



THE CARMELITE

Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park
in the care of the Carmelites since 1882

*We acknowledge the Yalukit Willam Clan, the traditional owners and custodians of this land. We pay our respects to them.
May we walk gently here.*

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

12 July 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

My thanks to an unnamed Carmelite who penned today's reflection on the Gospel. Special thanks also to Marita Molloy for her article, "Three chords and the Truth".

Have a prayerful and peaceful week.

GOSPEL REFLECTION (By and unnamed Carmelite)

Gospel: Matthew 13-23 (*The Parable of the Sower and the Seed*)

"I plan to be an autocrat – that's my job, but the Good Lord will forgive me – that's His job" (Catherine the Great)

The Gospel

The Seed:

1. The edge of the path - people too busy
2. Stony Ground - people too shallow
3. Among thorns - people too stressed
4. Rich Soil - 10/10: people who hear, grasp, embrace the Gospel. Such people are the "Salt of the Earth"

The parable shows that Jesus knows human nature which includes all kinds of people, no two the same, each one unique. Not all can be saints we are as God made us that's the way things were in Jesus' time, is now and always will be. The 4th class are the "blessed", and meant to be a blessing to others.

BUT – Jesus came for the lost sheep – the broken, the battlers, the rejects, the losers. He was rejected, his mission ended in disaster, his death on the cross was the greatest shame ("Cursed is he who dies on a gibbet" Deuteronomy 21:23) so Jesus' career hit rock bottom.

- "God so loved the world that he sent his Son" ... to redeem us. Jesus is "the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". God loves everyone equally from the greatest sinner to the greatest saint, and His Will is that all people be saved, because his Love is beyond measure – infinite. Which brings us back to Catherine the Great who was a great sinner too – but she knew that God's job description was Mercy, and that she was very much included in this ocean of Love, and that's great news for us.

Both our Churches are fitted with a hearing induction loop. Please use the 'T' or other appropriate switch on your hearing aid. Please tell us if you experience any difficulty.

OUR PARISH

Churches

St Joseph's
cnr Rouse & Stokes Streets
Port Melbourne

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
cnr Richardson & Wright Streets
Middle Park

Sunday Masses

6.00pm (Sat) Mount Carmel
9.00am Saint Joseph's
10.30am Mount Carmel

Reconciliation

after 9.00am Mass Saturday

Carmelite Parish Office

274 Rouse Street
Port Melbourne Vic 3207

Telephone 03 9681 9600
Facsimile 03 9681 9608

After Hours Emergency
0408 754 283

Email parish@sj-mc.org.au

Parish Website www.sj-mc.org.au

Carmelite Website
www.carmelites.org.au

**Office Hours 9am-4pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
(CLOSED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS)**

Parish Priest

Fr Hugh Brown OCarm

Parish Secretary

Anne Ierardo

Pastoral Life Co-ordinator

Michael Murray

Finance Officer

Shane Harrison

Facilities Manager

Ken Chaffer

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205

Telephone 03 9699 2928
Principal Simon Millar

PARISH OFFICE

**The Carmelite Parish Office is now
closed to the public.**

**The office is still functioning between 9.00am & 4.00pm
on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**

**You can contact us by telephone:
9681 9600**

**Email: parish@sj-mc.org.au or by checking our
website on**

www.sj-mc.org.au for further updates.

**If you are in need of a priest urgently then please
call 0408 754283.**

WE REMEMBER

**If you would like someone remembered in our
sick list, recently deceased or anniversaries,
then please contact the parish office by email:
parish@sj-mc.org.au or by phone 9681 9600.**

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Baby Luca,
Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Rose Fennell, Gary
Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino
Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Charles Portelli, Rafal Rafalski,
Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder,
Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy
Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon
Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: All those affected
by COVID_19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this
time:** Carmelites, Paul Clery, & Robert Dowd

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

We are about to place an order for Plaques for the walls
of our Memorial Gardens. The order will be lodged
next week. If you would like a plaque in memory
of deceased family members, then please contact
Anne at the Parish Office - 9681 9600 or parish@sj-
mc.org.au. Cost of a plaque is \$180.00, and they take
approximately 6 -8 weeks to be delivered and placed
on the wall.

IN OUR PARISH

THREE CHORDS AND THE TRUTH

I had decided that I did not like country music. It was
not for me. The truth is I really didn't know much
about it.

Watching the Ken Burns series 'Country Music' on
SBS television opened my eyes (and ears). Here was a
fascinating American art form with a rich diversity of
musical influences.

Country music has been described as 'Three chords
and the truth' - this really resonated with me.
What a wonderful description of simple chordal
accompaniments, with voices singing about universal
themes such as love and loss. Country music is music
of the people, telling their stories, stories that are
often raw.

