



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST,

SUNBURY, WILDWOOD

Parish Office: 101 Riddell Road Sunbury 3429 Ph: 9744 1060 Fax: 9744 7786  
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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
	5.00pm	OLMC
Mon	10.30am	Funeral Mass-- Judy Scanlon
Tues	12.00pm	Funeral Mass-- Mary Cowling
	6.30pm	OLMC
Wed	10.00am	OLMC-- School Thanksgiving Mass
Thurs	9.15am	St Anne's
Frid	9.15am	St Anne's
Sat	7.00pm	Christmas Carols-- Village Green

### RECONCILIATION OLMC Church

10am-10.30am Saturday

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

**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  
**Principal:** Julie Freeman

### 3 December 2017

#### First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8  
 Psalm Response: Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved**

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9  
 Gospel Acclamation: Psalm 84:8

#### Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

#### Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

### LET US PRAY FOR

**Sick:** Bill ANDERSON Rany AZORES Carmen BARBAR Patricia CLARK Christine DJAKOBIC John GRAY Harvey HUGHES Peter KENNEDY Jan KEOGH Peter KEOGH Lloyd MACEY Mary REAY Pio ROCCO Alexander ROWNTREE Anthony TUIMATAFANUA Christine VELTHUIS Carolyn WOCKNER Natalee WOOD

**Recently Deceased:** Mary COWLING Judy SCANLON

**Anniversaries:** Claire DILLON Griffith & Alice GONSALVES Harold & Iris KERWICK Mabel NUNES Stephen RODRIGUES

### YEAR B

### WELCOME TO THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS ACCORDING TO MARK

The First Sunday of Advent ushers in a new liturgical year. We have just finished Year A, and today we embark on Year B, the year of Mark's Gospel. The Sunday Gospels for Year B are, for the most part, taken from the Gospel of Mark. **Mark was the pioneer evangelist.** In other words Mark was the first to write the story of God's meeting with humanity which took place in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. Mark initiated a new form of sacred scripture which he called "**Good News**" or "**Gospel**". Mark's opening words are more of a title than anything else: '**The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God.**'

Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four gospels. Not only does it not contain any narrative of the infancy and childhood of Jesus, but it lacks the large blocks of teachings found in the gospel of Matthew and is devoid of the stories found in Luke's gospel. Yet, Mark's portrait of Jesus is clear and unforgettable. Because of the brevity of Mark's Gospel, the lectionary during the Year of Mark sometimes borrows from the gospel of John. For instance, we have five Sundays – Seventeenth Sunday to Twenty-first Sunday inclusive – where the gospel readings are taken from the sixth chapter of John. The lectionary temporarily departs from Mark to let us avail ourselves of the high theology of the Eucharist found in John Chapter 6. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves in John gives way to a deep reflection on the nourishment we derive in the Eucharist from the Wisdom of the Word and the Bread of Life.

Who is Mark, and, more importantly, what does he say about Jesus? Underestimated for centuries because of its brevity, Mark's gospel makes a unique contribution to our understanding of Jesus and what it means for you and me to be his authentic disciples. Mark proclaims Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed One of God, yes, all that. Jesus is the Messiah, of that Mark is sure, but he is a disconcerting Messiah who permits himself to be taken by his enemies, to be mocked and maltreated by them, and to be crucified. Mark's gospel is a theology of the cross, and apart from the cross there can be no show at being a Christian. Mark stands side by side with Paul as a stalwart proclaimer of a theology of the cross. It was Paul who said, '**I decided to know nothing among you, except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**' (1 Cor 2:2)

To the disciples of Jesus, and to the readers of Mark's Gospel, the cross was incomprehensible and a downright scandal. Yet if we cannot comprehend or come to terms with the scandal of the cross, we cannot call ourselves genuine followers of Jesus. For Jesus said, '*if anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it, but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.*' (Mk 8:34-35) Mark's gospel has no place for the cuddly infant Jesus, or, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer would say, Mark does not offer us '**cheap grace**'. Mark offers us a human and realistic Jesus who demands of us costly discipleship. Mark takes us on a journey with Jesus by way of the cross leading to ultimate victorious salvation.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

**PRINCIPAL OF HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL:** Krystine Hocking M.Ed has been appointed principal of our school. She has twenty-seven years of experience in education. Her present school is St Matthew's, Fawkner North. We welcome Krystine to our parish. She is now involved in the planning of our new school.

