



# 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.*

**22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**30 August 2020**

My Dear Parishioners,

By the time I get to the newsletter I am running out of things to say, so this week I have been saved by Sandra Nicholson, who has kindly provided us with a reflection.

The City of Port Phillip are extending an invitation to the Seniors (that includes me) in our community to get involved with the Annual Seniors Festival which runs in October. Click [HERE](https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/seniors/seniors-festival) to visit the website or go to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/seniors/seniors-festival>

## **Carmelite Justice Peace and Integrity Commission of Creation**

I am also including the link to the Carmelite JPIC September Newsletter which is up on our website. Please go to our homepage on the website and then to the Downloads Tab to find the JPIC link.

### **A note from the JPIC Team**

*The first day of Spring is coming up and the Season of Creation is upon us, commencing with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on Tuesday 1st September.*

*This month is the time we give our attention to our planet Earth; to marvel at God's creation and to wonder and ask ourselves how we can Care for our Common Home.*

*Peter Thomas invites us through his reflection to give some thought to our planet's early beginnings and down through the ages.*

*Your Carmelite JPIC Team*

**Peter, Agedo, Paul, Josh and Gabrielle**

***"Let us be renewed by God's mercy ... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make just and peace flourish."*** Pope Francis

**Have a safe and happy week.**

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**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](mailto:parish@sj-mc.org.au)

Parish Website [www.sj-mc.org.au](http://www.sj-mc.org.au)

Carmelite Website  
[www.carmelites.org.au](http://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](mailto: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, Kevin, Brodie, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Frances Farrugia, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Charles Portelli, Jim Power, 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:** John Gonzalez, Joan Keane, All those who and all those affected by COVID\_19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time:** Carmelite, Elias Magennis

## IN OUR PARISH

### **Reflection: Living history**

When future generations look back over this period of history, as they will, what will they say about the way in which we navigated our way through this pandemic? What lessons will they learn from the way we acted as individuals, a community, a State, a Nation and part of our Global Community? I hope they see the positivity, ingenuity, innovation and invention that these times have encouraged, facilitated and necessitated. Most importantly, I hope that we leave them better equipped to deal mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually with any major disruption to their normal lives.

As I was looking at some of my favourite art works in the NGV today (via computer of course), I came across a painting by Japanese artist Hokusai, which I believe visually encapsulates my feelings about this pandemic. The title of the painting is, The great wave of Kanagawa (1830-34). It was one of thirty-six views of Mt Fuji painted by Hokusai between 1830 and 1834. If you don't know the painting, some fishermen are out in their boats facing a turbulent sea and an enormous wave, which dominates the painting. Their boats are tossed about and I'm sure at times they wondered if they would conquer the waves and reach the shore safely or if the might of the sea would claim them. However, they face the wave head on and no doubt draw upon their experience to navigate their way through. In the background is Mt Fuji, sacred and solid and unaffected by the turbulence of the waves. Perhaps the solidity of Mt Fuji gave both comfort and courage to the fishermen. I've always loved this painting because to me it represents life. Mt Fuji is what is solid in our lives, our faith, the people we love, our values, and our kindness and compassion. The turbulence and giant wave are the difficulties we face, such as a lockdown during a pandemic. I know that we are being tested by yet another lockdown, without even the comfort of Communion, which we were only able to enjoy for 4 weeks!

## ARCHDIOCESE

**Archdiocesan Hotline for COVID-19**

*In light of changing advice and circumstances, please keep visiting this webpage: [www.cam.org.au](http://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](mailto: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.**

However, through the wonders of television, YouTube and several other platforms we can still connect to the Mass and Eucharist until we meet again inside our own Church.

Watching Mass on TV is not new but previously if I wanted to participate I had to be up and awake at 6am on Sunday! I certainly sat and watched Mass on TV but at that hour I doubt I fully participated. Now, thanks to technology, I can participate at any hour of the day. I can also enjoy Mass from around the Globe! During this pandemic I've joined masses in Melbourne, Sydney and various parts of Canada so far. I've even taken to scoring the Homilies! When I watch Mass from St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, I try to guess which Mitre the Archbishop will wear that day – he has quite a selection. I also noticed that the Archbishops and Pope also wore a vestment around their neck and I didn't know what it was so that sent me off to Google – after Mass of course. I now know it's a Pallium and it's bestowed by the Pope as a symbol of Papal authority. It has a fascinating history and is very symbolic so it was worth researching it.

If I look at all the things I've learned during the pandemic, that a very busy life would have precluded, I consider I'm very fortunate. My meetings are all on Zoom now, a technology I knew nothing about pre-lockdown and I can now list it as a skill on my resume. I can also attend meetings in my pyjamas – yeah! I've finally learned how to use my Apple TV after 5 years – I need it to access YouTube on my TV! That was another one of those gadgets I bought because I couldn't live another day without it but when I tried and failed to set it up in the five minutes I allocated to the task, I just forgot about it until I wanted to watch Mass on YouTube through my TV. I was amazed how easy it was to set up. I've obviously gained more patience recently.

