



THE CARMELITE

Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park
in the care of the Carmelites since 1882

We acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan, the traditional owners and custodians of this land. We pay our respects to them. May we walk gently here.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 October 2021

Hi Everyone,

THE THINGS YOU LEARN

Being a Sydney-sider who has converted to Melbournian after spending most of my life here, I find this lockdown particularly difficult. I think I might be echoing the sentiments of many of you! Nevertheless, I am always amazed at the things I continue to learn. Might I share some of them with you?

A NEW CHURCH?

Since we have been unable to gather together physically, we have had to find new ways of being church together. Many of us have discovered it through checking into regular televised Masses, and I know that there is division among us as to who gives the best homily – the Archbishop of Melbourne or Sydney?

We've also discovered Zoom, and isn't it a fabulous gift except when you have to spend several hours looking at a computer monitor and hoping that the internet connection stays stable. Nevertheless, it has opened doors to us that we never dreamed of before the pandemic.

Over the following months, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates a Plenary Council in line with Pope Francis' call for a Church where deep listening and discernment are crucial to addressing Australian Catholics' vast and complex questions.

I have to confess to a certain scepticism about it all, but that is my problem, not yours.

Whatever the outcome, I have a hope for a new (renewed?) Church which does more listening than speaking!

What are some of the dimensions of my own dreams?

- A Church that is inclusive, not exclusive. By this, I mean a Church where everyone is welcome – I don't care about the colour of someone's skin, their ethnicity, their marital status, their sexual identity, their social status. What I do

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

Safeguarding Officer

Frances Correa

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205
Telephone 03 9699 2928

THIS WEEK

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 further notice.

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

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer:

Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Maria De Nittis, Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Gerard Friary, Ivy Hermence, Chris Kowalski, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Dennis Rohan, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Sarah Abdel-Said, Teresa Sheehan, Jane Spiteri, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelite, Francis Hynes.

IN OUR PARISH

care about is the fact that every one of us is a child of God, and we each possess a magnificent reflection of the image of God – never perfect, but always godly.

- A Church that is non-patriarchal. For too long, men have told the world what we have to do to get to God. Now for me, that's bulls@#t! When God created the human person, he did so as a community of Eve and Adam. He did not give Adam power over Eve; he created them in the image of God to be stewards, not exploiters, of creation and to work together.

- A Church that listens to the developments of the social sciences. In other words, we need a healthier and more authentic understanding of people in all their complexities, frailties, stories, gifts:

I learned recently that the best gift parents can leave their children is not money or possessions; instead, it's a STORY – a story of how they loved their children, they cherished them, they made mistakes, they hoped for the very best for their children, and they learned to let their children go to become their very own persons.

- A Church that knows it is as guilty of structural and personal sin as some of the most evil societies in the world, yet is humble enough to admit it and learn from it and change any practices that continue to inflict harm.

- A Church that celebrates all the Sacraments with a joy and a sense of welcome that mirror the welcoming of God – that we are all one people and that God never plays the favourite because we are ALL God's favourites!

- A Church that dares to call out evil in our midst. The horrendous toll on human life taken

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 by phone and leave a message or email to organise this.

by sadistic regimes, civil or even corporate, needs to be called what it truly is, and that is SINFUL. But a Church that never identifies itself with any one political elite and does not put its faith in false "Messiahs."

- A Church that continues to remember that all Creation is a gift to be cherished, nurtured and allowed to flourish and every single person has a responsibility to do precisely that.

- A Church that never forgets the story of the Good Samaritan that tells us that Jesus ministered to the poor, the broken, the disenfranchised, the despised – he touched them with his hands as well as his words.

Thank goodness for the power to dream! What are your dreams?

Blessings, peace and laughter.



OUR PARISH NEWS

Greetings Pudding Makers,

It seems that time of the year has rolled around again and here we are in exactly the same situation as we were last year. Conscious that Christmas will come again regardless of the trials and tribulations that we have faced, I am happy to offer again the option of a "Make your own Christmas Pudding" kit.



If this idea is of interest to you please let me know. When I have an idea of numbers I will let you know payment and pickup details. The price will stay the same at \$50 and I'll aim for the Cup weekend to have the kits ready. Feel free to pass on this invitation to anyone you know who may be interested.

Hoping you have all survived these last months in reasonable spirits.

Best wishes , *Sally*

Please Support our Parish Food Cupboard if you are able...

