



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.*

Fourth Week of Advent

20 December 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As this will be the last Bulletin for 2020, my thoughts are with each of you as we enter the time of Christmas and a New Year. It's been a year that most of us would probably like to forget, but survive it we did and we did it with each other.

Hopefully, things will return to a new normal in 2021 but we are still very mindful of the disruption and illness that plagues so many countries. We are also very mindful of those who have suffered and died in these difficult days of 2020. All of them we commend gently to the Lord.

So too, these are many people I should thank but invariably I'll miss someone so a very big thank you to the Carmelites who have celebrated with us, the office staff (Anne, Shane, Michael and Ken) who have worked through very challenging circumstances and everyone who has been a part of our community throughout the year. It is a blessing to be with you, even when we are distanced, and know that I pray for all of you each day.

May the spirit of Christmas permeate our hearts and minds with its humble reverence for the mystery of life and a gratitude that we have our lives and each other.

A happy, peace-filled and quietly joyful Christmas to each of you and may 2020 be a time of renewal for us all.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas Eve

- 6:00pm Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (please note this is not the usual Family Mass or years past). ***There will be no children's nativity.***
- 8:00pm Mass at St Joseph's

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, Tuesday, Friday
(CLOSED WEDNESDAYS & 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

Principal Simon Millar

THIS WEEK

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE THE PARISH OFFICE

**The Parish Office will be closed
at 12 midday on
Tuesday 22 December 2020
and will reopen on
Wednesday 13 January 2021 at
9.00am
For emergencies only 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 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, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Ivy Hermence, Carl McCarthy, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Dennis Rohan, 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: Lilly Junkovic, and all those affected by COVID_ 19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: William Farnsworth, Carmelites, Bernard Payne, Peter Byrth and Andrew McNab.

IN OUR PARISH

THERE WILL BE NO MIDNIGHT MASS THIS YEAR

Christmas Day

- 9:00am Mass at St Joseph's
- 10:30am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 10:30am Mass at St Joseph's

Blessings and Christmas wishes,



Pat Mount our Vice-President of the Port Melbourne/Middle Park Conference and Peter Blades our member attended a cheque presentation ceremony at Emmaus College recently. The students and staff collected \$1,453 in cash and handed this over to our conference towards the purchase of Christmas gifts cards and toys for our clients. Last week our conference delivered gift cards, toys and some Christmas puddings to 105 needy families in our area, which brought them some welcome Christmas cheer in these difficult times. Our conference would like to say a big thank you to Father Hugh, the staff at the parish office and all our parishioners without whose encouragement and support we would struggle to conduct the "good works" of the Society. We also wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021. **Gerhard Correa - President Port Melbourne/Middle Park Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society.**

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.



**PORT MELBOURNE/MIDDLE PARK
PARISH
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE
2020**

Christmas Eve - Thursday 24 December	Mass (there is NO Nativity play this year)	Mt Carmel	6.00pm
	Mass	St Joseph's	8.00pm
Christmas Day - Friday 25 December	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am
	Mass	Mt Carmel	10.30am
	Mass	St Joseph's	10.30am
New Year's Day - Friday 1 January 2021	Mass	St Joseph's	9.00am

Parish Office

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Parish website: www.sj-mc.org.au**

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LITURGICAL ART

Reflection by Artist, Jenny Close



In last week's gospel, John used 'light' as a divine attribute; but in Luke's Annunciation 'the power of the Most High' covered Mary 'with its shadow'. It seems ironic that both light and shadow can be aspects of God. These seemingly conflicting motifs are examples of the human urge to devise metaphors which evoke the divine, even though we know that God can never be fully expressed in words or images.

In Luke's Annunciation, Mary is somewhere between the light and the shadow. Here the shadow has a protective, nurturing quality. Here too opposites are reconciled in God (flesh and spirit, light and shadow) 'for nothing is impossible to God'.

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better computer programmer.

Eventually they agree to hold a contest with God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours; lines of code streaming up the screen. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes and takes out the electricity. Moments later, the power

is restored, and God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, 'I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out.' 'Very well, then,' says God, 'let us see if Jesus fared any better.' Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, 'But how? I lost everything, how can Jesus' program be intact?' God chuckles and says, 'Ah – because Jesus saves.'

On this final Sunday of Advent the Church moves our gaze to the Annunciation. The whole scene hinges around one word: 'Yes.' Mary's fiat sets in motion the entire Christian drama. In his film *Jesus of Nazareth* Franco Zeffirelli pictures the Annunciation this way: Mary is asleep at night when a gust of wind opens a high window. Afraid at all the commotion Mary gets up and starts to pray. As she prays, we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window to the moonlit sky and simply says, 'Yes.' The swirling wind dies down at once.

In recent years successive popes have reminded us that the best devotion to Mary is one that leads us to do what she did: say 'yes' to Jesus. Mary is not a stop on our journey of faith; she is a guidepost that always sends us on to Christ. Mary does not save us, for we believe she needed to be saved by Christ as well. That's why she could say yes in the first place. Mary recognised the gift and the giver and became the bearer of God for the world.

In this final week of Advent let's keep reminding ourselves of this simple but life-changing fact: Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from death. Jesus saves us from living lives devoid of purpose and meaning and Jesus saves us from ourselves. We don't save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation by good works or prayers or penance. And, as difficult as it is to hear, we cannot save anyone else. That includes our children, spouse, grandchildren, parents or friends.

Our prayers, good works and faith are the responses we make to the salvation of Christ we claim here and now. And how we live is the way by which those we love will find the gift of God's salvation for themselves.

In the midst of this frantic final week before Christmas when so many other things can distract us from what this grace-filled feast is really all about, let's take a moment to join Mary in accepting into our lives and hearts the greatest of all gifts – our undeserved salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord. © Richard Leonard SJ

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 88

FOREVER I WILL SING

Psalm 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

Response: ***For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.***

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
 through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
 Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
 that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **Response**

I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.'

Response

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.

Response

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL



Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**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.**