



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.*

The Assumption

15 August 2021

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hi Everyone,

Another week!!!!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

This Sunday we celebrate the Assumption of Mary into heaven. In the Eastern Churches, the feast is known as the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the “falling asleep” of Mary. There is a beautiful image of this at St Eustathios Greek Orthodox Church, 221 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne. The church is open daily and visitors are welcome. *(image courtesy of Fr Chris, photographed by Margaret Fagan).*

All the images of the Assumption are beautiful and many inspire hope and that is what this feast day is all about – “hope”. Those of us old enough to remember is that hope, along with faith and charity, is one of the cardinal virtues of the Christian life. St Paul was very strong on hope; in fact, there are occasions in his letters when you get the sense that he wanted to get this life over and done with so that he could be with the Lord.

You know, I have met many people in my life who felt the same as Paul. Most often, they were elderly or ravished by a very painful illness and they genuinely expressed the desire to let go of this life, in order to enjoy the next. I think that can be a very important thing to acknowledge and respect in people. Many times you come across people who decide not to undergo further treatment for an illness or not to have an operation or procedure that might lengthen their lives and that, to me, is a courageous and a holy decision. These people are ready to let nature take it's course!

On another side, I've sat with people who are obviously dying and members of their family beg them not to die and sometimes I feel that their request is a very “selfish” one, made in the pain of a terrifying reality. I also have to confess that

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 Fakkah, 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, Jonathon Wil, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Sonny Michael Huggins, Gordon Plumb, and all those affected by COVID_19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Thelma Betty Griffiths.

IN OUR PARISH

many times I've leaned over a person, after giving them anointing and communion, and I whisper to them that they can "let go" whenever they like. It may not be the response that members of a family like to hear but I think it's really important for the dignity of the person who is dying.

We all hope for different things. Things like: an end to lockdown; maybe a change of government; maybe the safe delivery and life of a new born grandchild; maybe that my partner would stop snoring etc.!

But real hope is the hope that our lives will have meaning and that when it comes time to face the inevitable end of life, we can do so with equanimity and trust. I think that's the meaning of the Assumption of Mary. Her life had incredible meaning and her death, however it happened and we don't really know, was the time she placed her ultimate trust in the power of her Son to bring her safely to eternal life. Isn't that what we all want?

Happy feast day!



Social Justice Sunday

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August.

The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals.

This Statement along with a number of resources for use at home is now available to download at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au.

MINISTERS

21/22 August
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
(if lockdown #6 ends)

6.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Pat Mount

Readers: Norman Maguire

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Mount

Communion to the Sick: N/A

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: Gerhard Correa

Reader: Kevin Mooney

Eucharistic Ministers: Tris

Counters: Ron and Sandra Cassano

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Teresa Paradowski

Readers: Marlene Halim

Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Goral

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: Peter Thomas

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$N/A

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$N/A



Photo: Courtesy of Margaret Fagan Reprinted With Permission

A few weeks ago Michael Murray and Margaret Fagan (our parish photographer) visited St Eustathios, the Greek Orthodox church, at 221 Dorcas St, South Melbourne, and met with Fr Christos Dimolianis, the Parish Priest. Fr Chris gave permission for us to take a photo of the icon and to reprint it in our newsletter. He has also provided us with the text below:

This icon of the “Dormition of the Holy Theotokos” is located on the back wall of the St Eustathios Greek Orthodox Church. The “Dormition of the Holy Theotokos” is a Feast celebrated in the Orthodox Church on the 15th August.

The icon represents the “falling asleep” in the Lord of the Virgin Mary and her “translation” or assumption (body and soul) to heaven. The event depicted is not mentioned in the Bible at all, but comes through the Holy Tradition of the Church from Apocryphal texts.

The Feast of the Dormition celebrates the same themes as Pascha (Easter) - i.e. death and resurrection - and although it specifically celebrates this in relation to the Virgin Mary, like Pascha it also celebrates the personal anticipation and participation of our death and resurrection in Christ. Hence, in the Orthodox Church, we often refer to this Feast as “the Second Pascha”.

In the icon, gathered around the Virgin Mary, are the Holy Apostles venerating her at her death bed. Christ is standing in the middle having received the pure soul of His Mother into heaven. Her soul is depicted in the form of a baby in white.

The church is open daily and visitors are welcome.

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

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 gave the letter another try. '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 either 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.'

This humorous story has a serious lesson for us on the feast of the Assumption. Throughout history there are those who have ransomed the memory of Mary to fit in with how they understand women should behave in society. As a result, sometimes, Mary is presented as meek and mild, passive and subservient. The problem with this view is that it is impossible to reconcile it with the ten stories we have of Mary in the New Testament: the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, flight into Egypt, losing Jesus in the Temple, going to bring Jesus home from his public ministry, the wedding feast at Cana, being at the foot of the Cross, and Pentecost.

The strength and power of Mary's witness is most especially captured in the Magnificat from which we just heard. Here Mary extols how God is saving us by turning the world on its head, doing the very opposite of what was expected.

The New Testament does not demonstrate a meek woman, devoid of creativity and initiative. It shows a strong, noble woman who put her free will at the disposal of God's will. That is what the feast of the Assumption celebrates: that because God will never be outdone in fidelity and generosity, he remained utterly faithful to Mary through death, as she was utterly faithful to him in life.

The Catholic Tradition has always honoured Mary as being obedient, the pre-eminent disciple of her Son and the sign of what could await all Christians

who are invited to share in the mission of Jesus on earth. Religious obedience is not passive. We listen to the voice of God and choose to say yes to Christ's love and liberation. Discipleship does not mean our personality counts for nothing. Rather, it's the valuing of every individual's ability to contribute to Christ's kingdom in a unique way. Prefiguring what can happen for all of us does not diminish the particular gifts God lavished on Mary, but reassures us that God recognises his own in this world and the next.

May this Assumption Day see us then stop ransoming the image of Mary to the distortions of the past and find in her creative and free self-giving a pattern for our Christian lives, and a beacon of hope to which we can hold firm.

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OUR LITURGY

Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 44:

THE QUEEN STANDS AT YOUR RIGHT HAND

Psalm 44:10-12. 16. R. v.10

Response: *The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.*

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's house. **Response**

So will the king desire your beauty:
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. **Response**

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

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