



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 24 December 2023

Dear sisters and brothers,

As we arrive at the last Sunday of Advent this weekend and the feast of Christmas right on top of it, we are drawn by today's Gospel to Mary's role in the history of our salvation. God's desire to come among us as one of us was made possible because of Mary's faith. This tremendous faith and trust in God made her declare, in the face of the extraordinary and mysterious manner in which she was to become a mother and the uncertainty as to how her life and that of her child would unfold: *I am the handmaid of the Lord ... let what you have said be done to me.*

There are many thoughts and emotions stirred by the feast of Christmas, but one of them is certainly that of **thanksgiving**. We give thanks to God, above all, for coming among us, humbly, as one of us and living in the human condition in which we all live – with its trials and struggles, its joys and sorrows, its sacrifices and hardships, its successes and failures, its triumphs and tragedies, its predictabilities and its uncertainties. By living in our human condition, God, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, has released us from being captive to the vicissitudes of human life, given it meaning and enabled us to share in divine, eternal, glorious life – and to participate in that life even now!

Today's Gospel and the feast of Christmas also stirs us to give thanks to God for Mary and thanks to Mary for her faith-filled and courageous response to what God, through the angel Gabriel, asked of her. It's a special time to ask Mary to pray for us that, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in life, we might be able to discern what it is that God is asking of us and respond as Mary did: *I am the handmaid (servant) of the Lord ... let what you have said be done to me.*

.....

In keeping with the season's theme of thanksgiving, and given this is the last Newsletter until the beginning of February, it is appropriate to say THANK YOU to everyone who has supported our parish community this year. In the first instance, this is each and every one of you. By your presence and participation in worship, by your prayer and your personal gifts we are mutually enriched

Continued on page 4

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

5.00pm (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

After Hours Phone Number
0419 136 030

Email parish@sj-mc.org.au

Parish Website www.sj-mc.org.au

Carmelite Website
www.carmelites.org.au

Office Hours:

Tuesday - 9am - 4pm

Wednesday - 9am-4pm

Friday - 9am-12pm

(CLOSED MONDAYS & THURSDAYS)

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm

Parish Secretary

Cathy Garbellini

Pastoral Assistant

Kelly McEnhill

Business Finance Manager

Mark Zanon

Sacramental Co-Ordinator

Baptism - Angela Cox

First Reconciliation - Angela Cox

First Eucharist - Aimee Nguyen

Confirmation - Sally Diserio

Safeguarding Officer

Frances Correa

Facilities Manager

Dave Fletcher

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street, South Melbourne 3205

Telephone 03 9699 2928

THIS WEEK

Sunday 24 December

5:00pm Family Mass with Nativity Pageant, Mt Carmel

7:00pm Mass, St Joseph's

Monday 25 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

10:30am Mass, Mt Carmel

Tuesday 26 December - Saturday 30 December

No Weekday masses

Saturday 30 December

5.00pm Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 31 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel

Monday 1 January

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

WE REMEMBER

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Victor Acciarito, Deepa Ariff, Lawrence Bassett, Grace Callaghan, Mary Hong Cao, Mary Tam Cao, Shawn Ceasar, Robert Chaminda, Mrs Chan, Josephine Clayton, Paul Cox, Daphnie Cramer, Grace Cumming, Mary Dalli, Michael De Nittis, Maureen Dickason, Leonie Dimes, Bernadette Falckh, Gigi Falk, Lyn Falk, Maria Fatima, Rebecca Fernando, Tony Fernandez, Father Des Fitzgerald CSSR, Jill Foster, Gus Gleason, Amelia Grace, Evelyn Greach, Brendan Gurry, Michael Gurry, George Grzyb, Nova Hack, Bernardine Hagan, Christine Hall, Shawn Handricks, Chin Hsia, Portia Hendrick, Carol Higginson, Jason Ho, Marija Jelinic, Sr Martin Jones, Mary Loc, Les Lugowski, Christine Lyell, Maria Teresa Marques, Robert Masquiren, Ian McLachlan, Sean McPhee, Sharon Beverly Mendes, Marta Menjivar, Baby Alba Middleton, Sam Neill, Maria Loe Nguyen, Mary Nguyen-Loc, Mary Paradise, Dan Quickley, Helen Quickley, Rafal Rafakski, Daphnie Rasika, Shawn Raymond, Jill Ridge, Michael Risteviski, Keith Ryder, Chris Silkok, Ailbe Sheehy, Sash Somerset Beauverie, Dorothea Spencer, Jim Sullivan, Danielle Szeto, Angela Trigar & Tami Yap.

