



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.*

4th Sunday of Advent

19 December 2021

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the last Sunday before Christmas! It's somewhat difficult to feel Christmassy these days – perhaps we are still a little shell-shocked from the roller-coaster ride we have been on during the year. I console myself with a daily dose of caffeine and a pink-iced cupcake at Fergusson Plarre each morning which does nothing good for the waistline but a fair amount of good helping me to feel human again. What are your secret indulgences? Perhaps we should have a communal confession of our little peccadilloes at Mass this weekend!

READINGS AT MASS

This weekend we hear the great story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth when they both became pregnant. There is a real sense of haste in the reading and I think my imagination tells me that Mary had something wonderful to share with her cousin and she couldn't wait to get there to tell her kinswoman.

The response of Elizabeth is awesome – the child in her womb kicks like mad and she cries out, "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" Now I don't know very much, if anything, about pregnancy but I can just imagine the delight that both of them expressed with their own personal but changed circumstances. Elizabeth who was getting on a bit and Mary who received a most strange visitor. Can you imagine the chatter? Can you imagine the immense delight of two women as they shared their stories? I guess it was a bit like a creche when mothers get together and ooh and aah about each other's stories and wonder what the future will be for them and their children. Not that I know anything about creches either!

The story is a story of delight and of joy and that in itself is heart-warming. I have been spending a lot of time with Anne and Bram's 3 grandchildren lately and they are absolutely mesmerizing. Not having children of my own, I find it fascinating to watch them – learn new things each day, endlessly demanding to be fed, sleeping,

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

Ken Chaffer

Safeguarding Officer

Frances Correa

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205
Telephone 03 9699 2928

THIS WEEK

Monday 20 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 21 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 22 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Thursday 23 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's
6.00pm Christmas Family Mass, Mt Carmel
8.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass, St Joseph's

Saturday 25 December

9.00am Christmas Mass, St Joseph's
10.30am Christmas Mass, Mt Carmel

THERE IS NO 6.00PM VIGIL MASS

Sunday 26 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's
10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel

WE REMEMBER

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer:

Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Jeffrey Dalton, Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Gerard Friary, Ivy Hermence, Silvio Ierardo, Chris Kowalski, Bob Lever, 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, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Kenneth Holland, Christine Rankin, and all those affected by COVID_19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Robert Baldie, William Farnsworth, and Carmelite, Bernard Payne and Peter Byrth.

IN OUR PARISH

crawling, standing, walking, messing everything up and making noises that only a parent can interpret. It has been a delight!

Next week we celebrate the birth of another child – Jesus. He was a child like we once were and the children and the grandchildren that so many of you have! He was helpless at birth but he needed the love and care of his parents and probably grandparents and extended family to grow to become the person we believe in: a saviour, a healer, a messenger of God, indeed, the Son of God. Through that same baby, you and I became the daughters and sons of God. And that is marvellous!

Blessings and peace.



Carmelite Parish Office

**The Parish Office will be closed from
12 midday on
Wednesday 22 December 2021**

**The office will reopen on
Wednesday and Fridays only from
Wednesday 12 January 2022
until the end of the January.**

**Normal office hours will recommence on
Monday 31 January**

**For emergencies only please call:
0408 754283**

ARCHDIOCESE

**26 December
Holy Family**

**NO 6.00pm Mount Carmel
(Vigil)**

Commentator: N/A

Readers: N/A

Eucharistic Ministers: N/A

Communion to the Sick: N/A

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: Gerard Correa

Reader: Kevin Mooney

Eucharistic Ministers: Jacek
Glenda

Counters: Jane Dee & Jim
Power

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Denis
Churckovich

Readers: Peter Thomas

Eucharistic Ministers:
Volunteers

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: N/A

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$595.00

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$951.00

PARISH NEWS

Please Support our Parish Food Cupboard if you are able...

Our Food Cupboard on the wall outside the Parish Office in Rouse Street is in constant need of non-perishable food and household items such as:

- 50 gm jars of coffee and boxes of 50 tea bags;
- Cans of soups, fruits, fish, meals, baked beans and spaghetti;
- Packets of rice, pasta and sauces;
- long life milk;
- Toiletries, soaps, toothpaste and tooth brushes etc;
- A little Christmas Cheer.

All items can be placed directly into the cupboard which is accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week, or please leave at church. Thank you for your generosity as always.

Just a little reminder: With the warmer weather upon us, it might be best to not buy chocolate, as it will melt as the cupboard is exposed to the elements.

ADVENT PRAYER AT HOME

In Bethlehem will be born a saviour
SING FOR JOY

The God of Hosts will live among us
SHOUT FOR JOY

Love and laughter will leap within us
JUMP AND DANCE FOR JOY

In towns and villages in tower blocks and terraces
CHRIST IS WAITING TO BE BORN

In palaces and shanty-towns in highs streets and back-streets
CHRIST IS WAITING TO BE BORN

In the vastness of the universe, in the intimacy of our hearts
CHRIST IS WAITING TO BE BORN

Come, Lord Jesus
COME INTO OUR HOMES
COME INTO OUR LIVES
COME AND STAY



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The visitation is one of the moving scenes in the Gospel. On a human level, here are two cousins, unexpectedly pregnant in the most extraordinary circumstances, meeting and offering each other greetings and support. We can see the scene and feel the bond.

