



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,  
SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

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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	OLMC
Mon	9.15am	St Anne's—Liturgy of Word
Wed:	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**

**26 March 2017**

**4th Sunday of Lent**

## Psalm Response

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

## Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## LET US PRAY FOR

**Sick:** Joan ATKINS Bruce CROWE  
 Matthew FLANAGAN Peter HAYES Violeta MARIANO  
 Sean MCINTYRE Kevin PHELAN Pasquale VILLELA

**Recently Deceased:** Kevin Donovan Vern FRANCIS Winston MILLETT

**Anniversaries:** Alberto CARASIG Matt DUGGAN  
 Terence FARIA Jerry HIPOLITO Maria MALLIA  
 Tom MURPHY Gerard QUIN Josephine SCHEMBRI



## THE LIGHT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ, sent by the Father, is the light of the world. In today's Gospel Jesus gives sight to a blind man. More to the point, he opens the man's eyes to the light of faith. We have become accustomed to John telling us stories about physical realities only to learn that he is more interested in the metaphysical realities behind the story. The blind man has been living in total darkness from the day of his birth but Jesus, besides giving him physical sight, opens the man's soul to receive the light of faith. On the surface, John gives us a miracle story of a man being cured of his blindness by Jesus, but below the surface this is a story about Baptism. In the early centuries of the Church a favourite name for baptism was **illumination** or **enlightenment**.

The symbol of light is very much a part of our baptismal ceremony. The priest lights a candle from the paschal candle and gives it to the newly baptised – or parent or sponsor – saying: **"Receive the light of Christ."** In the case of infant baptism, the parents and godparents are reminded of their responsibility to **'keep the flame of faith burning brightly.'**

The cure of the blind man is not narrated as an instantaneous miracle as is the fashion in most miracle gospel stories. The actions of Jesus are slow and deliberate. He daubs the man's eyes with paste made out of spittle and dust, recalling the creation of Adam from the dust of the earth. The baptised person, having received the light of faith, becomes a new creation. A new life in the Spirit is created. The blind man is told to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. John explains that Siloam means **'sent'**. This deep pool inside the walls of Jerusalem received its water through a conduit which had been cut through 400 metres of rock. This superb piece of engineering provided Jerusalem with water and was a vital life-line in the event of a siege.

The man born blind received his sight at the washing. But, as the story develops, we learn how this new gift of light has to grow. The gift of faith received at baptism is but a tiny seed. It needs to be nurtured. It must be placed in a favourable environment and given every chance to grow. The most favourable environment is a Christian / Catholic home. Our faith is best nurtured by the Eucharist. It pains me to see so many Catholics staying away from the Eucharist. The faith of the next generation of Catholics is put at risk by parents who deprive themselves and their children of this great source of spiritual nourishment.

It is my belief that the most nourishing part of the Eucharist is the Liturgy of the Word. Our faith deepens as we listen more to Jesus our prophet and teacher. Increasingly we begin to view life through the eyes of Jesus. We develop **'gospel eyes'**. We grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus the more we come in contact with the Word, the Wisdom of God. As St Jerome said: **'to be ignorant of the gospel is to be ignorant of Christ'**. Alas, I see too many who show scant respect and love for the Word by making a habit of coming late for Mass. Arriving late on the odd occasion is excusable, but if late-coming develops into a habit a problem exists.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

**WELCOME TO FIRST EUCHARIST CHILDREN & FAMILIES:** This weekend children will be joining us at all masses to ask parishioners to pray for them as they prepare to receive their First Eucharist. Parishioners will receive a prayer card from the children. Please pray for the children and their families.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** Pope Francis said that "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral– and not simply an economic– act." Are you buying or eating or giving away Easter chocolate this year? It is estimated that up to 30 million people are trapped in slavery globally. The United Nations estimates that one in every three victims of human trafficking is a child. Much of the chocolate we consume in Australia is made with cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved.

Action: Go to the ACRATH website [acrath.org.au/slaveryfree-easter](http://acrath.org.au/slaveryfree-easter) to find out more. Spread the word about slavery free Easter chocolate and enjoy chocolate that carries any of the following symbols on the wrapper.



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

Archer DORNBRUCH

Jaxon NEWITT

Eli O'SULLIVAN

Dylan PELLY

We joyfully welcome them to our parish community.



**LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** will take place on Wednesday 5 April 2017 7.30pm at St Anne's Church with at least 3 ministers available. All welcome.

**NEW EASTER TIMETABLE:** a full Holy Week timetable will be available next weekend, but slight changes have been made to the usual schedule. Easter Vigil on Saturday night (15 April) will start at 7pm and there will be no mass on Sunday 16 April at 5.30pm (OLMC church)

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** is a way our parish supports almsgiving through helping Caritas Australia. Caritas is one of the major international aid agencies and they help build up marginalized areas around the world. Each Lent, we ask parishioners to take one of the boxes in each of our churches and donate to this very worthy cause. We ask for the boxes to be returned by the Easter weekend so that we can send the funds to Caritas.

