



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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 22 November 2020

At the end of our Liturgical year, the Church invites us to reflect on the image of Jesus Christ, our king. At a time when kings ruled in many countries, the relationship between king and citizens was one of servitude. The king owned, not only the land of his kingdom, but also the people on the land. By declaring that Jesus Christ is our king, we accept to enter into this same relationship with Jesus. Jesus is our Lord; we belong to him. On the day of our Baptism, we are sealed, branded with the mark of Jesus Christ, so that, forever, we belong to his flock.

Paul reminds us what this following of Jesus implies; he is the first one to rise from the dead into the eternal glory. We, members of his body and sheep of his sheepfold, will also participate like him, in his glorious resurrection.

The People God Calls Blessed

If I'm reading it right*
the people God calls blessed
are the ones who feed the hungry
welcome the stranger
befriend those in trouble
care for those in pain.

Not a word about
who or what they do or don't believe in,
only a description of how they live their lives.

So I ask a blessing, God,
on my friends who cannot or do not believe in you.
A blessing that they are not expecting
yet one which they will recognise.
A blessing of joy, integrity and justice,
a blessing of love and life.

**Matthew 25:34-46*

Ruth Burgess, Candles and Conifers, Compilation © 2007 Ruth Burgess Wild Goose Publications

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

**Eventhough there has been some easing of restrictions,
the Parish Office will NOT be opened to the public
until further notice.**

**The directive from the Archdiocese of Melbourne
is that all staff must work from home if possible.**

**We anticipate that there will be new guidelines from
the Archdiocese from 23 November.**

**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, Carl McCarthy, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Andrew Ratel, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Jane Spiteri, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Des Reardon, and all those affected by COVID_ 19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about
this time:** Carmelite, Thomas Kelly and Peter Davies.

IN OUR PARISH



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

"Vinnies are offering its Christmas cards again this year to all our parishioners who would like to purchase them. The cost is \$2.50 for a pack of 5 cards. If you are interested please contact Kathy Mount on 0437 588 855".

Working Bee St Joseph's

10.00am Thursday 3rd December

We would ask those who attend to bring such items as gloves, shovels, picks, garden forks and rakes.

Tea, coffee, water, and pleasant company provided.

THE CARMELITE CENTRE

**Saint John of The Cross: The Poetry Of Prayer
with Matthew Tonini OCarm,
10:30Am - 12:00 Midday Wed 2 December
(Via Zoom)**

The feast day of John of the Cross is celebrated on 14 December. For many years the Carmelite Centre has invited Fr Michael Brundell OCarm to delight and inspire us as he shared his wealth of knowledge on this great Carmelite saint. Early in 2020 Fr Michael moved his residence to Mary MacKillop Aged Care in Hawthorn East. We will continue to hold him in our prayer.

Br Matthew Tonini OCarm has kindly agreed to facilitate this last conversation for the year on St John of the Cross, the poetry of prayer. More detailed information will be available closer to the date.

Please book via the Carmelite Centre and pay \$5 (or your donation amount) through a bank transfer or the donation page. Thank you for helping us continue our work. Give to us so we can continue to give to you.

We hope to bring you a Carmelite Conversations program in 2021. Information will be available on the website early in the new year. Thank you for your support and interest.

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

Humility and charity figure largely as prerequisites for entry into Christ's Kingdom in this week's gospel reading. The chosen few might be surprised, since their humility and charity are habitual – so much part of their everyday living that they seem nothing special. 'Yes,' they will say, 'of course I welcomed and fed that stranger – wouldn't anyone?' But the answer is of course no. There are still starving and homeless people in our world reminding us that we have a long way to go before selfless care for others is a matter of course.



The Roman Emperor Constantine was baptised in 337. He put it off for years. In the early Church Christians could only confess their sins once in their lives, so Constantine remained a catechumen until he was nearing the end. When he thought his death was imminent, and that he could probably sin no more, he asked for baptism, received Holy Communion and later confessed his sins. It was a watershed moment for the Church.

In 313 Constantine declared that Christianity was to be the new state religion. No one could hold any other belief. It was meant to unify the Empire as trade, law, taxation and Roman culture had done. I think we should admit that this move has been a mixed blessing for the Church ever since.

On the positive side of the ledger it finally sealed the end of the persecution of the earliest Christians. The blood of the martyrs had been so eloquent that their witness caused even a few emperors to ask what sort of love would see so many followers be prepared to die for their beliefs. It also saw the Church become a significant player in shaping the values of society, especially in the West. There is no question that Christianity moderated, cultivated and humanised some of the worst Roman excesses.

On the cost side, the Church became very powerful very quickly. Bishops started to wear the purple robes of the senators. Churches took on the shape of the Roman basilicas, while the government of the Church mirrored that of the Empire. Our liturgy imported all sorts of practices that were popular in the Roman temples. Tragically, for the next few hundred years, conversions were demanded at the end of a sword. No religious dissent or pluralism was tolerated. It's in this context that Islam arises against Imperial Christianity in the 6th Century.

It cannot surprise us that after Constantine's conversion the image of Christ the King becomes one of the most popular ones used in religious art. Up to this time the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was the most represented. After 313, however, Jesus is dressed in royal robes, with a crown, sceptre and orb. Mary is often presented in similar dress and starts to be called the Queen of Heaven.

The problem with all this is not that imperial language was now being used in reference to Jesus. He described himself as a King. The problem comes in how Christianity starts to forget that Jesus also pointed out that his kingdom was 'not of this world' and that his courtiers could be recognised by how they feed the hungry, water the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick

and visit prisoners. Jesus' reign, and his courtiers, are of an altogether different order to that usually prized in worldly kingdoms.

That's why today's feast is so important. On the last day of the Church's year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true allegiance to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but the quiet revolutionary work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live.

To the degree that we do this we are co-heirs to the Kingdom Jesus lived, died and was raised for, and we are witnesses to the real meaning of Christ's reign in our lives.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM: 22: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Ps 22:1-3. 5-6. R. v.1

**Response: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Response

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

Response

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Response

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Response

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46



Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the

King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

**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.**