



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.*

2nd Sunday of Lent

13 March 2022

Hi Everyone,

A REFLECTION

The 1st reading this weekend tells the story of a covenant God established with Abraham. It follows the ancient ritual of a sacrifice of animals and that the two parties to the covenant (God and Abraham) walk through the bisected carcasses of the sacrificed animals in order to seal the pact. It's a strange story to modern ears but it is a very ritualised way of God promising that Abraham's brood would be very numerous and would carry his faith to the world.

The important thing, of course, is the faith of Abraham and we Christians acknowledge Abraham as "our father in faith" because he believed that what God had promised him, God would do.

The Gospel this weekend is the story of Jesus' transfiguration in the presence of a few of his closest friends. Some scholars believe that it is actually a story of resurrection read back into the life of Jesus and his disciples. Whatever its provenance, the story is about how God brings Jesus into the circle of two of Israel's greatest figures after Abraham: Moses, the law-giver and Elijah the prophet. In other words, Moses, Elijah and Jesus were great gifts arising from the original promise to Abraham.

Isn't it interesting to see the reaction of the disciples: fear, wonder, a sense of "it's good to be here" and also confusion? I imagine that we can all recall instances of the same reactions in our own lives.

I think the point of all this is simple: we are called to have the faith of Abraham. To trust that God will be true to his promises and that it was Jesus who, through his life, death and resurrection made those promises real for us.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH - SATURDAY 19 MARCH

Next Saturday 19 March, is the Feast of St Joseph, Protector of the Carmelite Order. We will celebrate mass at St Joseph's at 9.00am on this day. There will **NO** 9.00am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel on this day. Please join us for this mass at St Joseph's.

SAINT TITUS BRANDSMA

On 15 May in St Peter's, Rome Pope Francis will canonise a Dutch Carmelite, Titus Brandsma, who died in the Dachau Concentration camp during WWII. Among other things, Titus was a

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

Safeguarding Officer

Frances Correa

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205
Telephone 03 9699 2928

THIS WEEK

Monday 14 March

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 15 March

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 16 March

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Thursday 17 March

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Friday 18 March

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Saturday 19 March - Feast of St Joseph

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

There will be NO 9.00am Mass at Mt Carmel

6.00pm Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 20 March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel

WE REMEMBER

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Hein Basten, Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Maureen Dickason, Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Lyn Falckh, Michelle Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Lyn Fleming, 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, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Stan Holden, Eunice Lecombe, those who have died in the floods in Northern NSW and Queensland, casualties of the Ukrainian/Russian conflict, and all those affected by COVID_19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Tina Louise Barone, Nunziata Barone, Tera Kwol, and Teresa Sheehan.

IN OUR PARISH

journalist who spoke strongly against the Nazi regime, especially in its treatment of Jewish people. He paid the ultimate price for his faith and convictions and is remembered as a powerful voice against tyranny and its inhumanity – something which is especially relevant today. You might like to learn more about him on the Carmelites webpage, <https://www.carmelites.org.au/>.

May this Lent be a time to renew our faith, warts and all, and to place our trust in the Lord even when it's hard.

Have a great week and be safe.

Blessings and peace,



March 2022 Parish Men's Dinner

Wednesday 23 March 2022, 6:45 pm,
O'Connor-Pilkington Rooms, OLMC.

Speaker: Michael McGirr, writer,
reviewer and educator -

"The bucket twist: surprises in the wisdom years"

RSVP: John Molloy - 9699 2031 Cost: \$35

John's Gospel Reading Group 2022

1.30pm - 3.00pm Tuesday 15 March (via Zoom)

If you are interested, would you please send in your name, phone number and e-mail to Clare McArdle: claremca@bigpond.com

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. If you are new to the parish and would like to join our thanksgiving Program, please call

Anne at the Parish office on 9681 9600 or email on parish@sj-mc.org.au.



ARCHDIOCESE

19/20 March
3rd Sunday in Lent

6.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Angela Cox

Readers: Mary Chow

Eucharistic Ministers: Joe Chow

Communion to the Sick:

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: Vicki Howell

Reader: Gerhard Correa

Eucharistic Ministers: Pablo Craievich

Counters: Ron & Sandra Cassano

Communion to the Sick:

Frances Galvin

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Simon Santoso

Readers: Teresa Paradowski

Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Goral

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: Denis Churkovich

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$695.00

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$1,173.00

PROJECT COMPASSION - FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Biru - India

Biru is a member of the Ho community, an ethnic minority group in India. After contracting polio as a child, he lost mobility in one of his legs, which affected his independence, education and employment prospects.



