



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.*

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

18 October 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

This Sunday is the 29th Sunday of the Year and we are winding down to the close of this liturgical year and looking to the new one beginning on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

My guess is that most of us will be glad to see the end of 2020 with 2021 offering us new possibilities born of hope.

Today (Wednesday) I met a new friend – a 9-week-old male Labrador pup called Arlo. His owner was trying to tire him out so that he would sleep while she did some work at home. I couldn't resist playing with him as he was totally carefree and inquisitive and had an energy that I can only barely recall once having myself. Think I might have even rolled in the grass and chewed sticks once upon a time but he was magnificent – totally open to exploring the world and just delighting being a pup.

Talking of nature, I was also watching a couple of birds frolic in the grass as well, and these two birds decided it was time to do a little mating. Well, as I watched, the boy bird got on top of the girl bird for about 3 seconds. He then jumped off and the girl bird shook her feathers and with a hang-dog expression looked at me and seemed to say – "Was that it?" I said "Don't ask me, darling! What would I know!" The dandelions are beautiful in the lawn, though Steve is coming tomorrow and he will mow them all down. But being dandelions, they will spring up again as if nothing has happened and the world will be back to a splash of yellow amid the green. Isn't God's creation marvellous?

I've also found that the dandelions attract the bees who mind their own business as they go about their business of collecting pollen and pollinating other plants as they weave back and forth between whatever is on offer. I wonder where

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 (non COVID times)

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE THE PARISH OFFICE

Given the change in circumstances due to Stage 4 restrictions, the Parish Office will **NOT** be opened at all until the end of the **"state of disaster"**.

This means that no-one will answer phones and emails as regularly however, in a genuine emergency, please ring me on

0408 754 283

If I can't answer at the time, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

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 and leave a message.

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Baby Luca, Thecla Broderick, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Frances Farrugia, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakov, Jim Power, Rafal Rafalski, Andrew Ratel, Michael Ristevski, 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: Vincenzina Ierardo, Les Mowat and Carmelite, Hilarion Byrne.

IN OUR PARISH

the bees go at night? To a hive I presume; but wouldn't it be exciting to pin a tiny, tiny camera on them and follow them on their journey and see where they live?

I suppose you'll all think I'm going loopy and perhaps that is so, but don't tell me that God's creation isn't stupendous!

We are a part of that creation and that is something wonderful to behold.

Stay safe, stay masked and stay alert – we might, just might, be able to get a haircut soon!

Blessings and peace.



A CARMELITE REFLECTION

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

**"Render unto Caesar,
the things that are Caesar's – and unto God,
the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21)**

Some people get caught in a "scissors" situation: whichever way they move, they are in trouble.

Jesus is meant to be in this entrapment state in today's Gospel – with the Herodians on one side and the Pharisees on the other. These two groups were normally deadly enemies, but now combined for a common purpose – to "get" the Galilean.

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.

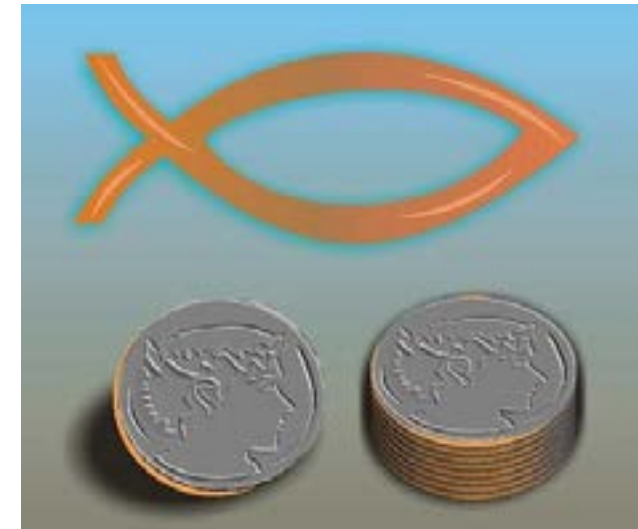
THANK YOU

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

In the parables of the last few weeks Jesus has been critical of the established order, but the establishment tries to get its own back in this week's gospel: some Pharisees try to entrap Jesus in dangerous word play about money and power. Jesus turns the tables on them by taking the argument from the hypothetical to the practical. He uses a real coin to make a concrete and sensible point about relative values. He is both wise and street-smart in his rebuttal, which serves to unmask the hypocrisy of a corrupt hierarchy.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

There are people inside and outside the Church who think that Christ did not give the Church a mandate to speak about political matters. They regularly quote the Gospel we have just heard to support their case. But if one knows and understands the context and meaning within which this text was written it provides no ammunition for those who want the Church to stay indoors, reflect on things 'spiritual', preach the eternal verities, and sing hymns more ancient than modern.

