



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.*

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

21 June 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

I apologise that I forgot to mention that the Feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated on Friday last. When you are trying to write 2 emails a week, the head gets quite a bit fuzzy.

Anyway, the Sacred Heart is a wonderful feast. I bet that most of us grew up with that famous picture of the Sacred Heart where the eyes of Jesus follow you around the room. That picture remains ever present to me because it was that same picture that was over my father's bed as he laying dying. I can still see his room in my memories and whenever I see that image I am always reminded of Dad's death.

Can I tell you a story about my father's death – his anniversary was on the 13 June, the same day that Ken died this year - although my Dad has been gone since the very early 80's.

Dad lived in Queensland on the Sunshine Coast for about the last 20 years of his life. He had a beautiful property that overlooked cane fields and the Maroochy River. His house, he basically built himself, and he did a remarkable job of making the most of the view over the valley below.

When he was diagnosed with cancer, he was on his own. We children had flown the coop and so he lived as something of a hermit in splendid isolation. He told me about the diagnosis in the November of the previous year when he came down to Melbourne to visit me at Whitefriars Monastery. Being young and stupid, I don't think I ever grasped the full significance of what he told me and how he had to face that news on his own.

Anyway, to cut to the chase, I received a call in early June from my sister who informed me that Dad was very sick and struggling to cope. I flew to Maroochydore to stay with him. Now Dad had made the decision that he wouldn't have surgery, chemo or radiation therapy. He felt he couldn't manage the consequences of that on his own and he had put his hope in more natural remedies. By the time I saw him, he was pretty

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,
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: Ken Petersen,
OCarm., John Bassett, Gordon Brown, Geraldine
McCarthy, Helen Sullivan, and those affected by
COVID - 19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this
time:** Carmelite, Thomas Murphy.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

We are about to place an order for Plaques for the walls of our Memorial Gardens. The order will be lodged at the end of the month. If you would like a plaque in memory of deceased family members, then please contact Anne at the Parish Office - 9681 9600 or parish@sj-mc.org.au. Cost of a plaque is \$180.00, and they take approximately 6 -8 weeks to be delivered and placed on the wall.

IN OUR PARISH

low and struggling to keep up a very strict regime of diet and other natural things. He absolutely refused any painkillers at all.

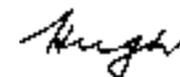
Anyway, the 9 days I had with him were very difficult because he needed help in every way. I remember having to shower him and there were tumours that were very visible in basically every area of his body. At night he would lie in bed in sheer agony and I have to confess that one night I made him take two aspirin for the pain. Surprisingly, they did some good, but that was the only manufactured pharmaceutical that he ever took right up until the day he died.

For some reason I had to return to Melbourne and my younger brother went to stay with Dad. It was while Tim was with Dad that he died, very peacefully, on 13 June. How do I know that it was peaceful?

Well, I only learned this story when I returned to Maroochydore for his funeral. About 2 days before Dad died, Ed Welten, a fellow Carmelite then stationed in Brisbane, went to see him. Ed told me that when he arrived at Dad's place, Dad was very excited and couldn't wait to tell him what had occurred the night before. Apparently, Dad experienced a very powerful presence in his room. It wasn't my brother. It was a presence that Dad knew was something far greater than any of us children. And, as Dad told Ed, the only response he could make were the words: "I love you!" which he repeated over and over throughout the night. From that moment Dad was able to let go and he died very peacefully 2 days later.

That's why I love the feast of the Sacred Heart! Dad was only 56 years old.

By the way, the last words that my father ever said to me were: "I love you, Hughie" and that's another reason why I love the Sacred Heart because my father's heart is beating inside the divine heart.



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 by Artist- Jenny Close

In this week's reading Jesus continues to prepare his most trusted disciples for their ministry. He tells them, three times, not to be afraid. The twelve are not to fear the darkness nor death, because God is all powerful and values the faithful. The twelve are to be the light in the darkness for others.



A few years ago there was an English film entitled, *Secrets and Lies*. It charted the story of a dysfunctional family who sat on terrible secrets and told many lies for decades.

Like many successful dramatic films, audiences flocked to see it, not only because of its compelling story, but also because it tapped into an important truth about family life as many of us live it.

When I was a boy I was often told that 'What's said and done in the home, stays in the home.' And to a degree, this is a good and loyal principle.

There are, however, family secrets and lies that cause untold damage for generations because no one is allowed to speak about them. Sexual abuse, domestic violence, suicide, incest, drug-taking, alcoholism, theft, adoption and abortion are only some of the secrets and lies that many families sit on.

Jesus, however, tells us in today's Gospel that what you 'say in the dark, tell in the light. What you whisper in darkness, shout from the housetops.'

This doesn't mean that Christians tell everyone their personal business, but it does cut to the heart of what stunts spiritual and personal growth.

To the degree that something shameful remains buried, hidden and unhealed, then its power over us is increased. It remains the thing about which we can never speak. The bad spirit has a field day with this sort of stuff, feeding our fears and lowering our self-esteem.

In this regard some Christians make a false distinction between their spiritual and psychological lives. They hold that the exploration of one's personal history or emotional problems is self-indulgent or unimportant to how we live.

We all know people who, in the pursuit of emotional health, become obsessed by their own story, feelings, reactions and psychology. We also know others who never deal with the heavy hurts they seem to carry through the years, even though the pain of them seem to be as powerfully felt now as they were when they were inflicted upon them. Today's Gospel reminds us that there is a middle road between denying what should be acknowledged and dealt with, and being absorbed by it.

The Church, rightly, holds that the best psychological tools can bring out into the open memories and experiences that can be seen for what they are and dealt with. We just have to be sure that we don't get conned into believing that psychology and therapy is anything but a pit-stop in life, so that we can attend to the working order of our mental machinery, and, importantly, get back on the road with everyone else, calling in later if needs be.

Long before the therapist's office Christ enabled the Church to develop the Sacrament of Penance where we admit our most destructive behaviour and hear that we are forgiven and healed.

That's why, when I am hearing a confession, I can't tell you how happy I am to hear the penitent say, 'Father I have never told anyone this before.'

At that moment I know the love of God is active in the person, drawing out what Christ wants in the light, spoken of and healed.

This Sunday Jesus invites all of us to find a person we respect and trust, and to end the tyranny of the power of secrets and lies. I promise you when you take this risk with the appropriate person, the presence of God won't be very far away either.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 147: PRAISE THE LORD, JERUSALEM

Response: *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

Response

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

Response

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

Response

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Matthew 10:26-33



Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

**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.**