In the Gospel of Luke this moment is pivotal. These women meet in the mountains where God has always been manifest to the Israelites. Elizabeth is the Old Covenant made to Israel and she carries John who will be the herald of the Messiah. Mary, literally, embodies the new, and final, covenant in Jesus.

Elizabeth recognises what is happening here and she embraces all that God is doing for the world. She has tasted the promise of God and now sees its fulfilment.

On a more mundane level, however, a meeting like this would have occasioned much comment and speculation from those outside the inner circle. We only have to imagine it happening today in any small suburb or country town for us to appreciate the human scale of the unfolding drama.

The Iona Community has explored the unwritten history in their story of Mmes Matthew, Mark and Luke, 'The village gossips'.

Narrator: In any small village, news travels quickly. Therefore it is only to be expected that the strange changes in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth might have been food for other people's thought.

Mrs Matthew: Well, ladies, you know how I'm not one for gossip, but wait until you hear this. You know that old woman Elizabeth, with the man who has not spoken for nine months.

Mrs Mark: Yes, what about them?

Mrs Matthew: They say she's had a little boy.

Mrs Luke: At her age? She's 88 if she's a day!

Mrs Matthew: Well, that's what I heard and it was on very good authority!

Mrs Luke: Are you sure you've got the right woman? You're not mixing her up with her cousin?

Mrs Mark: Who? Mary?

Mrs Luke: That's her! Now, I'm not one for talking about anybody but wait until I tell you this. She's pregnant!

Mrs Mark: Never! How do you know?

Mrs Luke: You can tell. You can just tell.

Mrs Matthew: Oh yes, you can tell all right. I heard her in the store last week asking for a dress eight sizes too big for her.

Mrs Luke: There you are. Draw your own conclusions. Now, I know that this will not go any further, but I hear that she and a certain young man are planning to leave the district.

Mrs Matthew: Who is the young man?

Mrs Luke: The joiner's boy, Joseph.

Mrs Mark: Never!

Mrs Luke: Well, that's what they say and I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Mark: So, have you heard what they're saying about the so-called census?

Mrs Matthew: No. Tell us.

Mrs Mark: Well, I happened to hear that the reason the Romans want our names is not to send us birthday cards.

Mrs Luke: Well, why are they having a census?

Mrs Mark: To register us for a 'poll tax'.

Mrs Matthew: I heard it was a 'community charge'.

Mrs Mark: 'A rose by any other name'.

Mrs Luke: They wouldn't do that, would they?

Mrs Mark: Well I'm just warning you. Mind, I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Luke: Nor me.

Mrs Matthew: Nor me.

The story of the visitation keeps the rumour going that just when we think we can figure God out, predict how God will enter our lives and our world, he does something none of us can imagine. And the best thing about this rumour is – it's true.

As we wait for Christmas to come again into our lives, let's make room for Jesus Christ who turns our expectations upside down and always gives the gossips plenty to talk about.

© **Richard Leonard**

OUR LITURGY

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH (PURPLE) ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant: Lord, Jesus Christ,

All: we know you are on your way to save us.

Celebrant: You are the Morning Star which never sets.

All: You are Mighty God and Prince of Peace.

Celebrant: You are Wonderful Counsellor

All: and Wisdom of God.

Celebrant: You are Father of the world to come

All: and leader of your people.

Celebrant: You are Hope which brings us courage

All: and promise of salvation.

Celebrant: You are the Lord-our-integrity

All: and Peace till the moon fails.

Celebrant: You are Sun of Justice and Lord of Creation.

All: You are Healing for your people and Saviour of the poor.

Celebrant: You are Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Come, be born in us again,

take flesh in us again,

abide with us once more'

that we may know the fullness of God's love.

May this candle remind us of your presence.

As we gather in this circle of light

may your word become flesh in us,

and sustain us as we wait.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 79: LORD MAKE US TURN TO YOU

Psalm 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

Response: ***Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.***

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help

Response

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

Response

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Response

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will!'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

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.'



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.

Cel: The Lord be with you.

All: *And with your spirit.*

Cel: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Cel: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *It is right and just.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

Cel: Behold the Lamb of God.

Behold him who takes away the sins of the World.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: *Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

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



**PORT MELBOURNE/MIDDLE PARK
PARISH
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE
2021**

Christmas Eve - Friday 24 December	Mass (there is NO Nativity play)	Mt Carmel	6.00pm
	Mass	St Joseph's	8.00pm

**Please note: NO Family Mass this year.
There will be NO nativity play and
no child involvement in the mass.**

Christmas Day - Saturday 25 Decem-	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
	Mass	Mt Carmel	10.30am

**There is NO 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
on Saturday 25 December**

Sunday 26 December Holy Family	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
		Mt Carmel	10.30am
New Year's Day - Saturday 1 January	Mass	Mt Carmel	9.00am

Parish Office

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and will reopen on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 9.00am

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