



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.*

3rd Sunday of Advent

12 December 2021

Hi Everyone,

RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS

This weekend we welcome all our candidates for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Each of them is attaining an important milestone in their lives in terms of their Christian faith and so I would ask you to pray for them. Pray that the Sacrament they receive brings them closer to the God who loves them.

REFLECTION

This Sunday is "Gaudete" Sunday and the word itself means "Rejoice". It is also the Sunday where we light the pink candle as a sign of joy and celebration. Even the priests are encouraged to wear rose coloured vestments and although our supply of them is adequate, they feel a little ridiculous. I've never looked good in pink!

More importantly, the readings this weekend speak of joy and exultation especially in the reading from the prophet Zephaniah and Paul's letter to the Philippians. The Gospel tells us more of the story of John the Baptist. Despite his very dire predictions and sound advice he speaks of a Saviour who is coming after him and it is that Saviour whom we celebrate at Christmas.

I read a story the other day told by Anthony de Mello:

There was once a very wise man who became something of a legend and a Master and "it was said that God once sought his advice: 'I want to play a game of hide-and-seek with humankind. I've asked my Angels what the best place is to hide in. Some say the depth of the ocean. Others say the top of the highest mountain. Others still the far side of the moon or a distant star. What do you suggest? And the Master replied, 'Hide in the human heart. That's the last place they will think of!'"

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

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

Monday 13 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 14 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 15 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Thursday 16 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Friday 17 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's,

Saturday 18 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel
6.00pm Vigil Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 19 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's
10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel

WE REMEMBER

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

Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Jeffrey Dalton Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Gerard Friary, Ivy Hermence, Silvio Ierardo, Chris Kowalski, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakov, 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: Marita Donegan, and all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelite, Gregory Moore, Kevin Hannan and Peter Slattery.

IN OUR PARISH

I like the story because it is true on so many levels. We often search for God and we find traces of the divine in the magnificence of creation, in the goodness of others, in the moments when we are most alone, and sometimes when we are bowed down in the midst of grief. But the truest place to find God is within, in the heart that beats inside each of us.

Now sometimes our hearts beat because they are healthy; at other times, we need a mechanical device to keep it going or perhaps a new artery or three. We often take blood pressure tablets to stave off a stroke or a heart attack. But the heart is the centre of our life and when it stops beating we normally die. Sobering isn't it?

The important point is that it is within that God can speak so strongly to us. The trouble is we are so distracted by many things: living, caring, having fun, eating, sleeping, walking and they can all distract us from the God who is within. It takes practice to sit with one's own heart and to realise that it beats because it has the breathe of God within it.

Next time you start to worry about your heart, remember that the Lord is what sustains it, with a little help from modern medicine, and take the time to cherish the gift within and know that it is God's gift to us.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

6:00 pm Christmas Mass at OLMC

8:00 pm Christmas Mass at St J's

As we did last year, there will be **NO** midnight Mass on Christmas morning.

ARCHDIOCESE

18/19 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Bro Anacleto

Readers: Pat Mount

Eucharistic Ministers: Ann Crump

Communion to the Sick: N/A

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: TBA

Reader: Br Marco

Eucharistic Ministers: Cathy Garbellini

Counters: Ron and Sandra Cassano

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Kathleen Kiernan

Readers: Nina Batsakis

Eucharistic Ministers: Margaret Fagan

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: N/A

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$844.00

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$1,073.50

Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day)

9:00 am Mass at St J's

10:30 am Mass at OLMC

THERE WILL BE NO VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY EVENING (25 December) AT

6:00 pm AT OLMC

Sunday 26 December (Feast of the Holy Family)

9:00 am Mass at St J's

10:30 am Mass at OLMC

Blessings,



PARISH NEWS

Funeral Requiem for Mary McGivern-Shaw

Many parishioners will fondly remember Mary as a much loved parishioner who regularly attended the 10.30am Mass at OLMC.

Her Funeral Requiem was celebrated at Christ Church Anglican Church in St Kilda las Tuesday morning. The Mass was recorded and live streamed and is available for viewing via Tobin Bros website.

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;
- A little Christmas Cheer.

