



# 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.*

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**Third Week of Advent**

**13 December 2020**

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

## **YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

Pope Francis has decreed that the year from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021 be dedicated to St Joseph, the guardian of the child Jesus. This is especially important for Carmelites throughout the world because we have a strong devotion to St. Joseph. So too, he is the patron of our Port Melbourne Church and this little church is actually the "mother" or should I say "father" church of our Parish because it was the 1st church in the old parish of Sandridge. Port Melbourne has a fascinating history being the port church of Melbourne since the 1800's and our local historical society can tell you many interesting facts (some not so savory!) about the area. Just ask Jim Power and Maree Chalmers.

Anyway, along with this decree the Pope has written an Apostolic Letter entitled, *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart) about the person of Joseph. You can access this letter through the Vatican website.

So too, the Prior General of the Carmelites and the Superior General of the Discalced Carmelites have written a joint pastoral letter on the place of St Joseph in Carmelite spirituality. You can access this letter on the Carmelite website.

I share with you the prayer that Francis has written to conclude his apostolic letter:

***Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.***

## **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES**

The next series of Thanksgiving Envelopes is available for collection in the foyer of the church. If you are able to deliver envelopes to people you know, that will help defray the cost of posting out those that are not collected.

## **GARDENING WORKING BEE AT OLMC**

Many thanks to Ken, Brian H, Kath S, Angela C, Gayl H, & Cathy G for the sterling effort at Mt Carmel.

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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

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  
Principal Simon Millar

## THIS WEEK

### IMPORTANT NOTICE RE THE PARISH OFFICE

**Even though there has been some easing of restrictions, the Parish Office will NOT be opened to the public until further notice.**

**The directive from the Archdiocese of Melbourne is that all staff must work from home if possible.**

**We anticipate that there will be new guidelines from the Archdiocese from 6 December.**

**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, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Ivy Hermence, Carl McCarthy, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Dennis Rohan, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Jane Spiteri, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

**Those whose have died recently:** Andrew Ratel, Paul Thomson, and all those affected by COVID\_19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time:** Eva Butler, Ron Edmiston, Katherine Firth, Shane Gurry, Marion Maclellan, Rozalia Rafalska, Jacob Stephens, Emma Williams, and Carmelites, Gregory Moore, Kevin Hannan and Peter Slattery.

## IN OUR PARISH

### RECONCILIATION AND ANOINTING SERVICES

Because of the very strange events of this year we will combine Reconciliation and Anointings prior to Christmas.

On Monday 14 December at 6:00pm, we will hold a Service of Reconciliation and Anointing at OLMC.

On Wednesday 16 December at 9:00am, we will hold a Mass of Reconciliation and Anointing.

All are most welcome though again these will be fairly simple affairs.

### WEEKDAY, SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY MASSES

For the present we'll keep the current schedule of 6:00pm at OLMC; 9:00am at SJ's, 10:00am at SJ's and 10:30am at OLMC. In both churches you will notice QR (Quick Response) codes on the doors and at the entrances. This is the way to check in at all Masses. A Plea: if someone is struggling to work out how to do it, please help each other or log them in through your phone.

Up until Christmas Eve, our Masses will be simple with no music, however, we will recommence with singing at the Christmas Eve and Day Masses.

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The Christmas Masses will be as follows:

Christmas Eve at 6:00pm at OLMC

Christmas Eve at 8:00pm at St Joseph's

### THERE WILL BE NO MIDNIGHT MASS THIS YEAR

Christmas Day at 9:00am at St Joseph's

Christmas Day at 10:30am at OLMC

Christmas Day at 10:30am at St Joseph's

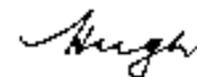
**PLEASE NOTE THE ADDITIONAL MASS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING AT ST JOSEPH'S. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT ST J'S NUMBERS ARE CAPPED MORE SEVERELY BECAUSE OF SPACING.**

Also, I do need to remind everyone that masks should be worn when it is not possible to keep the appropriate social distancing.

Sorry for all the bold print – I'm not shouting at you, just covering our .....!

Have a great week and St Joseph pray for us.

Blessings,



## 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.**



## PORT MELBOURNE/MIDDLE PARK PARISH

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2020

Monday 14 December	Reconciliation & Anointing	Mt Carmel	6.00pm
Wednesday 16 December	Reconciliation & Anointing	St Joseph's	9.00am
Christmas Eve - Thursday 24 December	Mass	Mt Carmel	6.00pm
	Mass	St Joseph's	8.00pm
Christmas Day - Friday 25 December	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
	Mass	St Joseph's	10.30am
	Mass	Mt Carmel	10.30am
New Year's Day - Friday 1 January	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am

### Parish Office

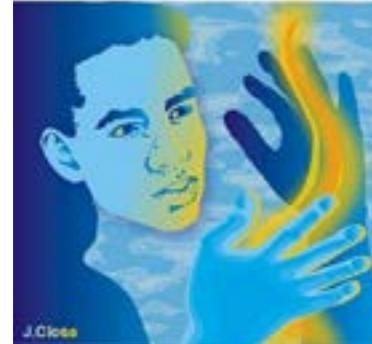
Telephone 9681 9600 Email [parish@sj-mc.org.au](mailto:parish@sj-mc.org.au)

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

The Parish Office will be closed at 12 midday on Tuesday 22 December and will reopen on Wednesday 13 January 2021s at 9.00am

## LITURGICAL ART

### Reflection by Artist, Jenny Close



There is some confusion about the identity of John and his relationship to Jesus in this week's gospel reading. The message is plain - John is not the light, rather he is 'a witness to speak for the light'. Light is the dominating image of the Advent/Christmas cycle.

The liturgical cycle and the natural cycle are harmonious in the northern hemisphere so that the advent of the light is a powerful image of hope. In Brisbane where I live, we have to reshape the light imagery to suit our seasons: Christmas is in the middle of summer and the warmth and light of the sun are present realities, not future prospects. This is by no means an insurmountable problem: the Advent/Christmas cycle is redolent of past, present and future time imagery. Further, because of its nature as a multivalent symbol, the 'light' image can be read from many different perspectives and still be fruitful.

By December the sunflowers I have planted in my garden will, I hope, be two metres tall and flowering in time for the Christmas liturgies. If all goes well they will give powerful witness to the efficacy of light. Advent is a time of watching and waiting (on things natural and spiritual) in hopeful expectation.

## REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Today is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent Laudete Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way Gaudete Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel John the Baptist is the model of humility, opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied, waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill. John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Just like Farmer Fleming or Lord Randolph Churchill, he could not have known the implications of what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

No wonder we have him as our focus on Gaudete Sunday. And so may we all rejoice today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.

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### *Isaiah* *61:1-2. 10-11*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM

MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD

*Psalm: Luke 1:46-50. 53-54. Response: Isaiah 61:10*

**Response:**

***My Soul Rejoices In My God***

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.      **Response**

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

**Response**

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

**Response**

### *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL

### *John 1:6-8. 19-28*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



**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.**