Our Food Cupboard on the wall outside the Parish Office in Rouse Street is in constant need of non-perishable food and household items such as:

- 50 gm jars of coffee and boxes of 50 tea bags;
- Cans of soups, fruits, fish, meals, baked beans and spaghetti;
- Packets of rice, pasta and sauces;
- long life milk;
- Toiletries, soaps, toothpaste and tooth brushes etc;

All items can be placed directly into the cupboard which is accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week. Thank you for your generosity as always.

Faiths 4 Climate Justice.....

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is calling on faith communities to be a moral voice calling on our Government to show courage and leadership. The UN recently ranked all 193 countries in terms of their action on the climate and **Australia came in 193rd** - dead last. ARRCC's aim is to mobilise faith communities to say that we need to do a lot better than this.

The coming Day of Action will be called Faiths 4 Climate Justice and will in fact be spread over two days - a Sunday and a Monday. The two days will be slightly different.

Sunday actions - at your place of worship on 17th October

ARRCC is asking places of worship to display a banner calling for climate action by the Federal Government.

We are planning to display relevant messages at both churches in our Parish during the next couple of weeks.

Monday actions - at your federal MP's office on October 18th

Monday actions will take place outside federal MP's offices.

The October Newsletter from the Carmelite Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission

The latest JPIC newsletter for October is now available to read on the Parish website. It contains a reflection by Carmelite Friar Anthony Scerri O.Carm who reflects on his vision for the emerging "Third Apostolic Church". You can locate it at www.sj-mc.org.au/downloads/JPIC.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Help Please?

We have a small favour to ask of you. One of our clients has placed a request for a second hand television. Does anyone

have a television in good working condition that they no longer require? We can arrange for pick-up. Please contact either Gerhard Correa on 0400 640 611 or Pat Mount on 0418 380 549.

THE CARMELITE CENTRE

**'Interior Castle Explored' by Ruth Burrows ocd, with Bernadette Micallef,
Wednesday 20 October, 10.30 to 12.00 noon via zoom**

With the feast day of Teresa of Avila in October, this month's Spiritual Reading Group will be on Ruth Burrows' book on Teresa's Interior Castle. This session will be in two parts each focusing on essential grounding for understanding Teresa: our call to 'become human' and grow toward union with God, and Ruth Burrows' insights into the difference between the essence of mystical encounter and the experienced effects. This clarification helps to make sense of Teresa's mystical experiences.

You are invited to read the chapter Fourth Mansion Part I which deals with some of the issues, concepts and common confusions about Teresa's writing. Ruth Burrows writes, in relations to the difference between essence and effect, "My conviction is that anything that can be described, given an account of, simply cannot be the mystical encounter in itself." It is the effects, not the essence, that can be described. "If we have faith, surely we know that God gives himself without measure and we can't attempt to gauge the depth of the giving by our totally inadequate plumb lines of sense (what we feel)." page 41

Please book via the Carmelite Centre (details below) Donation \$5.

Staying connected

We didn't get to meet in person in September and it seems unlikely in October also. However, our zoom groups continue with the weekly Tuesday Centering Prayer and Friday Lectio, and the monthly Carmelite Conversation and Spiritual Reading Group and the Eco-Spirituality Reading Circle.

Hope you can stay connected through these zoom opportunities, and make use of the on-line resources for some times of stillness and silence. [Available on Support page.]

As always we appreciate your support through donations to help us continue our work. Blessings to all!

The Carmelite Centre is a joint venture of the Carmelites of Australia and East Timor and our Parish of Port Melbourne/Middle Park.

Address: 214 Richardson Street, Middle Park Vic 3206 (Mel Ref 2K C10)

T: (03) 9690 5430 Website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

Carmelite Centre Program Bookings

T: 9690 5430 (leave message if unattended) or reregistration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org
via website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

PRAYERS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

*God of day and night, dusk and dawn,
sometimes we see only binaries.
Help us to notice the diversity of your people.*

*God of sea and sky, horizons and margins,
sometimes we yearn to stay safe in the centre.
Help us to go out to the edges of your community.*

*God of trees and flowers, bushes and shrubs,
sometimes we are determined to categorise.
Help us to move beyond easy words and assumptions.*

*God of sun and moon, stars and comets,
Sometimes we are stuck on the next big problem
or debate.
Help us to pay attention to the little niggles
of daily injustice and struggle.*

*God of hawks and dolphins,
of puffins and penguins,
sometimes we close our ears to new ideas.
Help us to come into dialogue with each-other,
hearing stories,
meeting other realities,
ready and willing to change our minds.
Amen*

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

John Calvin, one of the founding fathers of the Protestant Reformation, reacted against what he saw as medieval Catholicism's adherence to the sacramental law as a means to salvation. 'If you keep the law, the law will keep you.' He was right to condemn the preaching of some Catholic priests of his day. Calvin maintained that since time began God predestined those who, by faith, would be saved. Calvin argued that the rest of humanity would be lost. It was impossible to know for certain, Calvin argued, who was who. This was tough stuff!

