

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 **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

Vigil	5.30pm - Mass
Sunday	8.30am - Mass
	10:30am - Mass
	12:00pm - Baptism
Wednesday	9:30am - Mass
Thursday	9:30am - Mass - Francis Xavier
Friday	9:30am - Mass - John Damascene

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

29 November 2026
First Sunday of Advent - Year B

First Reading:	Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
Psalm Response:	Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4
Second Reading:	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Acclamation	Psalm 84:8

Allelulia, Allelulia
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation
Allelulia, Allelulia

Gospel: **Mark 13:33-37**

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Addy **ADAM,** Florence **BELL,** Antoinette **BORG,** Valerie **D'CRUZ,** Muriel **D'CRUZE,** Rose **DELEMA-PERIES**, Juan Carlos **&** Karen **RODRIGUEZ-DELLER,** Caleb **FARIA,** Lizanne **FRANCIS,** Adele **HUDSON,** Diana **MASTRAMICO,** Edith **McINELLY,** Gayle **MORISON,** Brian **MUNDY,** Sarah **O'BRIEN,** Daisy **ROMERO** & Heemani **SAINI**

Recently Deceased: Dion **CAMMILERI**

Anniversaries: Maria Mirenda **CORICA,** Joseph **GATT,** Joe **KOREN,** Bianca **PELLY,** Joseph Oscar **RIBEYRO,** Kevin & Mary **TAYLOR &** Mercy & Leslie **TAYLOR,** Anne **ZERAFA**

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

The need to be alert

Four times in this short gospel today, which concludes his dramatic revealing of the future, Jesus calls us to stay awake, like a doorkeeper awaiting his master's return. He's encouraging us to be alert to his coming into our lives.

At the start of Advent, we look forward to his coming as a child and, at the end of time, to his second coming, when all will be revealed to us. Though, rather than looking forward to this, we might live in fear of it or simply try to forget about it.

However, what if it's not an occasion of foreboding, but of our liberation? As a dying man said to a visiting priest, "I'm looking forward to it, because all my life I've wanted to be in the Lord's presence." The priest was so moved by what he said, he mentioned it at Sunday Mass.

In the meantime, we wait on the Lord coming into our lives, whether at Mass, the bedside of a dying man, or wherever we find ourselves. As a tram driver did, when he got to know a passenger. One day the man mentioned he was going to be on his own this Christmas and the driver invited him to his family lunch.

It's become a continuing invitation and, recently, one family member said, 'you're part of the family now.' The driver was alert to the Lord's coming; he saw him and invited him into his life. It's why we sing 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' in Advent, because God is with us, if only we are open to his presence.

So, it's a time to slow down, to create space in our lives where this might happen. This is the challenge in the busy-ness of the season, to learn to be patient as God is patient with us. Like an artist sitting with a disabled sister for some time, as he painted her. When he realised they were praying together, he remembered what someone had said to him recently, 'Love as attention is the purest form of generosity.'

We're invited to be generous; to give our time and attention; to give of ourselves to each other: it's the hope of Advent.

In the first reading from Isaiah, on their return from exile, surrounded by ruin, the people are without hope. They turn away from God and cry out in their distress. As they do, they realise God is with them, a God who is their Father, who gives shape to their lives like a potter does clay. Amid their suffering, they discover hope.

While in the second reading, Paul gives thanks to God for the graces received through Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Graces will sustain the community as they wait, together in Christ, for his coming.

Advent is a time when we're invited to be alert to these graces, these gifts, in our own lives; a time to give thanks for them; a time of hope.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2026

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PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARD FOR MORE NOTICES

FROM YOUR PARISH COORDINATING TEAM (PCT)

International Day of People with Disability - December 3rd

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is actively encouraging Catholics to consider ways to increase community awareness, understanding, and inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Here is a quote from the Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace well worth reflecting on, **"… most of us who experience disability and who are able to reflect on it, have a 'social' view of disability. In other words, it is the barriers placed by society, rather than we ourselves or some feature of our bodies (including our minds)".**
- So the key to this renewed effort to improve will be listening to people with lived experiences, praying for the grace to be open to different perspectives. When we design for inclusion, we create more opportunities for everyone to belong..

PARISH BINGO

It's on again folks - Our big **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** parish bingo session on **THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER** at Sunbury Bowling Club. Eyes down at 7 pm. $2000 guaranteed last game prize with other games of $150, $100 & $60. Special guest caller, presents and lots of fun. Why not get a few friends together and come along - you might even win ! **Our weekly session continues every Thursday eyes down 7 pm** at the Bowling Club. Come along and join in the fun while financially supporting your Parish. Enquiries to Gary Plummer Mob: 0419 301 760

COULD YOU LEND A HAND?

