



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

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

Email: 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 - St Peter Claver

Thursday 9:30 am - Mass

Friday 9:30 am - Mass - Ember day

RECONCILIATION

Saturday No Reconciliation due to Synod discussion

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

06 September 2026

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalms Response: Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

*God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.*

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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 McINELLY, Gayle MORISON, Brian MUNDY, Willow O'CALLAGHAN, Daisy ROMERO & Heemani SAINI

Recently Deceased: Kieran BOLGER, Joseph GALEA, Lynne SIMPSON

Anniversaries : Anna, Renato BUENCONSEJO, Jack DORNEY, Mary DUGGAN, Michael HINES and Emmanuel ZAMMIT

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

06 September 2026 23rd Sunday Year A

Matthew 18:15-20

Living and working in a community – be it large or small – is not always easy. We all know that. It is “par for the course” that tensions, disagreements, and challenges arise and need to be handled for the sake of community well-being.

But it is not easy. The early church communities were no exception. In this week's gospel we glimpse one of the challenges that arose in the community for whom Matthew writes his gospel.

The challenging issue at hand is what to do with members of the community who are at fault or in error, perhaps living or behaving in ways that are contrary to Jesus' teaching, perhaps causing divisions or confusion in the community, perhaps leading other members astray in their faith and practice, perhaps even causing harm to “little ones.” Sin is a reality in our human condition and in our communities. What to do? How to deal with it?

In the gospel reading, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to deal with sinful behaviour in the community.

On the one hand, followers of Jesus are to be compassionate, merciful and forgiving. But Jesus is clear: that does not mean that anything goes or that we are to turn a blind eye when members of the community behave in ways that are sinful. Not at all!

Jesus describes a disciplinary procedure for responsible fraternal correction of an erring member of the community. At first, the matter is to be treated with discretion and sensitivity, and the one at fault addressed in a one-to-one meeting and their wrong doing addressed with them with a view to its correction.

If that approach does not lead the member to correct their misbehaviour, then assistance is to be sought from two or three other members of the community and the matter addressed again with the one in error.

Should these attempts prove futile, the recalcitrant person is to be brought before the community, and, if even this correction is rebuffed, the person is to be excluded – in other words, excommunicated – from the community.

Jesus says that they should then be treated “as a Gentile and a tax-collector,” in other words as an outsider, not a member of the community. But remember, Jesus had particular concern and compassion for the outsider. He reached out to outsiders; he befriended Gentiles and tax-collectors.

It seems that Jesus means for the community to keep reaching out to the person in the hope that they will eventually see and correct their error, make amends, and re-enter the community.

Jesus doesn't promise it will be easy. It takes courage. But he assures his disciples, and us too, that he is always with us: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.” It is a message he reiterates in his very last words in Matthew's gospel: “Behold I am with you always” (Mt 28:20).

Anne Hunt

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PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

PARISH COORDINATING TEAM

1. Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4th)

Schools Art Competition www.caritas.org.au/art-comp

Theme: Living Water. **Entries close** 18 September 2026

Students are encouraged to reflect on water as God's gift that sustains life, and to express themes of hope, renewal, justice, faith and care for creation through art. Students can submit artwork in a range of still visual art forms, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, digital art, submitted as an image (JPEG, PNG). No people can be in the photo for it to be a valid entry. Group, class or collaborative artworks are not eligible. AI-generated or AI-assisted artwork is not permitted.

Entries must be submitted by a teacher.

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.**

ROSARY

Please join us at the first Saturday of the month rosary devotion to the Immaculate heart of Mary. Starting at 4.45 pm followed by 5.30pm mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our small group of volunteers are looking for others who would like to assist with children's liturgy. We would like to encourage anyone who could assist for a few weeks in a school term to join us in spreading Christ's message in a relaxed, informal but faithful way. Please inform the parish office of your interest with contact details and one of our volunteers will contact you. WWCC and Police checks are mandatory. We can assist if required.

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** from 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.

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT

In 2026, in Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, we will gather as the Church in Melbourne for our annual **Service of Lament** for survivors of abuse. **Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4.00pm** in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral. The Service will also be Livestreamed.

SAFEGUARDING: RECRUITMENT

As we plan for new ministries and groups, remember safer recruitment applies to all roles. This includes role descriptions, references, and WWCC checks, even for one-off helpers

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

HISTORY GROUP

The History room will be open after the 5.30pm and 8.30am Masses this weekend.

We joyfully welcome Xavier & Isla-Mae **HUDD**, Patrick **NORMAN** and Zoey **POWELL** who will be baptized in our Parish.



PARISH BINGO

Our weekly session continues every Thursday evening, eyes down at 7 pm in the Sunbury Bowling Club.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grand Final Bingo - Thursday 24th September \$2000 last game prize. Get dressed in your club colours and come along and join the fun.