Within a few years, however, his own congregation in Geneva wanted to know how anyone could be sure they were on the right path to salvation. Calvin's disciples taught that strict and right behaviour was an indication of who belonged to those elected by God to be saved. Not dancing, drinking, swearing or gambling, but working hard, saving one's money and the careful observance of the Ten Commandments became the benchmarks of the elect. Within a few generations of Calvin's death, it is easy to see that the observance of the strict, Protestant, moral code had replaced the seven Sacraments as the way of being assured of heaven.

The rich young man wanted to be assured of salvation too. He was a good man; an observant Jew and someone Jesus looked on with love. But he was hoping the law would save him. He wanted to be sure of gaining heaven by jumping through the right hoops, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Jesus doesn't reject the importance of faithful and good living, but he offers the young man a relationship that would make sense of the choices involved in following him. Without a loving relationship with God, who calls us to live the best life we can, the fulfilment of any law, civil or moral, is a tyranny. We do not believe in a tyrannical God.

We do believe, however, in a God who makes demands of us, who often challenges us in the places where we are most vulnerable. For the young man, his money was an obstacle. He could not embrace a relationship with Jesus because this would have placed in peril his wealth and the comfort that his many possessions afforded him.

For the earliest Christian community today's Gospel highlights serious issues on which people left their company: the role of the law in following Christ; the divide between rich and poor; the commitment demanded of followers in the earliest community. In comparison to our forebears in faith, we have domesticated this radical edge of the Gospel.

We often comfort ourselves with the assurance that the law will save us, whereas Jesus tells us that salvation comes from a loving relationship with him, shown in the sacrifice of our lives. To the degree that any law enables us to deepen this relationship with Jesus and to serve his people, then it is helpful and good. If a civil or religious law gets in the road, then its moral authority over us is questionable.

In a world where the vast majority of the world's wealth and resources are held and used by a dominantly white, educated and, at least nominally, Christian First World, then the demands of today's Gospel should be as confronting to us as they were to the rich young man. 'There is still one thing you lack, sell everything and come follow me.' It has suited us to move away from this financially hard teaching of Jesus.

The law and money are in themselves neutral things. They can be used for good or evil. At their worst the law and money seduce us into pride, greed and power. At their best they can serve the liberation of all people and enable our world to better reflect the Kingdom of dignity, justice and equality Jesus taught and lived.

Given that all things are possible for God, let's pray in this Eucharist that we might stop domesticating the Gospel but allow it to lead us more deeply into a relationship with Jesus who looks on us, loves us and calls us to write the law of love on our hearts in such a way that there will be justice for all people.

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LITURGICAL ART

Art and Reflection by Jenny Close



One of the main characters in this story from Mark's gospel is known as 'a man of great wealth'. He is identified by his material status. Jesus challenges the man to leave his material baggage behind so that he can take up a new identity which is shaped by God's *basileia*, (reign) i.e., one that derives from gift rather than possession.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 89: FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE, O LORD

Psalm 89:12-17. R. v.14

Response: ***Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!***

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?
Show pity to your servants.

Response

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Response

Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

Response

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

GOSPEL

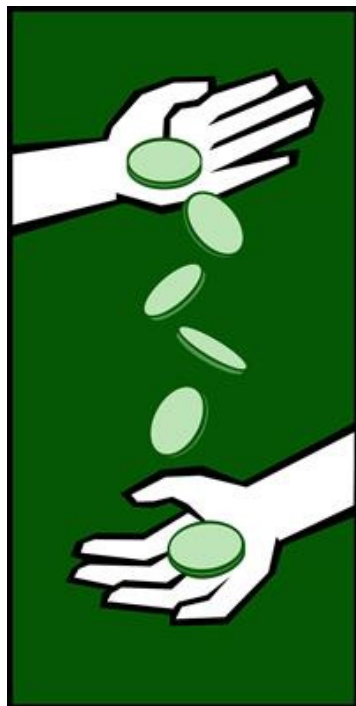
Mark 10:17-30

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor,

and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'



**THE PARISH OF PORT MELBOURNE AND MIDDLE PARK
IS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY,
WELLBEING AND DIGNITY OF ALL CHILDREN,
YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS.**