



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.*

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

19 July 2020

My dear Friends and Parishioners,

A CARMELITE REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

GOSPEL: The Parable of the Wheat and the Darnel (Matt 13:24-43)

The Cast

The Owner or the Sower	= God
The Field	= The World
The Wheat	= The Good
The Darnel	= The Evil
The Reapers	= The Angels
The Harvest	= Judgement Day

When the London Times newspaper asked a number of writers for essays on the topic: "What's Wrong with the World?", G.K Chesterton sent in the shortest reply:

***Dear Sirs,
I am.
Yours sincerely,
G.K. Chesterton***

Introduction: Wheat and Darnel are identical while growing, but when the crop begins to ripen – the heads of wheat – show a golden shade, but the darnel turns a shade of purple and is poisonous too late to separate and a problem for the owner.

We have a modern story/parable also: People on an island who tried to solve the crime problem, built a wall across the land from shore to shore, and moved all the thieves, trouble-makers, drunks, druggies, wife-beaters, child molesters, hitmen to the south side of the fence BUT families were torn apart, children orphaned, wives became widows, friends parted, etc.

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

**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, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Charles Portelli, Rafal Rafalski, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Terry Lappin,
all those affected by COVID_19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about
this time:** Rose Conlon & Carmelite, Salvinus Nijenhuis.

IN OUR PARISH

Then a Holy Man went to live on the south side. When asked: "Why?"; he replied: "But I am a sinner too. We have all sinned. There is good and evil in everyone".

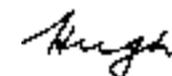
In Jesus' parable, the reapers ask a similar question, but the owner, the Lord of the harvest, replies: "Let them both grow until harvest day". We get a glimpse of God today in the 1st reading from the Book of Wisdom: "Your power over all makes you lenient to all You govern us with great kindness You have given us the good hope that after sin you will grant forgiveness." (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19)

Sin is a virus in human nature. This is the result of the original pandemic we call Original Sin, with which we are all infected. Jesus (and GK Chesterton) understood that this is the way things are – in Biblical times, in our own era, and will be to the end of time.

So, God is lenient, God is patient, God is forgiving. He is the kindest of all fathers – as we know from the great parable of the Prodigal Son – which paints the picture of his rapture when he welcomed the wastrel home.

In the Church we also have a Mother figure of Mary – she is the Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church, and Mother of each one in it. She is the reflection of the Father's love. To her we turn for those vital moment – now and at the hour of death.

Have a week of unexpected delights and the occasional titbits of insights and freedom.



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.

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Today's Gospel gives us both a parable and then an interpretation of that parable. I'm very grateful for this pattern in the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. It indicates to us that not everything that Jesus says should be taken literally. Clearly the disciples were sometimes confused and needed some private coaching to bring them up to speed with what Jesus was on about.

As much as I respect the faith of our fundamentalist Christian brothers and sisters, it is at this point, on the way we interpret the Scriptures, that we cannot agree. The Catholic community has always taken the process outlined in Matthew's gospel very seriously. We have always held that the full richness of the scriptures needs careful study and tested interpretations.

Unfortunately, in previous generations, the anxiety over people's private interpretations of the scriptures led Catholics to be suspicious of the Bible and the private reading of it. To read the Bible was often seen as a 'very Protestant thing to do'. Given that Jesus, Mary, the apostles and the disciples are all recorded in the New Testament as reading, meditating on, or hearing the scriptures, nothing could be further from the truth. To be a Christian is to ponder the Word of God.

That's why the Second Vatican Council encouraged us all to return to regular private reflection on the Bible. Along with this encouragement they also reminded us, however, that as strong as the feelings and revelations we experience in our private scriptural prayer may be, these may have little or no consequence for the wider community of faith. We believe that the whole Church has the task to discern where the Word of God is leading us.

To help this discernment, it's scholars who pay great attention to the history and the literary, textual and cultural issues in and around the Bible have always aided the Catholic community. They look at how various interpretations and approaches of the Scriptures have helped or hindered the Church over the centuries. We place great weight on the 'here and now' of the faith community who listens to the Word of God and lives it out.

Our approach is a long way from those who hold that the entire truth of the scriptures is found in the text itself. Fundamentalist interpretations of the scriptures dismiss the importance of studying the scriptures by reducing it to a book of facts. In doing so they tie themselves up in all sorts of textual knots whenever the scriptures seem to contradict themselves.

We hold, however, that the scriptures are not books of facts, though they contain historical information. We believe we have seventy-three sacred books that 'cannot err in leading us to the truth about God'. The Word of God is for us the pathway to faith, a series of revealed and inspired portraits of God and a distillation of God's saving love for us and our response to him.

When there are inconsistencies or differences in any two scriptural texts, rather than unsettle us, we see these differences as examples of the varying rich approaches to the truth of our salvation in and through Christ. This is nicely summed up in the verse, The Bible in 50 words.

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

At this Eucharist let's give thanks that Jesus often used stories to communicate his truth and that he explained their meaning to those with ears to hear. Let's be grateful that we are inheritors of this intelligent legacy.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 85: LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING

Psalm 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

Response

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Response

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

Response

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is



the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

*I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.*

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

**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.**