We are looking for volunteers to assist in directing traffic in and around the St Anne's Church grounds and the parking lot before the 6pm Mass on 24 December. If you can assist, please leave your details with the Parish office on 9744 1060 or Sunbury@cam.org.au and we will be in touch. Thank you!

EMERGENCY BRIEFING

All collectors, greeters and interested parties are invited to please attend one of our planned preparation sessions on our Emergency System for Masses. Sessions will be held **after 5:30pm Mass on Saturday 5 December, after 08:30 am Mass on Sunday 6 December, after 5:30pm Mass on Saturday 12 December, after 08:30am Mass on Sunday 13 December.** Please plan to attend one of the sessions.
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RECONCILIATION DURING ADVENT

During Advent which begins on Sunday, 29 November, Reconciliation will be held at 10am on Saturday morning and at 4pm on Saturday evening before the 5:30pm Vigil Mass

LESSONS & CAROLS

St Anne's Church will be hosting the Combined Churches Lessons & Carols on **20 December 2026 at 7pm.** We invite you to be part of this joyous celebration.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 24 December:	No Mass at 9:30am
	6:00pm - Christmas Mass
	9:00pm - Vigil Mass
Friday, 25 December:	8:30am - Christmas Mass
	10:30am - Christmas Mass
Friday, 1 January 2027	9:30am - New Year's Day Mass

We joyfully welcome Emilia BEYER & Sadie SAAL who will be baptized in our Parish.



ATTENTION: VISITING CELEBRANT FOR SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

On **Friday 4th, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December**, myself and Deacon Stephen will be attending the Archdiocesan Synod. On **Sunday 6th** Fr Arnold Heredia, a retired priest, will be offering the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses and celebrating the Baptisms on that day. Please make him welcome. I thank you for your patience with this unusual twist out of the ordinary. All other things being equal myself and Deacon Stephen will be present the following Sunday.

Fr Denis Stanley

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Josephite Companions meeting on Wednesday 2 December, 1.00pm St Anne's Church Meeting room. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS AT RUPERTSWOOD

Organised by the Combined Churches of Sunbury
Saturday 12th December 2026. Christmas Carols start at 6pm at Rupertwoods between the olive grove and the vineyard on the right hand side of the drive. Free children's activities start at 5.30 pm. **Details on the flyer on the Notice Board**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent De Paul Society will be holding their annual Christmas Appeal next weekend **followed by morning tea. Mission Statement:** The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

MORNING TEA

St Vincent de Paul Society will be hosting Morning Tea next Sunday, 6 December at 8:30am.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - CHRISTMAS MASSES

We are looking for the following volunteers to assist with the Christmas Masses:

***Greeting & Ushering** ***Sacristan** (Mass Set up)
***Collector's Coordinators** ***AV Operators**

If you would like to lend a hand, please leave your name, number and volunteer role on the clipboard provided in the foyer.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER INTENTION CARDS

On the First Sunday of Advent the Crib will be placed in the church and over the following Sundays of Advent will shelter the key figures in the Nativity story awaiting the arrival of the Infant at Christmas. The celebration of the Nativity of the Lord draws us together especially as families and friends. So, it is time to join with the Holy Family to ask them to bless our families – to be truly thankful for them and to ask for a generous outpouring of that particular kind of love that families share when live needs great patience, wisdom or healing. Next to the Crib there will be Christmas Prayer Intention Cards to write down a name asking the Holy Family to bless family members. "Bless we pray…"

NAMING OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUNBURY SOUTH

4 names suggested by parishioners that fall within criteria. I intend to offer these to the Archbisop for his choice.

1. St Joseph. Feast Day 19th March

The spouse of Mary, the Mother of the Lord, and guardian of Jesus.

This name is associated with the historical context of the parish, the memory of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart should be maintained and strengthened and the contribution of that Order to the education of the Sunbury community.

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart arrived in Sunbury in 1916 an served in the Parish of Sunbury until 2025. They contributed to the Parish and the wider community through their witness to the Religious Life, their pastoral presence and work and as teachers in the Parish Primary School. Their presence and work were deeply appreciated and well-remembered. They also kept the memory of Mary Mackillop before the community and became a focus around which the parish gathered to celebrate her Canonization in 2010.

