



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429
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Liturgy Times this Week

Sat 5.30pm St Anne's
 Sun 8.30am St Anne's
 10.30am St Anne's
5.30pm St Anne's
 Mon 9.15am St Anne's—Liturgy of Word
 Tues: 6.30pm OLMC
 Wed: 9.15am St Anne's
 Thurs 9.15am St Anne's
 Fri: 9.15am St Anne's

Parish Priest: Rev Kevin McIntosh
Assisting Priest: Rev Bert Fulbrook SDB
Pastoral Assoc.: Sr Jose Noy RSJ
Pastoral Co-ord: Lyn Plummer
St Anne's Primary School: 9744 3055
Principal: Noelene Hussey
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School:
9740 7344

Acting Principal: Mark Gleeson

Baptisms celebrated on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office for details of the next Baptismal Preparation meeting.

Reconciliation OLMC Church
10.00am-10.30am Saturday

19 February 2017

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm Response

The Lord is kind and merciful

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

LET US PRAY FOR

Sick: Teresa DILLON Violeta MARIANO
 Bernadette NOONAN Sean MCINTYRE
 Kevin PHELAN Sheridan RIGBY Jinky
 RITCHIE Frank WALKER Beth
 WARBURTON

Recently Deceased:

Elizabeth ZAWIERUCHA

Anniversaries: Austin & Leonie D'MONTE
 Walter GRECH Kevin HOARE Marcin
 PATRYAS Delphine RASANAYAGAM

Special Collection
This Sunday Overseas
Humanitarian Project

LOVE YOUR ENEMY

The promotion line of a revenge website asks: Have you been wronged, mistreated or betrayed? Are you angry, bitter & ready for some payback? Visit our website and find piles of good ideas. revengeunlimited.com and thepayback.com are two websites set up as a joke, but we know that revenge can be deadly serious and certainly no joke. The wives of bikie gangsters will vouch how devastating revenge can be. 'You kill one of ours, and we will kill two of yours.' Retribution tends to escalate. Moses came up with a set of laws that limited retribution to 'an eye for an eye'; 'a tooth for a tooth'; 'a limb for a limb'; 'a life for a life'. But even this Mosaic Law fell short of the Christian ideal. I can't remember who the wise person was who said, 'If we go with "an eye for an eye", the world will eventually be full of blind men.' Similarly, 'If we go with "a tooth for a tooth", the world will eventually be full of toothless men.' Jesus abolishes revenge altogether. He recommends we turn the other cheek and stop revenge in its tracks. He encourages us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. If every Christian lived by this maxim the world would be populated by saints.

I'm going to recommend you to see the movie *The Railway Man*. It is not entertainment. Rather, it is the inspiring true story of a Christian who forgave his enemy. Eric Lomax joined the British army at the outbreak of WWII and was captured by the Japanese during the fall of Singapore in 1942. Lomax endured years of fear, hard labour and horrific torture at the hands of the Japanese. He was forced to work on the notorious Thai-Burma Railway along with thousands of POW's and civilian conscripts. He was tortured as a suspected spy after a makeshift radio he had helped to construct was discovered by the Japanese. Lomax was beaten unconscious within an inch of his life with heavy clubs. Both of his arms were broken, and, he was subjected to a torture now known as 'water-boarding'. Lomax could not make the Japanese understand that his radio was not a transmitter, but simply a receiver. The radio was incapable of sending out signals and information to the allies. For many years Lomax relived the trauma of his horrific ordeal at the hands of the Japanese and harboured feelings of hatred towards his chief torturer, Takashi Nagase, dreaming one day of exacting revenge. Patti, his wife, played by Nicole Kidman, who saw how her husband was hurting under the trauma of yesteryear, encouraged him towards the path of reconciliation. Decades after the war, Lomax was presented with an opportunity to meet face to face with Nagase. He carried a knife with him intent on revenge. Nagase was already on the road towards redemption even before being confronted by Lomax. Previously, he had written his own memoirs, confessing his guilt and expressing remorse over his crimes. Subsequently, Nagase returned to the site of the prison camp, and, working as a museum guide, he dedicated his life to maintaining the site as a memorial to the victims of war crimes he and his fellow soldiers had committed. What actually transpired when Lomax met with Nagase in 1994 bears testament to the healing power of forgiveness. Forgiveness did not come easy to Lomax, but when it did come, it brought him healing. It healed his otherwise untreatable mental wounds of the past. In real life, Lomax and Nagase became reconciled and developed a friendship. The friendship lasted until the death of Nagase in 2011. Lomax died a year later at the age of 93. Loving one's enemy does not come easy, but it is possible. Nothing is impossible when God's grace intervenes. The story of the Railway Man bears testimony to that.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

The following children from our parish will be baptized this Sunday:

Lilly JOHNSTONE
Adeline GEARY
Cienna SILVEIRA

We joyfully welcome them to our parish community.



SACRAMENT PROGRAM DATES FOR NON CATHOLIC

SCHOOL CHILDREN: our parish offers Sacrament preparation and celebration to children who do not attend Catholic Schools. It is important that parents attend the Registration and information sessions for the relevant sacrament so their child can receive the full benefits of the program.

The registration and information dates are as follows:

- **Reconciliation on Tuesday 28 February 2pm or 7.30pm Parish Centre**
- **First Eucharist on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm or Wednesday 22 February at 2pm in Parish Centre**
- **Confirmation on Tuesday 13 June at 7.30pm or Wednesday 14 June at 2pm in Parish Centre**

All relevant dates and forms will be given out at the meetings. Sunbury state schools have all been notified.