Those who have died recently: Anton Joseph, Thomas Montgomery and Maria Torcasio.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Jim McCarthy, Witold Molenda & Camelite Andrew McNab.

IN OUR PARISH

HOLIDAY PERIOD CHANGES

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed from 22 December 12pm and will re-open on 23 January at 9am.

Please call the emergency phone number for **genuine emergencies** such as anointing and funerals.

WEEKDAY MASSES: There will be **NO** weekday morning masses from Tuesday, 26 December to Saturday 30 December 2023 (inclusive).

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY MASSES : There will be no changes to the usual schedule.

MUSIC: There will be **NO** music at the weekend liturgies from 13 -28 January 2024 inclusive.

THANKYOU

Thankyou to the Parish Craft Group who have donated a total of **\$491.40** to the Giving Tree appeal from adhoc sales during the year and the stall at the Parish Christmas Social which raised \$125.00.

Congratulations to Maree Chalmers and the other group members for a successful 2023.

Last Monday the group met for the last time this year including Kath Scanlon, who was celebrating her birthday Happy Birthday Kath !!



30/31 December 2023

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY
& JOSEPH**

5.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Mary Chow

Reader: Des Collins

Offertory: Tris Tanumihardjo

Communion: Joe Chow

Music: Tris Tanumihardjo

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: Rob Lever

Reader: Will Kininmonth

Offertory: Rob Lever

Communion: Kelly McEnhill

Counters: Cathy Garbellini & Nova Hack

Music: Margaret Smith

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Kathleen Kiernan

Reader: Denis Churkovich

Offertory: Sally Diserio

Communion: Sally Diserio

Music: Kelly McEnhill

Hospitality: Peter Thomas

Communion to the Sick:

Marlene Carlin: 31 Dec - 6 Jan 24

THANK YOU

for your generosity last weekend

Parish Stewardship Offerings

Envelopes	\$ 595.00
Credit Card	\$ 335.00
Direct Credit	\$ 705.00
Loose Plate	\$ 1,434.80
Tap & Go	\$ 315.00
Total	\$3,384.80

BSB: 083-347

Account No: 58 216 8515

Name: Port Melb / Middle Park Parish

Parish Website: www.sj-mc.org.au

using **DONATE** button on

Homepage.

and empowered to reach out in service to the wider community. For this we give thanks.

Some people, of course, make special contributions and I offer a special thank you to them. They know who they are, so I will not attempt to name them all. However, I do particularly thank those with whom I work most closely in the parish office: Cathy (Secretary), Kelly (roster management, liturgical coordination, general support), Mark (finance and business), Dave (maintenance) and Frances (Safeguarding Coordinator), along with various volunteers. I make special mention, too, of our Sacristans who make sure everything is ready for our liturgical celebrations: Rob (St Joseph's – and Maggie on Fridays) and Peter, Nina, Hong and Abramo (OLMC) and Kelly for her assistance in both Churches, along with Helen (flower arrangement and laundering of altar linen at St Joseph's and Carmel (laundering of altar linen at OLMC). Frs Matthew and Maurice offer much appreciated assistance with weekday Masses. I am very grateful, too, to those who have come forward as part of the Parish Leadership & Exploration Group and look forward to the development of our role next year. Our Catechists, too, make a very special contribution for which I am very grateful – Angela (Baptism & 1st Reconciliation), Aimee (1st Communion) and Sally (Confirmation). Maree does a wonderful job in caring for the memorial rose garden at St Joseph's, along with the roses at OLMC – and organising the fortnightly craft group at St Joseph's. John has done a great job for many years in organising the Parish Men's Dinner and the baton has now passed to Brian and Terry – thank you. Thank you, too, to The Vinnies group who do incredible work behind the scenes reaching out to those in need and are a vital part of who we are as a parish.