Although not speaking a word in the Gospels, Joseph's story has inspired Christians in many ways. Pope Francis published *Patris corde* on 8 December 2020. The letter reflects on Joseph's role in salvation history and highlights his relevance for the Church today. Joseph would provide a strong focus for the school's celebrations and identity.

In the Northern zone there are three parishes/schools named after St Joseph (Northcote and West Brunswick), and (Reservoir North) St Joseph the Worker but none near Sunbury.

2. St Joachim. Feast Day 26th July

The husband of Anne and the father of Mary, Mother of the Lord and so gifting Jesus, the Son of God, with our humanity. He shares his feast day with Anne on the 26th July.

In the early 1970s it became evident that the parish primary school of Our Lady of Mount Carmel could not cater for the increasing enrolments in the Parish. St Anne's primary school was established in October 1977. In 1990 the name St Anne was given to the church built next to the school in 1990. St Anne's church is now the centre of worship, administration and parish life in Sunbury.

The name of St Anne was chosen to connect with the Parish dedication of Our Lady of Mt Carmel as Anne was the mother of the Lord Jesus and because in the traditional iconography of St Anne, she is depicted with an open book teaching Mary. Although Anne is celebrated liturgically together with Joachim his name was omitted from the title of the new school.

Dedicating the new South Sunbury School to St Joachim would link it to St Anne's school and Joachim as the father of Mary, whom the Parish honours under the title of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, and the husband of Anne.

The two schools would honour the role of parents and grandparents in the handing on of our faith and the formation of children in the discipleship of Jesus and in the human virtues.

There are no churches of schools in the local area dedicated to St Joachim.

Other possible suggestions from parishioners.

3. St Dominic Savio Feast Day May 6th

Born in Riva, Italy on April 2, 1842. Early prayer life: Known for his spiritual maturity from an early age. Mentored by St John Bosco. At age twelve, he met St John Bosco in Turin. Impressed by his intellect and piety, Don Bosco welcomed him into the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales. Don Bosco taught him that sanctity consisted in doing ordinary duties with extraordinary joy, cheerfulness, and love for God**.** Dominic was well-liked and respected by his peers.

He died peacefully on March 9, 1857, just shy of his 15th birthday. He was beatified by Pope Pius XII on March 5, 1950, and canonized a saint on June 12, 1954, making him the youngest non-martyr saint in the history of the Catholic Church. His feast day is celebrated on May 6.

Dominic Savio would also link the new school to the story of Salesian College in Sunbury.

4. **St Benedict Feast Day July 11th**

In 2029, the Church will mark the 1500th anniversary of the founding of Monte Cassino by St Benedict in 529 AD.
That would give the Primary School a direct connection to a significant Catholic anniversary in the opening year.
St Benedict is the patron saint of school children and is regarded as the founder of Western monasticism. He wrote the *Rule for Monasteries*, which is a wise application of the Gospel for everyone not just monastics. It is a mine of wisdom for a principal to explore with staff and students.
The values associated with him, prayer, work, learning, community, hospitality, balance and wisdom, align closely with Catholic education.
There are no churches of schools in the local area dedicated to St Benedict.

Suggested names considered but falling outside criteria.

St Carlo Acutis Feast Day October 12th

This had strong appeal for some as it focussed on a young, contemporary person of holiness. However, there is already a new Catholic Primary school named after St Carlo Acutis at Woolert (Parish of Epping Northern Region).

St Francis of Assisi Feast Day October 4th

This had a strong appeal for some. St Francis of Assisi is universally well known with a strong story to identify with. However, there are already nearby Catholic Primary Schools and a Secondary School named after St Francis of Assisi at Millpark, Tarneit and Melton in our Northern Region.

Other titles of Mary, Mother of the Lord were also suggested however the primary dedication of the Parish to Our Lady of Mt Carmel needs to be maintained and remain clear and strong.

Fr Denis Stanley

CRITERIA FOR NAMING OF NEW SCHOOL SUNBURY SOUTH
MACS GUIDELINES

Key principles for the naming of schools and school buildings are:

The names chosen for a school or a school building should consider the historical context of the Catholic Church within the parish a school is located.

An historical connection to a particular order, and the associated charism, or identification with particular can ons within the Church, should be maintained and strengthened through the naming of individual schools and school buildings.

Parish Priests and MACS Principals and Officers tasked with identifying suitable names for schools/school buildings should consider the historical context of how the Catholic Church has contributed to the community and reflect that contribution in proposed names.

If a school is located within a parish with multiple schools the name should, to the extent possible, connect with existing names or have a reference to the rationale for why previous names were chosen and how pro posed names continue previous naming conventions.