*As Jesus turned his gaze to the man born blind, may we refuse to avert our gaze from those who most need acceptance, love and support.*

*Caritas supports those who live their life with disabilities and try to give them the dignity and quality of life each person deserves. If you would like more information please call 1800 024 413.*

**KINDER KINDA:** our parish has been involved with Kinda Kinder program for a few years now. It is a program where the Victoria University Early Childhood students gain experience in planning and executing an education based play session in our parish with children from toddler to pre-schoolers. Parents stay and watch on (and chat) as their children interact and play during the 1 hour session. Our program will start **Tuesday 2 May at 9am** and continue for 4 weeks in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

After the Kinder Kinda program is finished, our parish runs an informal playgroup where parents can access the toys for their children and just interact with each other while the children play. We would encourage participants of Kinder Kinda program to continue to come along to build up social networks.

**THE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD LETTER:** Thank you to all the great helpers who have folded the Neighbourhood Newsletters. We now need to deliver our letters. We need as many Parish Posties as possible to enable all of our parishioners receive the letter in their letterbox. If you can spare a couple of hours (at the most) and a little energy to deliver these letters our Parish Target, *"that all feel they belong and are valued"*, may be met by the receipt of the letter. Please contact the office.

**SINCERE THANKS:** to Fr Kevin, Fr Bert, Sr Jose and many of the Sunbury Community who supported Eddie and my family during Eddie's illness and peaceful death. We will always be grateful for your prayers and support. ....Mary Sammut & family

**COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD:** was awarded to the Sunbury Lay Ecumenical Committee and they were awarded a Silver Platter and Framed Certificate. Our parish will be displaying this great award from the 28 March to 11 April. Congratulations to all involved in gaining such an award.

**FOR OUR LENTEN PROGRAMME :** this year we are exploring "The Gift" that we have of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Morning sessions will be held after Mass on Thursdays at 9.45 am. Evening sessions will be at 7.30 pm on Thursdays. All sessions will be at St. Anne's Church. The topic for this week is "A Personal Pentecost".

**REMEMBRANCE CARDS:** our parish offers cards of remembrance to parishioners who would like to remember those who cannot be with us throughout the time of Lent and Easter. If it due to distance or loss that loved ones are not with us, we can still remember and pray for them at this time. Please take a card from either of our churches and place in the basket.

**MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:**

Tuesday 28 March 1.30pm New School Steering Committee  
7.30pm Sunbury Inter Church Council

**LENTEN REFLECTION:** Our Gospel this week has so much richness for us to nourish our souls. The reference to the blind man being brought from darkness to light with the healing touch of Jesus is a metaphor of how we can see the joy of the world once our hearts are touched by Jesus' messages of love. Let us also be inspired by the positive words of the blind man as he professes "he believes" in Jesus and let us profess our belief in Jesus by living out the Gospel with kindness and compassion for those around us.  
*Prayer: Grant that through our efforts to live more simply, generously and prayerfully, we will be able to see more clearly your purpose for our life. Amen*

**SUNBURY CHAPLAINCY:** Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 29 March at 7pm at Goonawarra Golf Club. 2 course meal \$30 or \$25 concession. Bookings essential. Call Helen by 24 March on 9744 3031 or 0407 506 507.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Service will be run by Sunbury Combined Churches on Saturday 1 April at 10am at St Mary's Church, O'Shannassy St, Sunbury. All welcome.

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE STUDY TOUR - PILGRIMAGE "THE EXPERIENCE OF CATHOLIC CULTURE"**

21 Sept – 21 Oct 2017 Ireland, England, Germany and Italy. This tour is confirmed but there are still a few places available. Details on College website at [www.ctc.edu.au/studytours](http://www.ctc.edu.au/studytours) Contact: Rev. Dr Max Vodola or Dr Frances Baker rsm on (03) 94123333.



**MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS:** The Life, Marriage & Family Office warmly invite all expectant mothers and their families to the Mass for Expectant Mothers. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 14 May (Mother's Day) at 11.00am. Registrations can be made online at: [www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily](http://www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily) or alternatively by contacting: 9287 5587 or [lmf@cam.org.au](mailto:lmf@cam.org.au). Please note that registration closes on Friday 5 May. Expectant mothers who register will receive a small token of recognition.

**PALM SUNDAY WALK FOR REFUGEES:** Every year tens of thousands of people nationally march for justice for refugees affected by the cruel and harsh policies of the Australian government. With the increasingly vitriolic attacks on refugees and migrants around the world, it is now more important than ever that we gather and express solidarity alongside those who have struggled for their rights in this country. A peaceful walk will be held on **April 9 @ 1:00 PM** St. Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne.....all welcome

**ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND**

**ALTAR CARE:** Jo **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Peter Readman St Anne's Church – Nil **COUNTERS** Bernie Owens Mary Reay Mary Alkemade **GIFT SHOP:** Carmel Wiegerink Pam Fairbairn **LECTORS:** Paul Hogan Jo Tom Allen Joe Kloss Della Oswald Des Dowling Jo Paul Fanning **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: 5.30pm** Mary Baensch Anne Burnside Vicki Heath Paul Hogan Garnet Jacob Paul Fanning Albert & Diana Mastramico **8.30am** Monica Allen Carmel Wiegerink Colin & Coreen Wilson Ann Chircop Lloyd D'Crus Assistance Required **10.30am** Grace Tucker Bernadette Anderson John Bottoms Christine Cassar Johanne Dajic Judith Davies Olga Ellul Johanna Fahey **5.30pm** Alan Slocombe Mary Thomas Christine Wallace