We thank the members of the selection committee, parents and principals for the hours of work they put into the process of researching, interviewing and decision making on the very good field of applicants. Our decision was unanimous.

**OUR PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY:** we offer to the families of Mary Cowling and Judy Scanlon who entered eternal life last week after being long-term parishioners of ours. Their Funerals will be celebrated this week.

**MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** will be celebrated on Wednesday 13 December at 10am, followed by morning tea.

*Special Collection next 2 weekends  
Vinnie's Christmas Appeal*

**ADVENT IN OUR PARISH:** our parish has much to be grateful for and in this time of Advent when we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we have many celebrations to help us keep Jesus at the centre of our lives.

Saturday 9 December Christmas on the Green  
Wednesday 13 December Parish Advent Reconciliation Service  
Saturday 16 December Festival of Carols & Readings  
Wednesday 20 December Blue Christmas

- The Parish Advent Reconciliation Service will be held at St Anne's Church on 13 December at 7.30pm. We shall have 3-4 priests available on the night.
- Festival of Carols & Readings will be held on 16 December at 7pm in St Mary's Anglican Church, Sunbury as we alternate hosting with our Anglican brothers and sisters. Our parishioners will proclaim some readings. Please join us for a prayerful celebration of Advent/ Christmas filled Spirit.

**ADVENT REFLECTION:** December is so busy for all of us as we prepare for the excitement of Christmas. It's also a time of reflective waiting and anticipation for the coming of our Saviour. During Advent you are invited to spend some time in quiet reflection. St Anne's Chapel will be set aside for reflective prayer between 8.30am & 10.30am Masses on each Sunday of Advent and after 9.15am Mass & 2.30pm-3.15pm each Wednesday.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS:** An alternate Christmas event will be held on Wed 20 Dec at 7pm in St Andrews Uniting Church, Sunbury. The Blue Christmas Service is mindful of people who find Christmas hard through loss and loneliness and various circumstances where it is hard to celebrate. All are welcome.

**ASSISTED DYING BILL:** in 2017, Victoria is the only place in the world to have legislated for Euthanasia and assisted suicide. 50 other places, including NSW rejected such legislation. Organisations of medical practitioners are very concerned. Increased palliative care is needed to give people peace and dignity.

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:** was held Tues night and was a beautiful celebration for those who attended. Approx 100 parishioners with family and friends attended. The Mass was very special with beautiful music and a prayerful spirit. Many brought photos of their loved ones as we remembered those who have gone 'home' to our heavenly Father. Fr Kevin's reflection will be in the Newsletter next week

**CENTENARY OF PERSECUTION AND REVIVAL:** In November 1917, the Bolsheviks in Russia unleashed an unprecedented persecution of the Church. 300,000 clergy were killed in the Soviet era. The leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church were cruelly slaughtered. After Stalin, the Christian faith began to revive. Writers like Dostoevsky and Pasternaks "Dr Zhivago"- preached a gospel of humanity based on the example of Christ. People became seen again as persons with a conscience and free will.

**CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDALLE AND VINNIES:** on 10 November 1917, the most horrific Battle of World War I killed 6000 men from the Diocese of Salford, UK. In the Salford Cathedral last month, the Bishop presided at a memorial Mass. Over 100 men from St Vincent de Paul Society of Salford died in the war.

