



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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

22 August 2021

Hi Everyone,

Ho hum! Another week in lockdown! Hope you are knitting, watching Netflix, walking or Zooming or whatever takes your fancy.

WORLD NEWS

Besides all the COVID news, many tragic things, other than the virus, are coming through our news services: the disaster in Haiti; the changes in Afganistan; the ecological crisis; Australians wanting to come home ... it seems that the list is never-ending and it just piles gloom upon gloom. It reminds me a little of Jesus' warning to his followers: when you see all these disasters happening, remember to trust in the Lord.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please pray for the family of a 32-week old baby boy who was a stillbirth. As some of you would know from 1st hand experience, it can be a traumatic experience for a family to come to grips with, so please keep them in your prayers.

Also, please remember Jonathon Wilks, the 2nd son of Kevin and Margaret, who died unexpectedly at the age of 50 and will be buried from OLMC next Friday at 11:00am. Please also pray for his Mum and Dad and brothers and sister and their families.

We have several parishioners who are doing it very tough either because of isolation or through illness so please be mindful of them in your thoughts, prayers or even cooking, etc.

21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday's readings are about making a decision to either follow the Lord or not!

The 1st reading is from the book of Joshua and that book comes straight after the book of Deuteronomy – why is that interesting? Well, because up until the end of Deuteronomy, Moses has had the last starring role, but now he has to hand

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 Fakkah, 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, Jonathon Wil, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Johnathon Wilks, and all those affected by COVID_19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Giovanni Speranza, and Carmelites, Brocard Leybourne, and Charles Haughey.

IN OUR PARISH

over the leadership to someone else and that someone is Joshua (which is probably the same Jewish name as Jesus!)

Anyway, Moses brings the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt to the very brink of the promised land after about 40 years without a GPS. As luck would have it, Moses doesn't get to enter the promised land – he can only look at it over the river. So, Joshua takes the reins and he leads the people into the land promised by God as far back as Abraham's time.

The story of Joshua is interestingly a bit like the story of Moses, except that Joshua is a pretty mean fighter, and his job is to settle these people in the Promised land.

Only trouble is – other people already live there (sound a bit familiar especially if you are an indigenous Australian or possibly a Palestinian?). To cut a long story short, Joshua has remarkable military success and the Israelites manage to get something of a foothold in the land.

Now, because the inhabitants that the Israelites were replacing had a lot of other gods and some of them were rather attractive (not from looking at their statues mind you which are fairly unattractive, but because they allowed a lot of fairly licentious practices!) Joshua tells the people: You either choose God or you choose one of these other "gods".

Lo and behold, all the Israelites agree to follow the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses and that is the 1st reading today. (My guess is that some of them only put up their hands to vote because they might have been stoned if they didn't!!)

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.

The Gospel tells much the same story about Jesus who has been telling the people all about the Bread of Life. Now, as you would know, quite a few people didn't like what he had to say. In fact, John tells us that many stopped following him after this. Jesus then asked his closest friends: Are you going to go away too? And, the rest we know is history. These few friends stuck with Jesus and my guess is that they really didn't know what they were getting into, but that's faith for you.

The point is: are we going to follow Jesus or something (someone) else? The choice is ours!

Blessings and peace,



**Unfortunately due to current Victorian Government Restrictions
due to COVID_19
the August 2021 Parish Men's Dinner
next Wednesday 25 August 2021, has been cancelled.**

Dear Prime Minister.... now about climate change!!!

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) has organised a hand written letter writing Campaign to the Prime Minister. They are inviting people of all faiths to write to the PM to express concern about the lack of action and the urgent need for the Federal government to develop a Plan of Action which will bring Australia into line with other countries on a global level to prevent the effects of climate change on all life forms. We are all invited to contribute to this Campaign.

All you need to do is hand write a letter expressing your particular concerns and requesting that the Government takes strong and immediate action to counter the effects of climate change. You may wish to refer to the information in Key Points to make in your Letter and the Tips on Writing both of which are included in this Bulletin to assist you.

All letters received will be handed to the PM on Friday 10 September 2021 so they need to be mailed in time to be included.

Please place your letter in an envelope and place this envelope inside another envelope addressed to:

Letters to the PM
11 Ashby Street
Kingsgrove
NSW 2208



Dear Prime Minister... about the climate....

