



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.

6th Sunday of Easter

17 May 2020

Dear Friends,

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Greetings to everyone no matter who or where you are.

Autumn has arrived in Melbourne with a vengeance and the plane trees are leaving enormous piles of leaves in every nook and cranny around homes, parks and streets. Have you noticed that these days a lot more people are walking along the roads rather than the footpaths?

Yesterday I visited the Alfred Hospital to see one of our parishioners and the traffic was absolutely minimal – St Kilda Road was deserted; the line for COVID-19 testing at the Alfred was minimal but the security at the hospital was awesome: a temperature check, signing in, three security people at different points in the hospital asking my name, whom was I visiting, and plastering me with a visitor's sticker. It was all a little surreal.

So too, we have families with youngsters playing football, tennis, riding push bikes around and around St Joseph's. People stopping to smell the roses in the memorial garden and others, furtively stealing blooms, hopefully for a good reason. The magpies are busily building and the wattle birds are having a mating frenzy in our back yard – they obviously don't know about social distancing and the fact that mating is not appropriate in a Priory!

I was asked just recently how I'm finding all this change in circumstances and I have to confess that, although I miss seeing and interacting with you and celebrating the Eucharist in our churches, I'm rather enjoying the solitude and the less frenzied pace of life. Even Coles in Port Melbourne has become bearable, except for certain times, and I'm still wondering what is going to replace Brewster's???

This Sunday the Gospel is about Jesus' gift of the spirit of Truth and the promise that we are not deserted in our world. I find these thoughts quietly comforting – why? Because I know that no matter how disorientating life can be, the Lord is with us. On our fridge here in the Priory is a prayer and it goes:

***Lord, help me to know that nothing is going to happen today,
that you and I can't handle together!***

What a truly magnificent way to start the day, when you're reaching for the milk for the 4:30am coffee! It is simple really: nothing, absolutely nothing can come between us and the God who loves us and will love us into eternity.

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
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

**The Carmelite Parish Office is now
closed to the public.**

**The office is still functioning between 9.00am & 4.00pm
on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**

**You can contact us by telephone:
9681 9600**

**Email: parish@sj-mc.org.au or by checking our
website on**

www.sj-mc.org.au for further updates.

**If you are in need of a priest urgently then please
call 0408 754283.**

WE REMEMBER

Please ask permission of the sick person(s) before asking their name(s) be put on the list. We need to be sensitive to the fact that some people may not wish their names published.

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.

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Baby Luca, John Bassett, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Helen Stanley, Helen Sullivan, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Those affected by COVID - 19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelites, Patrick Shaffrey, Michael Gerhard, Ignatius Carr and Walter Bridger.

IN OUR PARISH

A QUANDARY

Since the State Government has recently relaxed the rules and allowed churches to be open for very limited things, the Archdiocese sent parish priests a 5-page letter on what we can and can't do! Frankly, after reading it, I now don't know what to do!

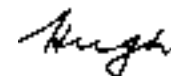
We can only have 10 people in a church at the one time, socially distanced, and for a limited time. We have to take details of everyone's name and contact info, as well as thoroughly clean the church after everyone has left. Priests are allowed to celebrate 3 Masses a day for 10 people and all cleaning procedures have to be done between these Masses and there must be a time interval. Now all this sounds good in theory but who decides who can and can't come? Who is going to take names and enforce the rules? Who is going to clean the Church? Damned if I know! (You might catch a hint of my frustration and anger) And as for saying 3 Masses a day: Matthew is 89; Maurice is 88 and I'm in a state of bronchial meltdown and Fr Pat is in respite.

Any suggestions from the wise?

My only thought at present is to not open the churches until things become clearer and simpler. I know that this hurts people who desperately want to visit the churches and especially to have the Eucharist so if you have any alternative thoughts that are within the law, let me know! Enough of my ranting!

May is the month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother and Sandra Nicolson has written a great piece on the Rosary. It is more edifying than my thoughts.

Be at peace!



