



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.*

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

27 September 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

MIGRANT SUNDAY

Today is Migrant Sunday and it brings with it a reminder of all those people who have come to Australia via immigration programmes. It's also a reminder that there are people still in detention centres, sometimes for years, who have been interned because they came through irregular channels.

One of the beauties of Australia is its multi-cultural mix – we are so fortunate to have a huge array of backgrounds and peoples. In fact, if we hadn't had so much intake of other nationals, we would be the poorer for it.

Let's also remember the First Nations Peoples of Australia who have often been the victims of our changing circumstances and struggle still for full acknowledgment of their status within this nation.

Let us pray for a country of many shades and histories and stories and let us pray for our country.

Thank you to Jina for her contribution to our parish collection of reflections and stories. What an interesting read.

CARMELITE REFLECTION

26TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

2ND READING – ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

About two thousand years ago, Julius Caesar set out from Rome to subdue the Gauls. When he returned after his conquest, of present-day France, he summed up his campaign in three words: Veni, Vidi, Vici (I came, I saw, I conquered!)

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 Poliakova, 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: Sr Lois Young, pbvm, and all those who and all those affected by COVID_ 19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelites, John Cogan and Albert Groenveld.

IN OUR PARISH

St Paul, writing to the Christian community of Philippi, condensed the life of Jesus into three words: He emptied himself. For Paul, Jesus was the utterly selfless man.

Why is Paul writing this letter? He has heard that problems had developed in the group due to jealousy, rivalry and ambition – so they were losing their way on the journey of Faith ... a fraction too much friction, as we might say today.

He reminds them, "Let there be no competition among you ... no conceit, but everyone self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself ... Then Paul really hit his stride as he penned the following inspired words about Jesus, their model:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

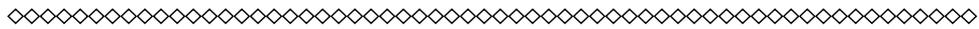
We understand that these are very unusual circumstances and difficult times for many people both emotionally and financially.

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.

"in your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus" Paul made a heroic effort to be like him ... For Paul, Jesus is the man for others. His converts, and all of us must strive to reflect in our lives the mindset of Jesus.

As we grind through this lockdown, maybe we could pray for patience. It comes from the Latin word, "patire" to suffer.

Blessings.



Our Angel Liberty - Reflection by Jina Mulligan

I am sitting here surrounded by my three beautiful new books, a generous gift that arrived via Australia Post.

One of the books is Victor Hugo's *Satan and His Daughter, The Angel Liberty*. Hugo wrote the words to this fascinating fable during the time he was in exile. The book contains illustrations by Odilon Redon.



Hugo takes us, through his words with the *Angel Liberty* from the darkness of the abyss into the light, and then more light still.

One of Redon's pics is a figure, boldly illuminated.

At our house, recently we changed the lighting in several of the rooms. A single somber pendant became multiple LED's. We can now see to read in every corner of the spaces. The light is abundant and accessible.

The new lights inspired us to take a step further and re-paint the ceilings and the walls. They are now a bright, spanking white.

During that somewhat chaotic exercise, we retrieved our computer from under the festoons of protective plastic and set it up on the dining room table. It is there that we joined in with Father Pat's Mass.

Momentarily, we wonder if we will ever return to the church, as building. After all, we have mass online. We have our personal prayer, our meditation and our contemplation. We can log on and log in, at will.

In my mind's eye, I am sitting in the church, as building. Along with the usual suspects, waiting for daily mass to begin.

I glance across to the other side of the church and see Father Pat, showing up.

A beam of crimson tinged light emerges and then falls from the high window. The noble fed shower encrusts him in a sacred radiance, as he takes the step, with ease. The light then wobbles in ardour over the vacant pews and subsides.

Houston Smith suggests to us that light stands outside the matrices of space, time and matter and that maybe, light is a metaphor for God's creative activity in the world.

It is further suggested that if we care to, we may be able to look from an inner place to one further within, whereupon the universe redefines itself and peoples itself anew.

When the doors, of the building of the church, are finally unlocked, I suspect that our *Angel Liberty* will be there. Encrusted in the beam of crimson tinged light that gathers with spunk from the far off horizon to settle, before falling from the high window.

He will be encouraging us, as he has done for ninety nine years, four months and beyond, to simply, show up.

