



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.*

5th Sunday of Easter

10 May 2020

Hi Everyone,

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHERS' DAY

A very happy Mothers' Day to all our mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, aunts, great aunts and all those women who provide care and support for others. I hope you have a marvellous day even if it's a bit different from the past.

A more humorous view of mothers was published in the Parish Newsletter of the Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish on 15 June, 2003. It might stir some memories.

"WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME"

My mother taught me about **RELIGION**, when she said, "You better pray that that stain will come out of the carpet." My mother taught me about **LOGIC**, when she said, "Because I said so, that's why." My mother taught me about **BEING PREPARED** when she said, "Make sure you have a clean handkerchief and wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me about **IRONY** when she said, "Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about." My mother taught me about **BEING A CONTORTIONIST** when she said, "Will you just look at that dirt on the back of your neck!" My mother taught me about **PATIENCE** when she said, "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about the **WEATHER** when she said, "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it." My mother taught me about **OVER-REACTING** when she said, "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times: Don't exaggerate."

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

Please ask permission of the sick person(s) before asking their name(s) be put on the list. We need to be sensitive to the fact that some people may not wish their names published.

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, John Bassett, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Helen Stanley, Helen Sullivan, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Nicola (Nic) Porreca, and those affected by COVID - 19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelites, John Scanlon, Robert Power and Noel Kierce.

IN OUR PARISH

My mother taught me about **BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION** when she said, "Stop acting like your father!" My mother taught me about **ENVY** when she said, "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about **ANTICIPATION** when she said, "Just wait until we get home." My mother taught me about **RECEIVING** when she said, "You are sure going to get it when you get home." My mother taught me about **ESP** when she said, "Put your jumper on; don't you think I know when you are cold?" My mother taught me about **HUMOUR** when she said, "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me about **BECOMING AN ADULT** when she said, "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up." My mother taught me about **WISDOM** when she said, "When you get to my age, you'll understand." My mother taught me about **OPTIMISM** when she said, "Eat up your crusts and your hair will grow curly." And my favourite; my mother taught me about **JUSTICE** when she said, "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

A REFLECTION ON PRAYER BY SANDRA NICHOLSON

COVID-19 is impacting on everyone and in very different ways and the personal experiences we take away from this period of our life will vary between individuals, depending on the level of the difficulties we've had to endure and our resilience. This view could just as easily apply to the way people live their daily lives. I was very fortunate to have a 35 year career where the majority of my daily work life was listening to

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.

other people's stories and how the experiences they had been exposed to during their life had shaped their values and the way they viewed the world. I saw that very bad things happened to very good people and people dealt with these bad situations in many different ways. Some fell under their burden, others rose like a phoenix above them.

As a Catholic, prayer has always been an important part of my life but the power of prayer wasn't something I really understood. I pray for myself, and others, when facing difficulties as well as in gratitude when things go well. Then one Sunday, in our weekly bulletin, I read the words of Father Richard Leonard SJ and it was as though a veil had been lifted and I began to understand how prayer works. The greatest gift God has given us is free will and with that gift comes responsibility and accountability. So we can't have free will when it suits us and then give the responsibility and accountability back to God when things aren't going so well in our lives. The value and power of prayer is in our acceptance to be responsive and receptive to life's challenges.

I have kept this Reflection from Father Richard Leonard SJ and read it often to stay grounded when life doesn't always go according to plan, such as now. This Reflection has helped me to remain positive during this time of great change in our world. It would be very easy to complain about all the things that I can't do at the moment, like have Saturday morning brunch with friends, a tradition of 22 years, but it's much better for my physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health to be responsive and receptive to the kindness of strangers and focus on all the many gifts this world we are part of gives us. Great things have already happened during the COVID-19 crises and we are seeing innovation and new ways of connecting with those we love and care about. Nothing replaces community being able to come together to celebrate, commiserate or mourn but at least through Zoom, YouTube and many other platforms we can still be part of our community. My prayer is that we will continue to be responsive and receptive to all the good things coming to us during this period and overcome the difficulties of the lockdown until we can once again safely come together as a community.

Stay well and joyful in the Lord.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

For many people 'going home', means a return to comfort and security.

In the best homes children are unafraid, they know that their home is a buffer against some harsh realities beyond the door. As adults we carry that desire for security into all the various homes in which we live.

When we reflect on our childhood homes many of us can say of it what Jesus says of himself. It was the first place almost all of us learnt about 'The Way'. The earliest Christians were called people of The Way. It's a rich image denoting that Christianity is not an idea, it's a way of living, a path to follow.

For better or worse one of the distinctive features of most of our homes is that it's also where we are told 'The Truth'. Sometimes that deflates our egos or means we hear things we would rather not listen to. But hopefully the comfort and love which accompanies this truth telling comes from the ease and care in the relationships at home. Our family doesn't pull any punches with the truth because they know us too well and love us too much.

Most adults also remember their childhood houses as lively. 'The Life' in our homes was about the buzz of children going to and from school, various friends calling in, the reign of organised chaos where space was claimed and a position defended. Minor dramas were never far away and life was lived to the full.

It's not by accident that the image of Jesus preparing us a house and being the Way, the Truth and the Life are put together in today's Gospel. In another part of John's gospel Jesus goes further in describing himself as our master builder, as our home and even our lodger. We are told to make a home in him as he makes a home in us. What a terrific image of the intimacy Christ wants to share with us, and we with him!

The best homes, however, do not just protect and keep their occupants safe for eternity. A home is a means to an end, which is to give us the stability and sanity we need to keep going out to the world beyond it. In the same way, our home of faith with Jesus enables us to keep going out to a sometimes hostile world and share with others the Way, the Truth and the Life that sustains us. In a world where 70% of all people have substandard housing and millions of displaced people have to create homes wherever they are, we have our work cut out for us.

The Way we follow is about justice, development and peace for all people everywhere and not just the select few who can build the biggest mansions on earth. We are invited to keep speaking the Truth even if that makes us unpopular or different or at odds with the majority. And we have to keep living the Life which sees that our greatest joy comes from human dignity being celebrated everywhere.

If all Christians lived out this Way, Truth and Life we would, by His grace, fulfil Jesus' extraordinary prophecy that we could do greater works than He did. Now that's a challenge to take with us into the coming week!

© Richard Leonard SJ

READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 32 LET YOUR MERCY BE ON US

Response: *Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

Response

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

Response

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Response

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'



Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.'

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?"
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'



**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.**