CONGRATULATIONS SR JOSE' ON GOLDEN JUBILEE:

*It was a great privilege for me to celebrate my Religious Profession with others -23 Josephites who came from all over Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Ireland. We gathered at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney recalling the marvels God has done in and through us these past 50 years. On **Sunday 26 Feb at 10.30am Mass** I have the joy to celebrate with you and to thank God for the gift of Religious Life here in OLMC Parish, Sunbury. Please come and join each other in the Parish Centre immediately after Mass.... Sr Jose'*

Please RSVP to the Parish Office **Wednesday 22 February** on 9744 1060 for catering purposes. Please bring a plate to share.

A VERY SINCERE THANK YOU to everyone who prayed for me, sent their good wishes and visited me during my recent stay in hospital. I am now moving to Riddell Gardens Aged Care facility in Sunbury. During my stay in hospital I received fourteen blood transfusions, which saved my life, so may I urge anyone who has thought about donating blood to not just think about it, but do it, and if you have not thought about it, think about it and do it so that the wonderful work of the Blood Bank can continue. Thank you all once more. Kevin Smith

LENTEN PROGRAMME: this year we will explore "The Gift" that we have of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The following topics will be covered during the six week program:- The Father's Loving Plan, The Joy of the Gospel, The Gift of the Spirit, Unwrapping God's Gift, Encountering God's Spirit and Living in the Spirit.

Morning sessions will be held at 10.00 am on Thursdays commencing on March 2nd. The first evening session will be on Tuesday February 28th at 7.30 pm. The rest of the evening sessions will be on Thursdays at 7.30 pm. All sessions will be at St. Anne's Church.

The topic for the first week is "The Father's Loving Plan".

REMINDER OF SUNDAY EVENING MASS: will resume at OLMC Church at 5.30pm on the first Sunday of next month, 5 March.

HELP PLEASE: a parishioner needs assistance from anyone who can translate and write in Croatian. Please call Anton on 9740 7252.

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN PROJECT: In a report on the ABC last year it was estimated that 20,000 children in Indonesia are living with HIV and face a dire future. In response to this crisis, LAP team, attached to the Catholic University in Jakarta has been caring for around 100 children living with HIV in that city's slums. As part of the Parish's ongoing commitment, we will be holding a fundraising appeal for the LAP team at all Masses today and hope that you will continue to support this worthy cause. Thank you. Mick Hetherington, Frank O'Connor, Julie Reddan and Tony Kiley

EVERGREENS COMMITTEE MEETING: The Evergreens activities have been arranged for the coming months. All activities are held in the Parish Centre—commencing at 1pm and concluding by 2.45pm. Dates are March 21, May 23, July 18, September 19.

Additional activities may be organized this year. All retired parishioners are invited to attend these activities—no retired parishioner is "too young or too old". It is an opportunity to get together and meet your fellow parishioners.

OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY: we offer to Rebekah Cornish as her father John Ginnivan entered eternal life last Saturday aged 68 years. John and his late wife Lorraine came to our parish in 1974. John was an Eucharistic Catholic even on weekdays until he became sick. John had a great love for football. He was very involved in the Sunbury Football Club where he served as president for three years during which the Club won three premierships. He was a bingo worker in our parish/club bingo. His funeral on Friday concluded with the committal at Sunbury Cemetery.

SYNOD ON THE YOUTH: Pope Francis has announced the synod will be held in Rome in October 2018 to understand where the generation called the "millennials" are coming from, and to harness their hopes and ideals for the common good. For the first time, young people will be asked how the Church can better serve their needs. A website will be launched this May where their answers will feed directly into the working document for the Synod.

PASTORAL CARE BY ARMY CHAPLAIN: To mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January, the BBC had a special program of "Antiques Roadshow" which looked at objects brought in by survivors of the genocide at the Nazi Concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen in Germany. One item was a cross made by former inmates for Fr John who entered the camp with British doctors at its liberation in April 1945. His cousin showed the cross. She said he celebrated Mass and heard confessions from the camp guards. "He said he had to forgive them and kept to that for the rest of his life."

OUR NEW SCHOOL: last Tuesday our parish steering committee appointed Law Architects Pty Ltd for the building of our new primary school in Mitchells Lane to open in January 2019.

FIRST EUCHARIST 2017: meetings for parents to register their child to begin receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist in May will be held on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm and on Wednesday 22 February at 2pm in the Parish Centre.

INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY: for children and their parents who began at St Anne's school this year will be held in St Anne's Church at 11.30am on Friday 24 February.

FREE FURNITURE: a Sunbury resident has a 6 seater L shaped lounge, four years old, in good condition free for the taking. Enquiries to Parish Office on 9744 1060.

ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

ALTAR CARE: Nil **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Raquel Handley-Bowen Candice Bowen St Anne's Church – Lisa Crotty Chris Perry Narelle Anderson **COUNTERS** John & Judith Bracher Judith Ibrahim **GIFT SHOP:** Roselle Duckworth Mary Wicks **LECTORS:** Patricia Altair Jenny Carland Teresa Quin Brigid McConville **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: 5.30pm** Patricia & Angelo Altair Mary Baensch Anne Burnside Vicki Heath Paul Hogan Garnet Jacob Paul Fanning **8.30am** Colin & Coreen Wilson Ann Chircop Lloyd D'Crus Rex Jacob Lili Lupa Liz Richards Glenda Shanahan **10.30am** Mimi Quattrone Sean Quigley Julie Reddan Anne Smith Sylvester D'Souza John & Sheila Stafford Moira Sullivan **5.30pm** Alan Slocombe Mary Thomas Christine Wallace