This year people of faith all over Australia are writing to the Prime Minister asking for much bolder climate action. We will be handing over hundreds of letters. Here's how you and your faith community can get involved.

Please **send the letters to us** rather than to the PM. That way we can collect them all together. You need to post them in time to arrive **by Friday, 10th September at the latest. (The deadline has been extended.)** Please send them to:

Letters to the PM

c/o 11 Ashby Street
Kingsgrove
NSW 2208

Please also **write your address on the back of the envelope**. If you'd rather not do that, please write your postcode. We'd like to know where in the country the letters are coming from.

Key points to make in your letter

The faith community you're part of

Let the Prime Minister know your faith (Christian, Buddhist etc) and if you're involved with a specific place of worship please mention that you go there.

Why action on the climate is important to you and your faith

In one or two sentences you could tell the PM why this matters to you in terms of your faith. Is it loving your neighbour? Protecting Creation? Restoring God's balance? Acting with compassion for all sentient beings?

Clean, new energy will create more jobs and save more money than not gas.

It's time to upgrade our energy system. Solar, wind and hydro will create a lot more jobs than gas and save us all money as well. We need a government with a plan for doing this and one that will create good, well-paying jobs for people in coal and gas communities.

(If you can think of a local project (solar, hydro, wind etc) that you would like the federal Government to support, please do mention this as well!!)

We want a plan for bold action by 2030

This decade is when most of the reduction in pollution needs to take place, starting right away, if we are to avoid the worst damage to the climate and seize the economic opportunity in front of us. This needs to be

a reduction in climate pollution of at least a two-thirds by 2030. Targets for the faraway date of 2050 are not going to do the job. And whatever the target is we need a clear plan for getting there too.

Australia needs to start paying for more vulnerable nations to avoid the worst impacts.

People in less wealthy countries are our neighbours. Often they have done a lot less to create the climate problem. It is our moral responsibility as a nation to pay for damages that have been done and support people who have been the most impacted by keeping our commitment to provide substantial amounts of finance for the UN Green Climate Fund. This also needs to be additional to the existing aid budget.

It's time we chose to stop all new coal, oil and gas projects and deforestation.

We have a responsibility to protect our common home and even very mainstream organisations like the International Energy Agency are saying that this means no new fossil fuel projects from now on. This is within our reach.

Let's seize the amazing opportunity to move rapidly to 100% renewables away and away from coal, oil and gas.

There are so many economic opportunities available to us if we do this now. This is urgent. We have all seen the increase in droughts, floods and terrifying bushfires. Let's choose a positive path and not a negative one.

NB: Please do not send the letters to the PM but to ARRCC c/o 11 Ashby St, Kingsgrove, NSW.

2208. We plan to make a media event of the delivery of the letters to the PM's office, so we need them by Friday, 10th September.

Please place your letter in an envelope before placing it in the envelope that will go through Australia Post, and write your address on the back, or at least your postcode. We'd like to be able to say where letters are from.

Tips on writing

1. **Write it by hand.** Handwritten letters are much more likely to be read.
2. **One letter per person** - this is much more effective than one group letter signed by multiple people at your place of worship.
3. **Put your letter in an envelope and gather all the letters from your place of worship together.** These all need to be sent in one bundle to ARRCC for us to deliver with others from all over the country. See above for where to send these.
4. **Be polite.** Make sure you use the Prime Minister's full and correct name and title: the Honourable Scott Morrison MP. And of course, please keep the overall tone respectful.
5. State **who you are.** Let the Prime Minister know **the faith community you're involved with.**
6. **If you have a recognised position within your faith community, let them know about it.**
7. **Tell him in your own words why you are writing to him** and outline very briefly the issue. Tell him how you feel and why it is so important to **you**. You can use our letter template as a guide for structure, but make sure your letter is **in your own words.**



*Celebrate with us
The Season of Creation
September 1 – October 4*



*You are invited to join us in
a 40 minute pause at 4.00 p.m. (AEST) each Sunday
to reflect on the wonder of our Cosmos and its
astonishing 14 billion year story, our own living planet
and ourselves as an intimate and interdependent part
of it all.*

*Our pause will be a time to wonder,
To reflect, to pray and
To care for our common home.*

We will gather on Zoom. Each session will consist of

- a presentation on some aspect of creation,
- followed by a short time for reflection;
- a few minutes in small groups to share your thoughts on the day's theme with three or four other participants.
- conclude with a blessing.

