



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.*

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

26 July 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Greetings to you all and hope that you are managing okay. With this email you'll find a reflection on this Sunday's Gospel and also a wonderful poem sent to me by James Mendes on behalf of the OLMC Divine Mercy Group and dedicated to Fr Pat. A big thank you to James for sending it on. Have a good week in the Lord.

A CARMELITE REFLECTION - 17TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-52

A man who liked to celebrate a lot with his mates wrote his own epitaph for the slab over his grave: "This one is on me".

In the first reading we hear about Solomon, and so we could guess what he would have carved on his headstone

Then we have 3 parables in the Gospel as Jesus continues to teach "the Kingdom of God".

The scholars tell us that the term "Kingdom of God" occurs about 100 times in the Gospels – so it must be the main focus of Jesus' preaching It is in the "Our Father" ("Thy kingdom come," followed by "Thy will be done").

Very recently, in Melbourne, an elderly couple, living in the outer suburbs, won \$80 million dollars! The Gospel speaks of the "Pearl of Great Price" and the "Treasure hidden in the field."

Each of the above would be an immense bonanza, and a ticket to high life and happiness.

But the Kingdom Jesus speaks of "is not of this world", but it is ETERNAL joy - to an extent beyond our imagination ("Eye has not seen, or ear heard, nor could the mind of humans ever measure the extent that will be revealed in YOU (1 Corinthians 2:9).

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, 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: Fr Pat (Leo)
Harney, OCarm., all those affected by COVID_19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about
this time:** Kevin Mahony & Carmelite, Frank Shortis.

IN OUR PARISH

This thought should be the focus for any follower of
Christ – and should be the source of one's epitaph.

"Thy Kingdom come" should be the engine of our
life of faith.

"Thy will be done" should be the agenda of our
journey in faith ... the holy Scriptures spells out
what that means:

*"This is what the Lord asks of you, only this:
to act justly
to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)*

Andiamo! On our way! Let's go!



IF YOU SEE FR PAT IN HEAVEN

He won't be hard to find.

*He'll be the one to greet you first,
For he's a one-of-a-kind.*

*He'll be the one with the softest voice,
Standing tall, head high upheld,
Or he's probably in God's beautiful Garden,
with a shovel in his hand*

As he was in the Carmelite garden.

*He'll be watching the pretty hummingbirds,
A warm smile upon his face,
And as he leaves to go about, he'll
Be walking with strength and grace.*

*He'll sit among the story tellers,
For that's what he does best.
He will tell about his life on earth
Before he was called to rest.*

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.**

*He's with his Mom and Dad now,
Embracing them tenderly.
Never no longer to miss them or
Wonder where they might be.*

*He may be playing with the children,
And there sits one upon his knee
Laughing and singing the games of fun,
Clapping hands so joyfully.*

*Now if you haven't found Fr. Pat yet,
He's probably kneeling by the throne,
Surrounded by God's angels,
Praying for his loved ones below*

And saying The Divine Mercy for us all here Carmelites.

*He wasn't famous in this world
Nor did any worldly heroic deeds.
He was a strong, pious man,
Ever ready to say the morning mass at OLMC
even in cold conditions he faithfully turned up.
Ever ready to hear confessions no matter what day or time.*

*For you see, Fr Pat was our hero,
Bigger than big to us.
He taught us all what we should know
about the love God has for us.*

*So if you see Fr. Pat in heaven,
Tell him we are doing fine.
Let him know how much we really miss him,
And we think of him most of the time
and how he asked about our family members.*

*You know he was our hero,
So will you give him a big hug or two?
Tell him how much we love him and
We will be seeing him someday soon.*

From the OLMC Divine Mercy Group

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

After being nearly snowbound for two weeks, a Seattle man departed for his vacation in Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day at the conclusion of her business trip to Minneapolis. They were looking forward to pleasant weather and a nice time together. Unfortunately, there was some sort of mix up at the boarding gate, and the man was told he would have to wait for a later flight. He tried to appeal to a supervisor but was told the airline was not responsible for the problem and it would do no good to complain.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle's was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an e-mail, but due to his haste, he made an error in the e-mail address.

His message therefore arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's wife whose even older husband had died only the day before.

When the grieving widow opened her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream, and fell to the floor dead. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:

**Dearest wife,
Departed yesterday as you know.
Just now got checked in.
Some confusion at the gate.
Appeal was denied.
Received confirmation of your arrival tomorrow.
Your loving husband.
P.S. Things are not as we thought.
You're going to be surprised at how hot it is down here.**

Old-time missionaries used to have a field day with today's gospel, or at least with part of it. While they may have liked the passages that suggested that heaven was like a treasure in a field or like a pearl of great price, they told us that hell was a furnace of fire where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some of those preachers seemed to know an awful lot about hell! It's as though they were travel writers who had visited the place several times just to warn us about what to expect when we got there. And do you remember how easy it was to get in? Many of us thought we had a first class ticket in our pocket most of the time.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5. 7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 118: LORD, I LOVE YOUR COMMANDS

Psalm 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

Response: ***Lord, I love your commands.***

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **Response**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **Response**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **Response**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **Response**

Once, during a parish mission, where the visiting priest had given us an excruciatingly detailed description of hell, he told us, 'You could be dipping your hand in the holy water font as you leave the Church tonight and be struck down dead and sent to hell for eternity!' At the end of that session my cousin stood by the holy water font and watched everyone else dip their hand in, saying as they did, 'After you, after you.' She wasn't taking any chances!

All this is not to underestimate the reality of hell. If we believe in heaven and free will, it has to be logically true that hell exists and that, consistent with some people's free, knowing and serious rejection of God and of love all their lives, these choices will destine decisions made for, and by, them in the next world as well.

There are two major differences, however, between how we used to speak about heaven and hell and what we say now. Just as we know the treasure hidden in the field or the pearl of great price are metaphors for heaven, rich and wonderful ones at that, they remain images that enable us to grasp an unimaginable concept. So it is with hell. How can we imagine life without love and God? We have learnt that our guidebook regarding hell needs to be more circumscribed about what that destination or state of being holds. All we can confidently say is that hell is non-God.

The second change is that we are more careful about being so confident in regard to who is going there. Jesus tells us that God wants all humanity to be saved. We can't take that seriously and then have people slip into hell for a small infringement of the rules.

If we read today's Gospel in a different way it can be a commentary on what God has done for us. Humanity can be seen as the treasure in the field that God has sold everything to own. We are the pearl of great price that God has moved heaven and earth to possess and we are the fish caught up in the net of God's love. Our God is the one who became one like us, in Jesus the Lord, so that we might know, love and serve him. That's what today's Gospel is all about.

Jesus reminds his disciples that in glimpsing the things of heaven they have to be like the master of a household. That's a rich image. In Jesus' day such a person would have provided protection, love, security and justice for all.

God has given us free will and treasures, both new and old, to help us protect each other, love each other, feel secure in the truth and act justly. But we need to know that the choices we make in regard to these things have implications for how we live now and in the life to come.

© **Richard Leonard SJ**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



**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.**