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

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

A HANUKKAH PRAYER FOR A TIME OF DARKNESS

*Creator of All,
In the beginning You made the night sky luminous with the light of
the moon and the stars and
You made the daytime bright with the light of the sun and
Saw that it was good.*

*And You created human beings in Your own image, with capacity
To distinguish dark from light, with capacity
To create holy sparks, see into the shadows and
Shine light where it is dark.
And You saw that it was very good.*

*Creator of All and Rock of Ages,
In the time of the Maccabees once more You worked a miracle of light,
Permitting our ancestors to rededicate holy space.
And it lasted eight days and eight nights.
Creator of All and Rock of Ages,
In the dark of night, at the darkest time of year
We light candles in remembrance of the miracle,
One more each night until there are eight.*

*Creator of All and Rock of Ages,
Too many lights have been extinguished.
The world has grown too dark.
Creator of Light and Dark,
Teach us once more to see into the shadows,
To shed our light in all the dark corners and to
Create holy sparks for all humankind
So that once more we can say
It is very good.*



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas.

'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God.

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

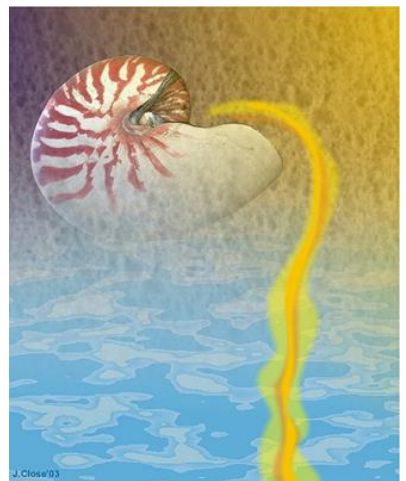
So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.

© Richard Leonard SJ

LITURGICAL ART

Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

In the natural world water usually quenches fire, but in Luke's gospel the two elements are reconciled in the experience of baptism. Both the material and the spiritual aspects of baptism are evoked when John baptises with water and Jesus will baptise with fire and the Holy Spirit. In the same passage, Luke describes Jesus' fire as unquenchable. It is in the context of this rich terrestrial/celestial imagery that the advent of Jesus is prophesied.



OUR LITURGY

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

- Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ
you are already in our midst,
yet we long for you to come more fully
and more deeply into our hearts.
- Celebrant: Give us patience and hope
All: *as we prepare for your coming.*
- Celebrant: In the desert of our fear and anxiety
All: *your light is calm and strong.*
- Celebrant: In the wilderness of violence and despair
All: *your light is peace and hope.*
- Celebrant: In the desert of narrow, darkened alleys
All: *your light lets us see to build anew.*
- Celebrant: In the wilderness of our hearts
All: *you light up our way as we prepare for you.*
- Celebrant: May this candle remind us of your presence
which enlightens our minds
and warms our hearts and shows us the way
as we gather in the circle of its light.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 12: CRY OUT WITH JOY AND GLADNESS

Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6 R. v.6

Response: ***Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.***

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation

Response

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name

Response

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. ***Response***

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'



A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Cel: The Lord be with you. **All: And with your Spirit.**

Cel: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Cel: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **All: It is right and just.**

The Celebrant prays the preface at the end of which all say:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

Cel: Behold the Lamb of God.

Behold him who takes away the sins of the World.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**



**PORT MELBOURNE/MIDDLE PARK
PARISH**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE 2021

Christmas Eve - Friday 24 December	Mass (there is NO Nativity play)	Mt Carmel	6.00pm
	Mass	St Joseph's	8.00pm

**Please note: NO Family Mass this year.
There will be NO nativity play and
no child involvement in the mass.**

Christmas Day - Saturday 25 Decem-	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
	Mass	Mt Carmel	10.30am

**There is NO 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
on Saturday 25 December**

Sunday 26 December Holy Family	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
		Mt Carmel	10.30am

New Year's Day - Friday 1 January	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
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Parish Office

Telephone 9681 9600 Email parish@sj-mc.org.au

Parish website: www.sj-mc.org.au

The Parish Office will be closed at 12 midday on
Wednesday 22 December 2021

and will reopen on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 9.00am

For emergencies only please call: 0408 754283