Biru taught himself how to repair bicycles by watching other people, but he never dreamed of using those skills to start his own business.

With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods training program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the support and skills he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business. Participating in the program also helped Biru to apply for government disability and housing schemes.

Now, Biru is financially independent and can forge a path out of poverty for his four young daughters. He is a respected and essential member of his community, working as a bicycle and motorcycle mechanic to keep his neighbours, friends and families safe on the road. His resilience and determination to overcome the odds has inspired others in his community who are living with a disability to become independent and self-reliant.

"Now members of my community have started listening to my opinion. I am getting appreciation and recognition," Biru says



Your donation will support programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need. Project Compassion money boxes and envelopes are available for collection from the Church foyer.

The money boxes are an excellent way to introduce your children to Project Compassion.

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago.

At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us.

God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'

Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too.

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'

© *Richard Leonard SJ*

REFLECTION 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Our homeland is on earth
Our homeland is in heaven
WE ARE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Our lives are commonplace
Our lives are full of wonder
WE ARE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Our song is of love and hope
Our life in God is eternal
WE ARE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Hold firm, take heart
God is our stronghold
WE ARE NOT ALONE.

Be brave, be holy
God is our justice
WE ARE NOT ALONE.

Be amazed, be joyful
God is our glory
WE ARE NOT ALONE.

Eggs and Ashes,
Compilation © Ruth Burgess & Christ Polhill
Wild Goose Publications, published 2004

OUR LITURGY

PROCESSIONAL HYMN - GATHER US IN MERCY LORD

Cantor: Gather us in mercy Lord
Cantor: From the depths we cry to you

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Cantor: Tree of life O saving cross
Cantor: Christ our life, all else is loss
Cantor: Sheltered Lord beneath your wings
Cantor: To the cross we'll ever cling
Cantor: Sinners in the cross come nest
Cantor: Branches shelter, give sweet rest
Cantor: Tree of life, in you alone
Cantor: Nest the poor and make their home
Cantor: Be in God alone secure
Cantor: Stay so close the weak, the poor
Cantor: From our sin O God unbind
Cantor: Shroud of death from us unwind
Cantor: Open Lenten eyes to face
Cantor: Christ in every suffering place
Cantor: Now dry bones all gathered here
Cantor: Winds of Lent will blow severe

Cantor: Gather us in mercy Lord
Cantor: Gather us in mercy Lord
Cantor: Gather us in mercy Lord

All: Gather us in mercy Lord
All: From the depths we cry to you

All: Gather us in mercy Lord
All: From the depths we cry to you

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PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters in the Lord:
we come together as a penitential people;
aware of our own sinfulness,
yet always confident of God's love and mercy.
Let us kneel.

Celebrant: You, Lord, come to us with your loving and gentle touch,
to reveal the hidden ways we destroy wholeness of spirit and to
encourage us toward repentance and peace.

**All: Led by your Word throughout this Lenten journey,
we are transfigured by the fire of your love.**

Celebrant: For we are not our own!
All: We are chosen by Christ!

Celebrant: We live not for ourselves:
All: We live and die for the Lord!

Celebrant: Now is the acceptable time!
All: Return to the Lord with all your heart!

Celebrant: Now is the day of salvation!
All: Repent and believe the Good News.

Celebrant: Holy Spirit come!
All: Transfigure us with the fire of God's love.

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 27: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION

Psalm 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

**Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation
The Lord is my light and my salvation**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
Of whom should I be afraid?

Response

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek,
to dwell in the house of the Lord
all of the days of my life,
that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.

Response

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
Be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord!

Response

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain: **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for his word.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

EYE HAS NOT SEEN

Refrain: *Eye has not seen, ear has not heard
what God has ready for those who love him;
Spirit of love, come, give us the mind of Jesus,
teach us the wisdom of God.*

When pain and sorrow weigh us down,
be near to us, O Lord,
forgive the weakness of our faith
and bear us up within your peaceful word. **Refrain**

Our lives are but a single breath,
we flower and we fade,
yet all our days are in your hands,
so we return in love what love has made. **Refrain**

We sing a mystery from the past
in halls where saints have trod,
yet ever new the music rings to Jesus,
Living Song of God. **Refrain**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou in thee, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

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