



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.au

****In case of emergency after hours - Presbytery: 9740 6503****

**Newsletters are available on the [Parish website](http://olmcsunbury.com)
[Olmcsunbury.com](http://olmcsunbury.com)**

Our parish is committed to the Safety, Wellbeing and Dignity of all, including children and vulnerable adults.

Email: [Sunbury@cam.org.au](mailto:sunbury@cam.org.au)

W: <https://melbournecatholic.org>

LITURGY TIMES: AT ST ANNE'S CHURCH

Saturday 5.30pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 8.30 am Mass

10:30 am - Mass

12:00 pm - Baptism

Wednesday 9:30 am - Mass

Thursday 9:30 am - Mass - St Monica.

Friday 9:30 am - St Augustine

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

23 August 2026

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

Psalm Response: Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

*You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.*

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Sick: Addy ADAM, Florence BELL, Lloyd D'CRUS, Valerie D'Cruz, Muriel D'CRUZE, Jaclyn DEBENHAM, Rose DELEMA-PERIES, Graeme EDMENDS, Caleb FARIA, Emmanuel GIALAMZE, Adele HUDSON, Briohny KERR, Diana MASTRAMICO, Anthony MYERS, Edith McINNELLY, Gayle MORISON, Brian MUNDY, Willow O'CALLAGHAN, Daisy ROMERO & Heemani SAINI

Recently Deceased: Jane ZAMMIT

Anniversaries :Babbette ARANDEZ, Renato BUENCONSEJO, CONNIE D'CRUS, Diamond JACOB, Douglas JACOB, Ruby JACOB, Iris KERWICK, Harold KERWICK, & MAVO VAZ

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

23 August 2026 21st Sunday Year A

Matthew 16:13-20

Throughout history the question of who shall rule tribe, people or nation has been highly contested. It remains an issue today even in so-called democratic countries where people vote for their leaders and representatives.

Of course, winning elections – whether or not they are judged to be free and fair – is one thing; holding onto power in the face of opposition and possible violence another. So often we see military coups enforcing the abdication of elected leaders; we also hear of unquestionably rigged elections in various countries.

Commentators point to a worrying trend in today's global politics that favours authoritarian regimes that deny freedom and human rights. If we are tempted to look back in nostalgia to past regimes, a word of caution is in order. Even the great Davidic kingdom of Israel, which reached its heights under King Solomon, soon fell into a state of constant change of rulers.

In this week's first reading, Isaiah speaks on behalf of the Lord to dismiss Shebna from high office to replace him with Eliakim. Isaiah has high hopes for Eliakim's rule – "he will be like a father to his people". Yet, Eliakim soon lost popularity and was replaced in turn by his two brothers, Jehoiaikim and Jehoahaz. It is all reminiscent of Australia's time of high turnovers of prime ministers!

Then we come to the gospel where Jesus questions the disciples about his identity. The disciples cite rumours that Jesus is a reincarnated prophet, namely John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah. It is Simon Peter who recognises Jesus' true identity: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus responds by appointing Peter 'the rock' on which the church is to be built. As Eliakim was given keys of the house of David, so Peter is given keys to the kingdom of heaven!

By the time the gospels are being written – some thirty to seventy years after Jesus' death and resurrection – it is clear to Christians that Jesus had officially commissioned Peter to be the leader of the church, and Peter effectively took on this role for some thirty years, prior to being martyred in Rome in 64 CE under Nero.

Some people like playing around with Jesus' use of the word 'rock' to nominate Peter's role in the infant church. Does it mean Jesus thought Peter was a bit thick in line with Marullus in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things"? Clearly this is not Jesus' reasoning, as he will have been quite aware that the Psalms praise God as my 'rock', 'fortress', 'shield' and 'my place of safety' (Ps. 18:2).

Despite Peter's weaknesses – denying Christ three times and running away from Jesus' crucifixion – God gave him the grace to be dependable, committed and a support for others with their different gifts. Peter's rule was not one of craving or hanging onto power, but the rule of one who eventually learnt from his master that to rule is to serve.