This music has evolved over the last 100 years and
there have been many performers over that time. It's
interesting to note that women have an important
role in country music, starting with Maybelle Carter
and her family in the 1920's.

Merle Haggard came from a difficult background,
eventually becoming an inmate of San Quentin prison.
He was in the audience when Johnny Cash performed
there and Merle Haggard later became a successful
country music performer.

The story of Kris Kristofferson is an inspiring one. A
Rhodes scholar he gave up a promising career to move
to Nashville where he worked as a janitor at Columbia
studios, all the while writing songs. He was strongly
influenced by a passage from the poet William Blake
that speaks of the importance of doing what your
heart requires - doing what you really want to do. Kris
Kristofferson's songs show he was a poet himself.

Whilst the music may not have the complexities of
some other forms of music, it works in its simplicity.
For me the words are the essence of this music. The
realities of people's lives are told with a wonderful
strength. Country music is aptly described as 'Three
chords and the truth'.

Marita Molloy

ARCHDIOCESE

**Archdiocesan Hotline for
COVID-19**

*In light of changing advice
and circumstances, please
keep visiting this webpage:
www.cam.org.au for quick
access to the latest news,
information and resources.
Should you require any further
information specific to a parish
concern relating to COVID-19
and the guidelines produced
by the Archdiocese, please
contact the newly established
service desk for our Priests and
Parishes:*

Phone: 9926 2469

Email: covid-19@cam.org.au

*This phone line and email
will be monitored Monday
to Friday, 8am-6pm, by
Archdiocesan staff.*

THANK YOU

**We understand that these are
very unusual circumstances
and difficult times for many
people both emotionally and
financially.**

**Thank you to our parishioners
who have been continuing
to send in their thanksgiving
envelopes. If you would
like to continue supporting
our parish you might like
to consider changing your
contributions to EFT,
direct debit or credit card
deductions. Please contact the
parish office to organise this.**

Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close

Jesus tells the parable of the sower whose grain fell on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns and finally on good soil where it thrived. It was only the last lot of seeds that survived, but they were all part of the one sowing. Jesus was alluding to the success (or not) of his message; but we can read it as a metaphor for our faith journey, which goes through all the experiences mentioned above – bad times and good. Sometimes our spiritual experience gets swallowed up by our consuming worldly interests, sometimes it can feel shallow and dry, at other times it gets choked by all the negativity in life and then there are the times when it thrives. All these experiences are a real part of our faith life and the fertile moments help us to weather the rest.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A newcomer to a city known for its wind and rain arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young child and, out of despair, asks, 'Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?' To which the child replies, 'How should I know? I'm only six.'

With the three readings we have just heard, we could easily celebrate Environment Sunday today. Rain, snow, seeds, sowers, fertile soil and a labouring creation giving birth to the fruits of the Spirit, are all rich ground upon which we can reflect on the importance of our earth's ecology.

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit.

If this means we must limit our consumption, change our priorities in regard to energy and trade and show the third world the way in developing eco-friendly industries, then all the better for us. Most of us know that we cannot keep going

as we are, with ever increasing unsustainable demands on our planet. There is no point any of us crying over the demise of our environment in the future, if we are doing nothing to help it now.

Every small thing we do from being conscious of the issues, to recycling and using our cars less, is not unimportant. Some of us are in positions to do a lot more than these things as well and we should take our Christian responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

One creative reading of today's Gospel is that it parallels how we can respond to the news of the degradation of the environment.

For some of us the facts and figures about the planet's ecosystem fall on rocky ground. We are not receptive to hearing anything that might demand a change in our lifestyle or a lessening of our comfort.

For others of us, recent debates fall among the thorns. Competing with other issues for our attention and action, the plight of the earth is not able to take root in our consciousness or sympathies. We think it can all wait for another generation who will have the ability to fix the problems then.

For some of us, however, recent surveys and our own sense of environmental changes means that what experts are saying falls on fertile soil. We want to do whatever we can to see that the earth continues to bear fruit for as many generations as God intends.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with the importance of our relationships to the earth. In the book of Genesis humanity is told to care for and subdue the earth, not wreck it. We cannot be irresponsible about the world's finite resources in the hope that we will find solutions in the future. Avarice is not one of the seven deadly sins for nothing.

We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 64: THE SEED THAT FALLS

Psalm 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

Response: *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

Response

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

Response

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

Response

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Response

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of



heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

‘But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.’

**THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF PORT MELBOURNE AND MIDDLE PARK
IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE AND NURTURING CULTURE
FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH.**