The dates: September 5, 12, 19, 26, October 3.

Come for one session or for as many as you can.

To participate, please register by email to:

corrie@missionarysisters.org.au

You will be sent the Zoom link to the gatherings.

*Sponsored by Missionary Sisters of Service, Highways and Byways a
Community of Service and the Carmelite Centre Eco Spirituality Reading
Group*



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

I have some sympathy for the response of the Jews to Jesus' hard teaching in today's Gospel! For a Jew to be asked to drink blood is as abhorrent as it gets. It is the same as demanding that an ultra Orthodox Jew eat pork!

In almost all the stories in the Gospel of John there are insiders and outsiders, those who understand the message and those who take Jesus too literally and are offended or confused. The flesh and blood given for the life of the world is at one and the same time the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist. Jesus was not, literally, offering his arm for his followers to chew! He was referring to the gift he was soon going to give his followers: the example of utter fidelity to God's Kingdom even unto death, and the meal of that Kingdom, the Eucharist. We are the recipients of both gifts and the commission to live them out. The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation is given to us for our mission in the world today and for our journey toward the World to come.

The other response in today's Gospel gives us great hope. In spite of being confused and deserted by his friends Peter hangs in there with Jesus. He holds on to faith when all the signs show that a hasty retreat may be a better course of action. We all know people who remain faithful in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some of these we can understand – parents with sick children or spouses with ill partners. It's heroic, but understandable. But sometimes fidelity is heroic and inexplicable: when a spouse welcomes back his or her partner after an adulterous affair; when a foreign-born priest or religious will not abandon an oppressed community; when a person will fight a just cause and be persecuted all the way to the end. These are powerful signs of faithful love at work too. It's a fine line to know when fidelity is 'dying to self' not 'killing self'. We are called to the former and often seduced by the latter.

James Keenan in his excellent book, 'Virtues for ordinary Christians' says that fidelity is the bottom line of the Christian life. He argues that the Church has spent too much time preaching about 'infidelities' and too little time teaching about those things that strengthen fidelity. 'Each person,' he says, 'has two major moral goals in life: to be just and to be faithful'. Being faithful to his Father, and to us, sums up what Jesus does for our salvation and is exactly what He calls forth from the disciples in today's Gospel. Perhaps because we too easily think it is something difficult, we presume that being faithful to our friends is hardly a moral issue. Yet once we see that friendship is the key to the moral life then we can come to see that living the moral life is about the ordinary interactions of our day.

James Keenan writes, 'To this end we may need to make more calls, write more letters, cook more dinners, take more strolls, linger a little longer with a friend. We

may also need to disengage ourselves from the habit of counting or measuring what the other does or does not do or say'.

May this Eucharist enable us to respond to the invitation of the Holy One of God to place fidelity and friendship at the centre of our moral life and attend to the everyday activities that will sees us live it out. © **Richard Leonard SJ**

LITURGICAL ART



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

This is the final reading from John's gospel in which the food image is the focus. The metaphor that Jesus uses about eating his flesh and drinking his blood is too graphic and shocking for many in his audience. The symbolic nature of the message is made plain when Jesus says that his words are 'spirit and life'.

OUR LITURGY

Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 33:

TASTE AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9

Response: ***Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

GOSPEL

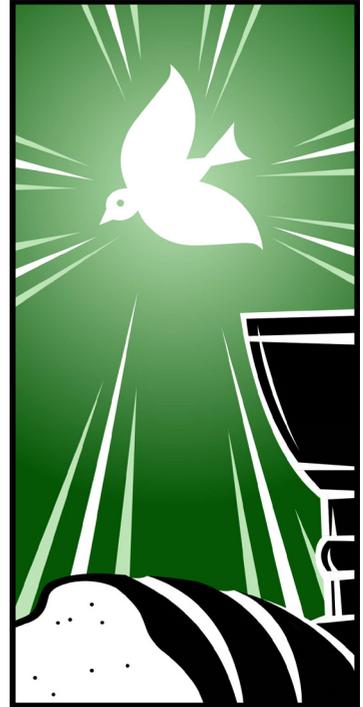
John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'



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