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

PARISH COORDINATING TEAM

1. The Care for Creation Parish Group advises that the **2026 Season of Creation** runs for a month from September 1st to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th. In his 2024 message, Pope Francis tells us "the Holy Spirit . . . continually guides us and calls us to conversion, to a change in lifestyle in order to resist the degradation of our environment" **Reduce Reuse Recycle**

2. YOUTH GROUP

It's never too late to join us. Use the QR code. Next meeting is on Sunday 30th August in the Parish hall at 6.15 -7.40 pm.



ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN - SUNDAYS OF 9 - 23 AUGUST

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway. We ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.

22-23 August (Follow up Weekend). Remember, this one Campaign replaces many individual campaigns.



Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Priests Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre, University of Divinity for the Catholic Theological College as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants.

Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation.

Or please prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign envelopes and posters.

PROJECT COMPASSION

It has been a while since Lent but I am sure everyone remembers the Project Compassion boxes that are so much part of Lent throughout Australia. This year those boxes raised an amazing \$10.26 million for the work of Caritas Australia enabling our faith to reach out and restore dignity and hope to those in need who may be far away but are our brothers and sisters. St Anne's contributed \$2,653.05 Thankyou.

THANK YOU FOR THE ROSES.

A word of thanks on your behalf to Jo Wigierink, Jeremy and Tony for planting the Mary Mackillop roses in front of the St Anne's Church. This rose honours our first Australian Saint who was canonised in 2010. Lightly fragrant, high centred blooms of shell pink deeply edged with rose pink on the outer petals, they will look beautiful but also honour the sisters of St Joseph who served our parish faithfully for many years.

EMMAUS CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Meets each week on **Wednesday at 10:30am** in St. Anne's Church. All welcome. For further info/transport **please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 0418 322 596.**

We joyfully welcome Parker **PHILLIPS**, Hudson **PHILLIPS** and Lucas **PUNCHIHEWA** who will be baptized in our parish.



PARISH BINGO

Your Parish bingo session is bigger and better in 2026! Every Thursday evening, eyes down at 7.00 pm conducted at Sunbury Bowling Club, Riddell Rd. Guaranteed last game prize of \$1,000 every week plus other game prizes of \$150, \$100 & \$60. Bingo lingo, Joker raffle, main raffle and lots of fun. The biggest and best Bingo in the district. Get a group of friends together and come along and give it a try. You will be made most welcome. **Enquiries: Gary Plummer - 0419 301 760.**

PIETY STALL - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Orders are now being taken for **God's Word 2027**. These will be printed in time for 2027. **Orders close soon.**

Crucifix in resin, Light up Religious scenes, Baby Items, Ceramics, Baptism book \$8. Wearable Rosary beads, Bracelets and Rings. Statues, Medals, Missals and Bibles From \$35. Quality at cost price. Please contact or TEXT Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248.

The Piety Stall is looking for volunteers for Saturday. If you can spare 15 minutes after Mass, please contact Joe Spiteri on 0477 677 248 for more information.

SUNBURY EVERGREENS

SOCIAL AFTERNOON Tuesday, **25th August 2026** St Anne Hall 12-00pm. Come join us and enjoy a cuppa and a chat and have a laugh or listen to a speaker and learn something new. Maybe join us for our monthly lunch or outings.

FIRST EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

The children of our OSPREY program will be receiving their First Eucharist at 10.30am Mass this Sunday. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.



ALTAR SERVERS

'My children do not get anything from coming to Mass!!' ALTAR SERVERS do because they help with the celebration. Young people 10 years and older who have received first Eucharist are welcome to join the team. Enquiries to 0417332186

POLICE CHECKS REQUIRED FOR PARISH KEY HOLDERS

As part of the Archdiocese safeguarding requirements, all volunteers who have been issued keys to Parish buildings are required to complete a National Police Check.

This requirement applies to all registered key holders for St Anne's Church and the Parish Centre. It is an important step in helping ensure our Parish continues to provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

The Parish Office team will contact registered key holders directly with details about how to apply for a National Police Check.

If you hold keys to Parish buildings and have any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 9744 1060.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting **Tuesday, 22 September 2026** beginning 19:00 – 20:00 Location: via **ZOOM**

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.