



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.*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 September 2021

Hi Everyone,

Well, Spring is truly in the air – flowers coming in to bloom, windy days, runny noses and rheumy eyes! The plane trees are creating misery for many MP parishioners but Summer isn't that far away.

Have you noticed in lockdown, that it's hard to remember what day of the week it is? Even worse, you can't remember what you did yesterday. I suppose it was pretty much what you did the day before that and the day before that!

Thank you to everyone who found the little video of some enjoyment. I was going to do it again this week but I have major laryngitis and can barely speak two words coherently so won't do it this week. I sound like a cross between Paul Robeson and Greta Garbo or perhaps one of those stars from the silent movies.

It was great to see Maree C back in the SJs Memorial Garden along with Elaine and Leo. She is doing well, with the aid of a walking frame, but that didn't stop her from doing some weeding.

I had a Transthoracic Echocardiogram during the week (try saying that after a couple of whiskeys). The reason was because my ankles are full of fluid and they look like the "Two Fat Ladies" from that cooking show some years ago. My doctor quadrupled my fluid tablets and you can imagine what effect that had!

All is quiet around the traps not that you would really know because you can't go out.

OLMC was a source of concern this week. Thanks to the diligence of Peter and Marcella Thomas we discovered that some youths have gained access to the Church and are using it for bike rides and sitting on the altars. I don't think we have

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 Falckh, 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, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Anthony Cahill, all those affected by COVID_19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: and Carmelites, Brian Pitman and Samuel Coote

IN OUR PARISH

to have the Church reconsecrated but it is a worry. A big thank you to Peter & Marcella for cleaning up the chalk drawings in the easement between the Church and the Hall. We also had to repair one of the bollards as the skateboard loving generation are using the place as a makeshift park. Think it's time to hire a German Shepherd or a Rottweiler! Talking of dogs. Have you ever seen so many of them before. It seems that everyone has a dog and what's more, they can get a haircut. Leo is very excited because he learned that dog fur deters opossums who eat his cyclamens and geraniums. I can just imagine him hanging around dog grooming places and bagging the leftovers and sprinkling them around our garden.

Other than all that, we are managing lockdown in the Priory fairly well though much to the chagrin of 4 of us, one of our members was heard to tell someone on Zoom that he "lives with 4 old men!" Can you imagine that? Matthew and Maurice were especially indignant despite the fact that they are 90 and 89 years old respectively. I was deeply hurt because I feel like 95 but am young at heart!

Have a great week and keep smiling and remember that the Lord loves us in spite of our foibles.

Blessings and peace.



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 by phone and leave a message or email to organise this.

OUR 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;

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

Season of Creation (Carmelite JPIC Team reflections)

The Carmelite Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team (JPIC) are preparing some reflections and resources to help us to celebrate the four week Season of Creation through September. These resources are being uploaded onto the Parish website for you at www.sj-mc.org.au/downloads/JPIC

THE CARMELITE CENTRE

Dorothy Day with Clare McArdle

10.30am – 12 midday - Wednesday 6 October

Clare McArdle will explore with us the life and teachings of Dorothy Day
– “a saint for our age”.

Dorothy Day (November 8, 1897 – November 29, 1980) was an American journalist turned social activist, who, along with Peter Maurin, founded the Catholic Worker Movement. She became known for her social justice campaigns in defense of the poor, forsaken, hungry and homeless.

All are welcome to join. Please contact the Carmelite Centre so you can be sent the zoom link and any pre-reading material, and pay through bank transfer. Thank you.

Carmelite Conversations: On the first Wednesday morning of each month we explore a topic related to the rich tradition of Carmelite Spirituality. Each month the session will be led by a person inspired by Carmelite Spirituality and so part of the broad community of the Carmelite Family.

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

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

It's hard to see what the disciples don't get when Jesus tells them in fairly plain language that because of the way he lives and what he says he will be put to death by the power barons of his day. The disciples seem to think the Passion is going to be an event out of Boy's Own Annual, where the ensuing campaign will see greatness thrust upon them. In this context, Jesus takes the smallest and most vulnerable of people in their society and teaches the disciples that greatness comes through care of the least.

This is a powerful lesson. Greatness in the world – power, connections, wealth, influence, reputation and learning – only counts for something in the Kingdom of God when put at the service of the most vulnerable of our society. Greed, riches and pride are so alluring, so seductive for us in the Church, as much as for those outside it, that we need to regularly examine our consciences to assess the motivations and results of what we are doing, and why we are doing it. When I read today's Gospel, however, I also feel sad. I cannot help but reflect on how unintentionally prophetic Mark was being in linking the prediction of Jesus' passion with the status of a child.

The safeguards now needed in response to the criminal and scandalous behaviour of a very few leaders in the Church, means that many bishops, priests, religious and teachers can no longer follow Jesus' example and take children in our arms. I fully understand why this is the case, but the fact that we have to be so careful about the care of our children and have strict protocols and legislation that covers such behaviour toward children is a necessary and, nonetheless, tragic moment. It's also a moment for us to remember the passion of those who have had to endure the trauma of destructive behaviour. As the Jews say of the Holocaust, 'to forget is to commit the same mistake again'. At its most basic level the latter part of today's Gospel reveals what we would expect of Jesus – he likes children and they like him.

It's amazing how a couple of pieces of information can sometimes change the way a scriptural story is read, and its importance for our lives today. We know from other documents of the same period as the New Testament that children in first century Palestine had no rights. They were possessions of their fathers, and they could be bought and sold, exploited and even killed without any recourse to the religious or civil law.