As we celebrate Christmas, I would also like to thank Pam who, with the support of Bernadette for many years – and this year also Angela and Aimee – organises and directs the Children's Nativity Pageant at the Christmas Family Mass. This is always a highlight of Christmas celebrations, and I'm sure it will be no different this year. Thank you to the children who have participated this year and it would be helpful if those interested in participating next year would register their interest as early as possible. (Contact: Cathy@sj-mc.org.au or 9681 9600).

I thank everyone, too, for the positive response to the Thanksgiving Program this year which has resulted in a significant improvement in our financial position. Once 2023 accounts are finalised and audited some time next year, I will let you know the details.

Finally, on a personal note, I thank you for your welcome of me to the parish

this year and for the many and varied ways in which you have supported me. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have been able to serve you as I could.

Along with the other Carmelites, I wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and happy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.



REFLECTION

Receive your God!

The great Christmas feast is almost here. As always in Advent, what is promised in the first reading is brought to fulfilment in the Gospel reading. We began Advent with the cry, 'Come, Lord Jesus'. We will end it with the joyful shout, 'God is with us!'

In the first reading King David wants to build a house (temple) for God, but God says that, instead, God will build David and his descendants into a great house. God is not about building temples to himself and it's not dwelling-places made of wood or stone that God wants. God is about building a dwelling-place in human flesh. God is about building a people among whom and in whom he can live.

In the Gospel, Mary accepts God's invitation to make herself into a dwelling place for God by receiving Christ and God makes his dwelling-place in her human flesh. Through her God has come to live permanently in humanity.

That is what we, too, are about – making ourselves into a living dwelling place for Christ. The great gift of Jesus to the world is not meant to be frozen in one moment of time. Through us, that Gift is made present in every moment of history so that through us Christ is able to continue to touch, to hold and to heal the world.

OUR LITURGY

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD – VERSE 1, 2 AND 4

Dan Schutte

ANTIPHON

Glo - ry and praise to our God, who a - lone gives light to our days.

Man - y are the bless-ings he bears to those who trust in his

ways.

Fine VERSES 1-3

1. We the daugh-ters and sons of him who
 2. In his wis - dom he strength-ens us, like
 3. Ev - 'ry mo - ment of ev - 'ry day our

1. built the val - leys and plains, praise the won - ders our
 2. gold that's test - ed in fire. Though the pow - er of
 3. God is wait - ing to save, al - ways, read - y to

to Antiphon

1. God has done in ev - 'ry heart that sings.
 2. sin pre - vails our God is there to save.
 3. seek the lost, to an - swer those who pray.

VERSE 4

4. God has wa - lered our bar - ren land and spent his mer - ci - ful rain.

to Antiphon

4. Now the riv - ers of life run full for an - y - one to drink.

Text based on Psa 86, 88. Text and music © 1976, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE



FIRST READING

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 89 FOR EVER I WILL SING THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD.

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

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, My kindness is established forever;
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **Response**

I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations. **Response**

He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my saviour.'
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm. **Response**

SECOND READING

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 ACCLAMATION



Richard Prolx, 1937-2010
Adapt. by Michael O'Connor, O.P.
Music © 2010, 2011, WLP

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.



APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY - NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom Heaven and earth adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

HOLY

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth
are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Text © 2010, ICCL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music © 2009, Curtis Stephan. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

LAMB OF GOD

Richard Proulx, 1937-2010
Adapt. by Michael O'Connor, O.P.
Music © 2010, 2011. WLP

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Cel: Behold the Lamb of God.
Behold him who takes away the sins of the World.
lessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION HYMN - I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE VERSES 1, 2 & 3

I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me shall not hunger;
and who believe shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons.

**Refrain: And I will raise him up, and I will raise him up,
and I will raise him up on the last day.**

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and he who eats of this bread,
he shall live for ever,
he shall live for ever. **Refrain**

Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you. **Refrain x 2**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: O COME, O COME EMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

O come, O come, the Lord of might,
to who your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

Lyrics reproduced with permission One License no. A 642773

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