After watching a cooking show on Zoom, I searched for and located my slow-cooker (another thing I'd never used), dusted it off and cooked a beautiful vegetable dhal in it and shared it with my neighbour who was so impressed she asked for the recipe. I'm now regularly taking cooking lessons on Zoom and my repertoire of dishes has expanded greatly.

I'm also reading some of the books I bought ages ago and hadn't got around to reading. I read a book about the writing of Dr Zhivago called *The Secrets We Kept* (Lisa Prescott). It was a great book and I knew I had *Dr Zhivago* (Boris Pasternak) so I read that next. Then I read a book about Nancy Wake called *Liberation* (Imogen Kealey) that led me to my copy of the Nancy Wake biography written by Peter FitzSimons. When the Galleries were open (for about 5 minutes) I managed to get out to Heide Gallery at Heidelberg to see the Joy Hester Exhibition. Of course, I had a biography of Joy Hester (Janine Burke) which I hadn't read and which I now have and passed on to the friend who came to the Exhibition with me. We also had tickets to go to the NGV last Friday. Sadly, that didn't happen!

Please stay healthy, safe and importantly be curious. There's a lot you can discover and achieve in your pyjamas in your own lounge room. **Sandra Nicholson**

## *God, Help Me To Grow*

God, help me to grow  
like a garden  
like a song  
like a tree.

Like a great tree  
like one of those great, old trees  
you meet sometimes and hug,  
wandering lost or enchanted  
in a deep, dark forest,  
in an empty field.

A great, old tree  
with roots that reach down to the heart,  
roots that reach down  
but break through the ground around the trunk and lift  
as if the earth can't contain the yearning.

A great, old tree  
with arms that shelter and shade  
and house such love.

A great, old tree  
with breaks and wounds and scars  
but dancing and clapping its hands  
like a beautiful old woman at a summer wedding.

A great, old tree  
still and centred  
drawing on the living warm core of God  
though left stripped of everything.

God, help me to grow  
like a garden  
like a song  
like a tree.

Like one of those great, old trees  
you meet sometimes  
in a crowded forest  
in an empty field....



*Neil Paynter, Acorns and Archangels*  
Compilation © 2009 Ruth Burgess Wild Goose Publications

### *Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close*

Jesus puts a challenge to his disciples that they should 'take up their cross and follow' him, but the flip side of this challenge is the promise of ease: 'take my yoke upon you, and learn from me . . . my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' (Mt 11:29-30). We are challenged to dance in the shadow of the cross – celebrating life and living it with courage. The tension between challenge and promise is an integral part of the Christian journey.



At the morning parade in Dachau on 22nd July 1943, six prisoners were found to have escaped. Retribution was swift and brutal. Randomly selected, 12 people were hanged. As the other prisoners watched their 12 fellow inmates gasp for breath, someone in the crowd cried out, 'Where is God?' Silence descended on the yard. The 12 bodies were now in spasm, jerking and struggling for breath. As everyone watched, the voice came again, this time more urgently, 'Where is God now?' 'My God', another voice yelled back, 'My God is hanging there.'

This sort of faith is what today's Gospel is all about. Christianity is the only world religion that holds that God took our flesh, suffered, died and was raised to life.

It is certainly true that we have domesticated the scandal of the cross, even to the point that, these days, it dangles from various parts of people's anatomies. I often wonder, had Jesus been electrocuted to death, whether we would have little golden chairs around our necks? But while we have tried to tame the reality of Jesus' tortured hours in Jerusalem, the reality of the cross in each of our lives cannot be so commercially soothed.

Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. We are not meant to be lovers of pain – just bearers of it.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world. This is easier said than done. When we suffer in our daily lives, thoughts of others rarely come to mind easily, but it can be consoling to keep our suffering in context and know that we are not facing it alone.

We are encouraged to see that suffering can be an opportunity to grow in love. If we understand our crosses as our particular schools of love, then we learn more about ourselves and God and are able to help others carry their crosses as well.

Carrying our cross, however, is not just about bearing physical, personal, sexual, spiritual or emotional pain; it can also be in the sharing of our gifts and talents, our love and compassion. In every gift there is a burden. Following Christ's example, we are called to share our gifts heroically with anyone in need, even to the end.

Some people complain these days that God is often presented as a big marshmallow, all sweet and soft. Today's Gospel shows the 'edge' involved in being a follower of Christ. I don't know of a more demanding vocation in our world than that of taking up the cross of being faithful, loving and selfless.

And while we are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we never do it alone. If we have the eyes to see it and the humility to accept it, Christ, literally, hangs in there with us every step of the way.

So let's recall the first cross from which we take comfort as we bear our own crosses. 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.' © **Richard Leonard SJ**

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

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### FIRST READING

#### *Jeremiah 20:7-9*

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;  
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,  
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl  
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me  
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,  
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,  
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,  
I could not bear it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM: 62 MY SOUL IS THIRSTING

#### *Psalm 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2*

**Response:** *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

**Verses:** O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. **Response**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise.

**Response**

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **Response**

For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. **Response**

### SECOND READING

#### *Romans 12:1-2*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

*Matthew 16:21-27*

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'



'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

**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.**