Here, right now at our temporary work station, light is refracted through a bead of moisture that has collected on our window pane. A rainbow splashes across the floorboards and moves across our brand new painted wall.

The hues are intoxicating.

They are truly, truly splendid.

I glance back to Redon's image.

'Light. And then more light still.'

The imposing, outlined figure appears to be defining itself even more. It seems to be emerging further, with surety, from the background selvage of darkness.

I will return again and again to Hugo's words and Redon's images. I imagine each time they will offer some pepped up challenge. Some new quest to entice me deeper and deeper into the sacred wonder of the emerging light.

How comforting it is, here in the glow of the brand new radiance, to recall our *Angel Liberty*.

Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close

Conversion is depicted as a change of mind in the parable of the two sons. At first one son refused to work, then he 'changed his mind' or 'thought better of it'. This story confirms that repentant sinners are more welcome in the kingdom of God than those who profess their faith with their lips but not with their deeds. Matthew is restating the notion (see last week's gospel) that 'the last will be first, and the first will be last'.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A young priest was sent by his bishop to a parish that had a 'red light district' within its boundaries. On his first day in the parish a nun, who had worked in the area for many years, took him on a tour of her beat, the area where all the women-in-prostitution were plying their trade. As they went along Sister introduced the priest to her friends Bubbles, Ginger and Calamity Jane. 'Sister it's fantastic that you know these women so well', he said. 'Don't worry', replied Sister, 'you'll know them in no time as well, and they'll know you by name too.'

Seized by panic, the young priest had visions of the bishop, the parish priest or, worse still, his mother coming to visit and walking with him down the street as

Bubbles, Ginger and Calamity Jane all wave and call out across the road, 'Hello Father'. Who would ever believe he only knew them pastorally?

'Truly I tell you that prostitutes and tax collectors are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God.'

The preaching of Jesus attracted all sorts of people who lived at the fringes of, or were oppressed by, Palestinian society. Jesus' message was especially attractive to them. Tensions among the huge variety of Jesus' disciples, between the rich and the poor, men and women, the Jews and Gentiles, the socially respectable and those with outrageous backgrounds continued after his death throughout the next decades, during which the Gospels were written.

It's hard for us to imagine what a diverse and scandalous group in many respects, the first fathers and mothers of our faith were seen to be. Imagine, if you will, the fuss that would still be created if the local bishop was seen constantly dining with women in prostitution, drug dealers or known terrorists. People would be outraged, but the bishop would be doing nothing short of following Jesus' example. This situation gives us a little insight into how affronted the Chief Priests and Pharisees were by Jesus and, in turn, by his disciples' behaviour.

For Jesus there was never a lost case, or a person beyond help. He didn't just spend time with the poor and broken of his society, but offered them a new way of life, an opportunity to start again and redemption from their destructive behaviour. He went to where they were, as they were. And we do the same because this is precisely what God has done for us. God didn't wait for us to 'talk the talk' before we could 'walk his walk'. Jesus came to us when we were religiously dumb and immobile and showed us how to speak, what to say and where to walk.

The Christian walk and talk is meant to have a profound impact on our daily lives, our concerns, our priorities and compassion. So much so that if, over a period of time, what we celebrate here each Sunday makes no inroads into our family life and workplace, our professional life, our business practices and our relationships, then we should ask ourselves what we are doing here.

And, what's worse, we could even miss the on-going revelation of Christ's presence in the poor, weak and vulnerable of our own society. We constantly look for Christ in the spectacular and the wonderful and he comes to us in the least of our brothers and sisters.

May this Eucharist give us the strength to not only 'look good', but to 'be good', to start over if we need to, and do our best to live out the faith we profess. May it strengthen us to find the Lord where he is, and not keep looking in the places where we would prefer him to be.

© Richard Leonard SJ

READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM: 24: REMEMBER YOUR MERCIES, O LORD

Psalm 24:4-9. R. v.6

Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **Response**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **Response**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **Response**

SECOND READING

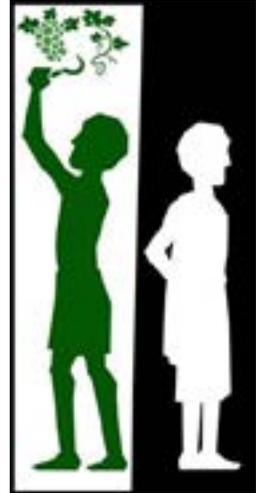
Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' The first they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



**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.**