One way in which a child was publicly claimed in this society was that only their immediate family could touch them. The story, then, of Jesus embracing the child in public was in itself a social challenge to accepted customs. But it's much more

than that. In taking the children in his arms, Jesus declares that they are possessions of no one, but they belong to us all as gifts. In the family of God, children are accorded the dignity and respect we would give to God.

Today's Gospel tells us that those who deserve our attention and esteem are the ones who are the least, the most at risk or those who put their talents and gifts at their service by making the world a better place for them. Just as he did in the market place of Galilee when he took the children in his arms, Jesus has a habit of turning our world's values upside down.

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REFLECTION

God of all creation

God of all creation,
and of all creatures,
we pray today for the peacemakers,
for the seekers of justice,
for people of goodwill who risk much,
sometimes their lives,
to stand in solidarity
across many dividing lines and barriers.
We pray for those who have lost loved ones to violence,
and for safety, security,
human rights and dignity for all,
not just for some.
We pray for the courage to continue working together
for a world of justice, peace and equality.

Kathy Galloway
Living Faithfully in the Time of Creation
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SEASON OF CREATION 2021

Sunday 3 – Season of Creation Year B 2021

Introductory Comments

In today's readings, we are given a sense of the destructive power of passions, divisions, jealousies, greed, and competition, both for people and, in this Season of Creation, for Earth itself and all Earth inhabitants. This destructive dynamic contrasts sharply with what the Letter of James calls "the Wisdom from above," a wisdom that embraces the importance of turning our competitive energies to true service of the least among us and the creation of which we are a part. So, as we begin, let's enter into the quiet of our spirits ... conscious of God's gift of Earth, the nurturing home of such rich diversity of life, ... conscious of its destruction and suffering from overconsumption, exploitation, and the crisis of dangerously-rising temperatures globally ... yet home to millions of people rising up to restore, heal, and save our common home...

Ecological Economics.

This goal sees the economy as being in service of the whole human community which in turn needs to be in service of the biosphere. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments and divestment from fossil fuels, and prioritizing the care economy and the dignity of workers. It promotes transition to economic systems which respect Earth's limits and are not based on competitive consumption, greed and the assumption of unlimited growth. 28 Does this type of action speak to my/ our lives at this time? Does it counter the destructive human passions driving climate change that the Apostle James and Pope Francis warn against? Do actions like these resonate with my/our sense of calling at this time? What are we being called to? How can we identify and grow in understanding more sustainable economic systems? What are some of their fundamental values and principles? More and more local communities are choosing these systems to transform the ways they are living. What changes would they require of us/our communities in how we live and what we aspire to? Where can we find individuals, communities and networks living them now in practical ways? Are there ways that I /we can join in this type of action? How might we move into further action toward this goal now?

General Intercessions for prayer at home.

For ever-deepening trust in the faithful presence and loving work of God in us, among us, and through us, for ever-greater attentiveness to the Wisdom from above guiding us to respond effectively to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor, we pray...

For the creativity, global solidarity, and courage to address the global ecological and social crises resulting from destructive climate change effectively, we pray... Could Earth be facing what Jesus was trying to teach his apostles: "I will be handed over to people who will kill me..."? 29 For those who are today suffering most from the effects of the changing climate and for generous response to their needs from the rest of the human community, we pray...

For the urgent, generous, and effective response of the global community in the upcoming United Nations conferences on biodiversity and climate change, COP 15 and COP 26, we pray...

That we may take up our prophetic responsibilities in this time of urgent crisis to speak God's Truth with courage, calling each other into ways of living on Earth wisely, sustainably, justly, and reverently, we pray...

LITURGICAL ART

Lectionary Art and Reflection *by Jenny Close*



In the logic of God's basileia the first will be last and the least will be greatest. In this reading from Mark's gospel Jesus shows how this ideal works in real terms by giving 'first' and 'greatest' status to a little child. Jesus confounds the pretensions of his disciples by an appeal to the heart when he affectionately hugs the child to himself.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

The godless say to themselves,
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.
Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 53:

THE LORD UPHOLDS MY LIFE

Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6

Response: *The Lord upholds my life.*

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayers;
listen to the words of my mouth.

Response

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

Response

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good.

Response

SECOND READING

James 3:16 – 4:3

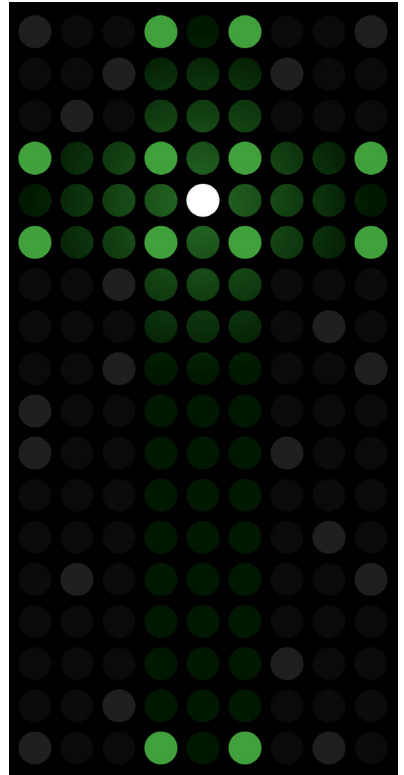
Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'



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