



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 - Ss Cornelius and Cyprian
Thursday 9:30 am - Mass - Ss Robert Bellarmine & Hildegard of Bingen
Friday 9:30 am - 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

13 September 2026

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7
Psalms Response: Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8
Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

*I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.*

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

Recently Deceased: Emmanuel GIALANZE

Anniversaries : Edward FANNING, Albert JANSEN, Patrick KELLY, Corrie McCONVILLE, Reuel OLINARES, Pat READMAN, Jennifer RIBEYRO, Elvira SAN PEDRO

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

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY:

A REFLECTION AND NOTES ON THE READINGS

Sirach 27:30-28:7 · Psalm 103 · Romans 14:7-9 · Matthew 18:21-35

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday on the second Sunday of September each year at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week.

On Safeguarding Sunday, we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done in Church settings and acknowledge the vulnerability of some within our parishes and communities. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance.

This year the theme is Love Protects and the readings show us that real love is not passive goodwill. Rather it actively shields the vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in for safety.

This Sunday's Gospel is the parable of the unforgiving servant, and the first reading warns against nursing wrath.

Read simply, these texts are about mercy, however, read with a safeguarding context, they need to be interpreted with care. No one should ever use "forgive seventy-seven times" to pressure an abuse survivor to forgive on a timetable, to excuse an abuser, or to keep silence about harm.

The forgiveness that these readings point to is God's own patient mercy toward us. It doesn't ask victims to release perpetrators from truth, consequence, or justice. The "Love Protects" theme, drawn from 1 Corinthians 13, gives us the right lens for these readings. Saint Paul doesn't describe love as a feeling but as a set of actions: patient, kind, not self-seeking, not easily angered, quick to bear and protect. That is safeguarding in a sentence.

Psalm 103 shows us what this protecting love looks like from God's side: slow to anger, and rich in compassion, a God who "redeems your life from destruction." Put together, the Readings for Safeguarding Sunday and the theme say the same thing: real love is not passive goodwill. Rather it actively shields the vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in for safety.

So, we pray, Loving God, you are kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion. Your love is patient and kind; it does not seek its own interest; it is not easily angered; it bears all things and always protects. As "Love Protects," open our eyes to see where we have failed to protect, open our ears to hear the voices of those who have been harmed, and open our hearts to the patient important work of keeping our people safe. Make our parish a community where children are cherished, where young people are respected, where older and isolated parishioners are not forgotten, where those living with disability or illness are truly included, and where every vulnerable person among us is seen, valued, and kept safe in body, mind, and spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

PARISH COORDINATING TEAM

1. As we move through this annual period of prayer and action for the care of our common home in the *Season of Creation* you may wish to use the prayers and reflections on the app, *Season of Creation*. Christian Churches have made this free app available through both Android and Apple online stores.

2. Thank you to the Evergreens group for a delicious and successful morning tea last Sunday.

3. The current roster for Lectors and Ministers of Communion is on the notice board in the foyer. If you are interested in joining either of these Ministries, please contact the Parish Office at Sunbury@cam.org.au with your details.

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.

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 Stanley via the office. Sunbury@cam.org.au

We joyfully welcome Harper **GRAY** and Zoe **RATCLIFF** who will be baptized in our Parish.



FIRST COMMUNION

We welcome Emelina Sisifa and her family to celebrate her First Holy Communion at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass. It is a joy to surround her with our prayer on this important day. May the Lord bless and keep her.

MARY MACKILLOP

Be determined with God's help to always be sincere - Mary MacKillop - 17 December 1872



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.

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.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

National Child Protection Week 2026 will run from 6–12 September 2026 in Australia, with the national theme "Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action,"

The 2026 theme emphasises:

- Turning awareness and dialogue into practical, measurable action.
- Strengthening families and communities through early support.
- Ensuring children and young people feel heard, valued, and safe.
- Encouraging adults and organisations to take shared responsibility for child wellbeing.

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

PIETY STALL

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

EVERGREENS

SUNBURY EVERGREENS wish to thank all those who helped and shared the morning tea. We had lots of inquiries and most of all thanks to all the helpers who made it look and taste so good. Still going after 36 years.

OFFICE NEWS

The office will be closed on Thursday 17 September as all staff including Fr Denis will be attending the Parish Admin Forum for the day. Fr Peter Kerin from Salesian College will say Mass on this day.