Major Bingo Bonanza - Saturday 24th October. Game prizes of \$5000, \$2000, \$1000, \$300, \$250, \$150 & \$120. Booking essential. Tickets at \$100 - lay by available. Come down to the bowling club any Thursday evening to book your seat. **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.**

EVERGREENS

EVERGREENS are hosting the morning tea after the 8-30 mass on the 6th September. Come join us and enjoy a cuppa and a chat and have a laugh. Come See what keeps us going after 36 years.

MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE SYNOD -

PARISH PARTICIPATION December 4th - 6th 2026

The Archbishop has called for Archdiocesan Synod to be held in December to discern three key areas of decision making for the future. Young Discipleship, Formation and Participation and Missionary Leadership are the three topics. A brief discussion paper has been prepared on each as well as a Guide for the Consultation Process. Four Regional Meetings and the recent Clergy Conference have reflected and provided feedback that will help shape the consultation at the Synod. Now it is our Parish's turn.

On **Saturday 12th September at 10.00am** in the Parish Centre you are invited to participate in reflecting and providing feedback for the Synod on two of the Synod themes, Formation and Participation and Missionary Leadership. We have asked leaders and young people from our Youth Group to reflect and provide feedback at a Zoom meeting on Young Discipleship.

If you email the Parish Office, the discussion papers can be sent to you by return email. To participate you must read the papers on Formation and Participation and Missionary Leadership.

The consultation and feedback will be guided by the process of Spiritual Conversation of sharing individually, responding to what you have heard others say and only then a general conversation. Listening is very important in this process.

To help us prepare you can let the Parish Office know if you are coming along. Numbers will be limited. If you wish to be present and contribute you will be warmly welcomed.

Fr Denis Stanley PP

COMBINED CHURCHES OF SUNBURY

SEEKING NEW MEMBERS: The Committee of the Combined Churches of Sunbury Inc is a group of volunteers who support the Ministers of Sunbury in their community outreach activities. We meet 10-11 times per year.

We welcome visitors to "check us out". Everyone has a special talent to share. If your talent is in the area of figures/finance our treasurer would love to have a chat. For **further information** contact Fr Denis via the office.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: NEPAL FLOODS APPEAL

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families.

Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal.

To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.



YOUTH GROUP

"Some exciting news for our youth group!

On Sunday 13th September, we will be having Adrian Purcell, Sunbury Conference President for St Vinnies, coming to give a little presentation to our youth group at the parish hall.

Its never too late to register, please see the registration flyers in the church foyer



MARY MACKILLOP

Remember that we must always expect, from time to time, to receive 'crosses' and know that we must also give them.

April 1882



FATHER'S DAY

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives. Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, friends.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.

THANKYOU SALESIAN COLLEGE.

Eventually we hope to reintroduce Holy Communion under both kinds for our Parish Liturgies. However, we needed more linen purifiers to do this. This is where Salesian College came to our help. Read the brief article written for our Bulletin by Ms Melinda Muir, Deputy Principal Catholic Identity.

Faith in Action: Serving the Parish Community

As part of its recent Staff Faith Day, staff from Salesian College Sunbury were invited to step away from their usual daily routines and spend time reflecting on what it means to live faith through service. The day encouraged staff to recognise that service does not always need to be something extraordinary. Often, it is found in simple acts of giving time, sharing skills and using individual gifts to benefit others.

One of the service activities offered on the day was sewing for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The Parish identified a need for additional purifiers to support this important part of the liturgy. In response, Salesian College staff gathered around sewing machines and worktables to cut, prepare and sew the purifiers, providing a practical and meaningful resource for the Parish community.

One staff member reflected, "There was something really special about knowing that something made by hand would become part of the celebration of Mass in the local parish."

Following the completion of the project, Fr Denis joined the Salesian College community to receive the finished purifiers on behalf of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The completed altar linens were presented to Fr Denis during the College's Community Mass before being taken back to the Parish for use in future celebrations of the Eucharist.

As these purifiers are used at the altar in the months and years ahead, they will serve as a small but meaningful symbol of the connection between College and Parish, and of a community called to place faith into action through service.



OUR FINANCES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JAN - 30 JUNE 2026

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)	\$2,928	Average weekly parish costs	\$5,801
Less contribution to Priests' Remuneration Fund	-\$878	Average weekly collection amount	\$3,979
Net available to support our Parish clergy	\$2,050	Less Archdiocesan Levies	-\$712
		Net Available to support our Parish	\$3,267

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 - 30 June 2026.

Presbytery Collection:

Contributions up by 28% versus the average across full year 2025.

Tap and Give - Supporting the Church Account:

Total contributions (after fees and charges) increased by 25% to \$826 per week versus average across 2025.

Thanksgiving Collection:

Contributions were down by 2% compared to the average across full year 2025.

Parish costs up 13% compared to the average across full year 2025.

- increase due to renovation of the steeple at St Anne's church, LED lighting upgrade and repairs to church door.

Other (additional) Income:

- Bingo income was 21% less than the average across 2025, but still contributes significant income to the parish.
- Parish centre hire and offerings from baptisms etc. also contributed \$1,667 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.