**THE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** meets at St. Anne's Church every Thur at 10.00am. The last meeting for the year will be on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and we will resume after the holidays on Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup>. All welcome including children. For further information or transport please contact Lambert & Elaine van der Weerden on 0418 322 596.

## Wait in Joyful Hope

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

Cooper HAINES  
Samuel BUGEJA  
Aaron MUNSLOW  
Angas DIMECH  
Asher NAJDA

We joyfully welcome them to our parish.



**YEAR OF YOUTH 2018:** was called for by the Australian Catholic Bishops. It is an exciting opportunity in the life of the church to focus on young people and see how we as a church can better engage with them. The Year of Youth starts this Sunday, so please pray for our Youth. Our parish hopes to actively engage our youth in the parish throughout 2018 and moving forward. Any support our parishioners can give would be greatly appreciated. More news will be announced shortly regarding the parish program for Year of Youth 2018. Watch this space!!

**BLESSING OF GRAVES:** On Sunday 19 November we had the annual blessing of graves at Bulla & Sunbury cemeteries. Over 150 attended to support each other in their grief.

### MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Tues 5 Dec 1pm Holy Trinity Steering Committee  
Wed 6 Dec 12pm Year of Youth Parish Centre

**CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN:** will be held on the Village Green next Saturday 9 December. The event is organized by the Sunbury Churches and funded by Hume Council and the Churches. The event won the award as the best community event in the City of Hume. The Carols service begins at 7pm concluding at 8.30pm. Food stalls will operate from 5pm prior to the carols.

### EVERGREENS GROUP FINAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2017:

**Tuesday 5 December—**Christmas Lunch 12.30pm Sunbury Football Club, Clark Oval. \$20.00 each. Contact Frances 9744 1999 or Coreen 9744 6015  
Closing date for bookings is Monday 27 November.

**HOUR OF PRAYER:** Rosa Mystica will be held on Friday 8 December at St Anne's Church and led by the Legionaries of Marian Movement Group. Traditionally from 12 noon until 1pm around the world, an hour of prayer is held. All are welcome to this quiet, spiritual, prayerful time. Opening prayer will be recited, followed with Rosary, the Litany, The Seven Sorrow Prayer and The Consecration. A Prayer to Our Lady of Mystical Rose, A Petitions Box for prayers will be placed in front of Our Lady's Statue. A cuppa will be served afterwards.

**CHUCKLE CORNER:** a Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

**THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS:** For those who are yet to collect their envelopes for their stewardship offering to support our parish, your envelopes are in the Gathering Space today.

**HELP FOR CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN:** are needing someone to be the "Clown" on Saturday 9 December. If you or someone you know can help, please contact the Parish Office. All equipment will be provided by Sunbury Churches.

**THANK YOU:** from the Most Rev Greg Homering, Bishop of Lismore who appealed to all parishes to donate money to help families during the devastating floods in Lismore and Murwillumbah regions of NSW in late March. Your generous donations helped buy and donate 1050 mattresses. Many were overwhelmed by this gesture.

### ROSTERS NEXT WEEKEND

**ALTAR CARE:** Anne Smith **CLEANING:** OLMC Church— Peter Readman **St Anne's Church** – Lisa Crotty Chris Perry Julie Daniels  
**COUNTERS:** Gerard Duggan Anne McCormick **GIFT SHOP:** Pat & Peter Readman Mary Wicks **LECTORS** Angelo Altair Joe Kloss Des Dowling Jo Spiteri **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** 5.30pm Patricia & Angelo Altair Mary Baensch Anne Burnside Vicki Heath Jim O'Brien Garnet Jacob Paul Fanning 8.30am Tom Allen Ann Chircop Lloyd D'Crus Lili Lupa Glenda Shanahan Graeme & Lynne Simpson Liz Richards 10.30am Bernadette Anderson John Bottams Christine Cassar Johanne Dajic Judith Davies Olga Ellul Johanna Fahey Tony Hendy 5.00pm Will Honner Maria Mallia Rita Rocco