



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.*

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

15 November 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Greetings in the Lord!

I'm sitting here on Wednesday afternoon waiting for a storm to eventuate – promises, promises!

Last night was a little muggy and the mercury seems to be zooming up and down and the thermometer like crazy with this Spring weather. We've already had a taste of Summer with some really hot days, so stay hydrated!

Sunday will see us repeat the Communion Services, thanks to Frs Matthew and Maurice. I'll be off the radar for next week so a little prayer wouldn't go astray.

Our weekday Masses will continue as usual, again thanks to Matt and Maurice and those who very kindly assist in getting things ready.

Stay well and safe.

Blessings,

A CARMELITE REFLECTION

33rd SUNDAY – MATTHEW 25:14-30

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

A little bit of Irish wisdom:

There are three kinds of people –

Those who can count,

And those who can't.

The Gospel today has three kinds of people:

1 talent – the average person

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

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205

Telephone 03 9699 2928
Principal Simon Millar

PARISH OFFICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE THE PARISH OFFICE

Given the change in circumstances due to the current restrictions as of 8 November, the Parish Office will **NOT** be opened to the public until Monday 23 November. 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, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Carl McCarthy, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Andrew Ratel, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, 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: John Roy Chanter, and all those affected by COVID_19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time. Bill Whitford, and Carmelite, Basil Nugent.

IN OUR PARISH

2 talents – the above average person
3 talents – the gifted person.

Whatever about the numbers above – God loves everybody equally, and to an infinite degree ... everyone has one great talent – to love – since we are made in God's image and likeness. To love God, and to love others is the essence of the Christian life. We all meet this challenge with varying degrees of success or failure.

The man in the Gospel with 1 talent did not meet the test at all. Today, he might be called a "couch potato" who puts his talent (about \$1000,000) under the mattress, and relishes his TV and obesity.

"The glory of God is a life lived to the full" Will God, then, who made us without ourselves, save us without ourselves? The Gospel leaves us to ponder that question, and the 1st Reading from the Book of Proverbs gives us a great example of a "life lived to the full"

A perfect wife – who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,

From her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him

All the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,

And she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,

Her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,

She opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;

The woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,

And let her works tell her praises at the city gates

(Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20.30-31)

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

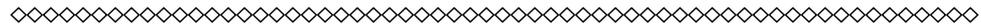
We understand that these are very unusual circumstances and difficult times for many people both emotionally and financially.

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.



"Vinnies are offering its Christmas cards again this year to all our parishioners who would like to purchase them. The cost is \$2.50 for a

pack of 5 cards. If you are interested please contact Kathy Mount on 0437 588 855".



Working Bee St Joseph's

10.00am Thursday 3rd December

We would ask those who attend to bring such items as gloves, shovels, picks, garden forks and rakes.

Tea, coffee, water, and pleasant company provided.



THE CARMELITE CENTRE

Saint John of The Cross: The Poetry Of Prayer

with Matthew Tonini OCarm,

10:30Am - 12:00 Midday Wed 2 December

(Via Zoom)

The feast day of John of the Cross is celebrated on 14 December. For many years the Carmelite Centre has invited Fr Michael Brundell OCarm to delight and inspire us as he shared his wealth of knowledge on this great Carmelite saint. Early in 2020 Fr Michael moved his residence to Mary MacKillop Aged Care in Hawthorn East. We will continue to hold him in our prayer.

Br Matthew Tonini OCarm has kindly agreed to facilitate this last conversation for the year on St John of the Cross, the poetry of prayer. More detailed information will be available closer to the date.

Please book via the Carmelite Centre and pay \$5 (or your donation amount) through a bank transfer or the donation page. Thank you for helping us continue our work. Give to us so we can continue to give to you.

We hope to bring you a Carmelite Conversations program in 2021. Information will be available on the website early in the new year. Thank you for your support and interest.

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 registration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org
via website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

LITURGICAL ART

Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close

The parable of the talents brings to mind the importance of personal growth and the enhancement of life. In this context 'trustworthiness' refers to our ability to use what we are given in life to best advantage. No doubt this will mean something different for each of us. 'Live long and prosper' is an appropriate sentiment in this context.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

As Catholics we have no problem with the time-bound nature of the Bible. In fact we appreciate it, believing that the scriptures deserve to be read within their context, and also need careful interpretation. And while the Catholic Feminist Association may not choose to have today's first reading as the opening text at their next convention, we would be mistaken to hear it only in terms of our world today.

The Book of Proverbs is a distillation of sayings and teachings which had grown up over hundreds of years, most probably from Rabbis and Scribes. Its world is a vastly different one to ours. This is clearly seen in the tasks of the 'capable wife'. She is praised for her work with wool, flax, in the vineyard and in real estate. It's only in the context of an agrarian society that the power of this text makes sense. Until quite recently, women in Palestinian society, and in wider society for that matter, were considered the 'possessions' of their husbands. They could be bought, sold, divorced, or killed without any appeal to the law. Wives in this society had no legally recognised human rights. They were expected to serve and shut-up.

By contrast, then, this text from the Book of Proverbs, which can seem so old-fashioned to us, was a liberating text in its day. A woman's right to work is not only defended, but also extolled. She is praised for her creativity, wisdom, goodness, strength, sense of justice, generosity, joy and faith. In any age and for either gender this is not a bad list of virtues toward which we should all aspire.

And these days of course, through the ongoing revelation of the Spirit, we believe that what the Book of Proverbs expects and praises in a capable wife, we should equally look for in a capable husband.

It is almost possible that Jesus had women in mind when he shared the parable of the talents in today's Gospel. What can often get lost in the debates about who should be ordained in today's Church, is that women have always and still 'lead' the Church in powerful and long-lasting ways. From the extraordinary abilities of religious and lay women in Catholic welfare, education, healthcare, overseas missions and theological reflections, to wives and mothers whose daily witness to the fidelity and goodness of God, this all reveals in innumerable ways the power of the parable of the talents. The reality is that if it were not for women's leadership, commitment and faith, it would be hard to see how the Church could survive. We would not be able to continue almost all of our ministries.

None of this minimises the pain and hurt some women have experienced at the hands of the Church. Some feel as though their particular contribution to the life of the Church has not been fully realised.

All we can hope and pray for is that we may find ways to use everyone's talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God, and that we may see that everyone's contribution, irrespective of gender, is precious and worthy of praise.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM: 127: HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD

Psalm 127:1-5. R. v.1

Response: *Happy are those who fear the Lord.*

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **Response**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Response

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Response

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went

and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground.



Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

**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.**