A REFLECTION OF THE ROSARY ON THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA – MAY 2020

Mary, our Mother and the Mother of Jesus, and I have been friends for many years and never more so that when I'm travelling in a plane and invite her to sit next to me. I figure if she's seated beside me her Son won't let anything

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.

happen to us! I've visited her at Lourdes and Fatima and although at the latter I didn't make my way across the vast square to the Cathedral on my knees, as I saw many doing, I'm sure she appreciated my visit. I found both Lourdes and Fatima very spiritual away from the many merchandise stalls and shops. Although, I did buy yet another pair of Rosary beads! I know that both at Lourdes and Fatima, Mary encouraged us to pray the Rosary but praying the Rosary is always something I've struggled with. I think it's the repetition. I speak to Mary constantly as a friend and a Mother. Therefore, I've really struggled saying the same, albeit beautiful, prayer over and over again. It felt like my young-self trying to get my Mother's attention, 'Mum, mum, mum, mum, mum.' So, as I always do when trying to work out an issue, I observed others.

My mother is 93 and has said the Rosary every night, these days when she goes to bed. This is the same person who told us that as a child she prayed every day for Mary NOT to appear to her. As she lives on her own, she now says the Rosary accompanied by a CD. When I stay with her I have to shut my door as soon as the CD goes on, not because I don't want to hear the Rosary, it's just that the snoring interrupts the flow! My mother is so comforted by the Rosary that it is like a meditation that allows her to fall asleep.

I've observed others saying the Rosary in the hope that I would discover the secret to praying this great prayer in a meaningful way. At the same time I was struggling with the reason I was finding saying the Rosary so difficult, I was also undertaking a Mindfulness Course. This helped me to understand that people approach the Rosary in many different ways. Some, like my mother, use it as a mantra to bring some sort of peace to their lives. I also observed that some say the Rosary and others pray the Rosary and both groups gain comfort from their communication with Mary.

I've resolved my issue and now when I pray the Rosary, I assign each Hail Mary to a person or problem that needs my prayers. The Rosary has now become far more meaningful to me



**Carmelite Conversations session
with Paul Cahill
Wednesday 3 June,
10.30am - noon
via zoom**

<https://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org/events/carmelite-conversations-blessed-titus-brandma-with-paul-cahill-ocarm-wed-3-june-10-30-noon/>

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

There are two strong images in today's gospel: the law and love. In a few verses Jesus keeps moving between the two ideas because he knows how closely related they are. This can seem curious to modern ears because we have been duped into thinking that the law is the enemy of love, and that only freedom and joy are love's fruits. But think for a moment of people or projects we love, ones to which we are committed. We don't need a rulebook to call us to the most generous and sacrificial behaviour in their regard. We respond 'above and beyond the call of duty' not because of the law, but because of love. Jesus teaches us today that obedience to his commandments is a sub-set of our loving relationship with him.

The word 'obedience' comes from the Latin word oboedire, meaning, 'to listen carefully'. That's a gentler way of understanding Jesus' call. The more obedient we are to Christ's commandments, the more we are listening to his Spirit's call in our lives. And what are these commandments to which we have to listen? Jesus said the whole law and the prophets could be summarised as 'loving God and our neighbour, as we love ourselves'. If this seems too general a statement, then St Paul helps us fill out the details. Like Jesus, St Paul tells us the law of love is not primarily revealed in what we say, or how we feel, but in what we do. Christian love is an intensely practical affair. When we are patient, kind and gentle with each other we are obeying the law of love. So too when we forgive each other, tell the truth and remain faithful, we are listening most carefully to Christ's commandments.

St Paul also tells us that another of the fruits of Christian love is self-control. Sacrifice and self-control are really where the law of love comes into its own. The secular world keeps peddling the myth that self-expression is the only way to happiness. Most of us can see how irrational this position is and how unliveable the world would be if everyone expressed all their feelings and desires as they wished. Sometimes the most loving thing is to do nothing. If we are very angry with friends, for example, abusing them physically or verbally won't help. If we are sexually attracted to our best friend's spouse, having an affair will end in tears. On a more positive note, if we are alert to the poverty in which others live in our world, making sacrifices so that they might have something will not take away from us at all. Self-control is the ally of love and it helps us sort out the appropriate time to undertake the appropriate action.

The path to true happiness is found in being self-controlled. The problem is that self-control doesn't come easily. We need to train ourselves in its art and practise it regularly and consistently so that we can enjoy seeing the benefits of winning smaller battles before we venture out on larger campaigns. If we cultivate an attitude of self-control, we can be sure that when we most need to exercise it, we are in charge of our emotional life rather than it being in charge of us.

May this Eucharist effect a change of heart in us. May we embrace sacrifice and self-control as the doors to an even greater practical experience of the Risen Christ's law of love.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 65 LET ALL THE EARTH

Response: *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

Response

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

Response

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

Response

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Response

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world
will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day you will understand
that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments
and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me
will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



**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.**