion and Lectors are now on the notice board in the foyer. Parishioners are invited to join these volunteers by contacting the Parish Office.