Herod was a puppet paid by the Romans, to give the natives the impression that their kings continued to reign. The Romans allowed this charade – as long as they got their taxes.

The pharisees hated the Romans, as did the people, and greatly resented their taxes. God was their King and the Temple taxes (tithes) were all they should pay.

The crowd watch as Jesus faces his foes and their question ... "Should we pay taxes to Caesar? – and await the answer – "Yes" or "No".

If "No" – Treason, arrest, loss of life

If "Yes" – Dismay ... a sense of betrayal, loss of the people.

We have heard how the young David demolished Goliath and the Philistines with a sling-shot and stone. Jesus uses a coin and a question – and left his foes floundering, speechless.

Let's reflect on this coin – a Roman coin, and like all such with an image of the head of the Emperor, and his title "Divus" i.e. Son of God.

Holy Scripture tells us that, like the coin, we have the image of God in us. The very first book of the Bible says that God has created us in his "own image and likeness". We have this tattooed on our souls. We are God's beloved children.

Later Scripture repeats this... "Shall a woman forget the child of her womb? Even so, I shall not forget you – behold, you are carved as an image on the palm of my hand.

Jesus' life, passion and death confirms this love of the Father for each of us. So this love, proven by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, should be the joy of our lives., and reflected in the way we live:

***"Behold a treasure,
Not made of gold –
In earthen vessels
Wealth untold"***



In Jesus' day, we know that some people thought he was a Zealot. Zealots were a well-organised group who agitated for the end of the Roman occupation of Israel. One of the things Zealots did was withhold paying the Roman taxes. We can see why some people thought Jesus may have been a Zealot. He took the part of the poor, the sick, women and those who lived on the fringes of society. He attacked the religious authorities of his day and certainly stirred up trouble in many places he went. On the other hand he rejected violence, taught his followers to pray for their enemies and to return good for evil. Jesus showed us that the justice and equality God longs to see in the world comes from a community which is converted by love, not by weapons, fear or revenge. Jesus was no Zealot.

Rather than undermine civil authority, however, Jesus, in this passage, supports it. But he does more. 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's' is followed by 'And give to God, what is God's', which encompasses all the Caesars of this world, all civil authorities and states. The sense that we as the People of God can split off our obligations to the Gospel from the State is as false as it's dangerous.

We only have to think of some of the darkest chapters last century to see what happens when good, church-going people, like us, do not put their Sunday devotion in touch with their Monday politics. Evil can reign.

Christian leaders, who are charged to proclaim and defend the Gospel, are obliged to use whatever forum necessary to declare that God's personal love encompasses everyone and everything under heaven. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us today, God calls each one of us by name.

At times we may not agree with our religious leaders; we may think them ill informed; we may even think they have overstepped the mark. If this is the case we should tell them, enable them to consider other perspectives and to broaden the basis upon which they make their judgments. But we should never be seduced by those who want the Church sidelined from the mainstream of the debates that shape the way we live, the values we share, the laws we draft and the priorities we draw up for our human community.

If the Church shows disinterest in any of this, it is untrue to the very things for which Jesus lived, died and was raised from the dead. By all means we should give to Caesar all that Caesar is justly entitled to have for the sake of the common good. A higher allegiance, however, goes to God, who will call all Caesars to account for what they have done and what they failed to do. And we might be asked to explain how we let them get away with it in the first place.

© Richard Leonard SJ

READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1.4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM: 95: GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND HONOUR

Psalm 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

Response: Give the Lord Glory and Honour.

Verses over page

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Response

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

Response

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Response

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Response

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

**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.**