



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.*

Ascension of the Lord

24 May 2020

Dear Friends,

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. If you look at some of the depictions of it by the painters of old, you'll see Jesus wafting up to heaven, often surrounded by clouds and angels, with the disciples looking amazed down below. It certainly lends itself to these types of images and, in a way, there is a strange comfort in this rather marvellous event.

But let's not get the impression that this was the inauguration of flight or even a precursor of space age travel. We would do the stories in the Gospel a disservice if we imagined it so.

For years I struggled with this feast, probably because I can be very literal with a rather stilted imagination. It was only when I realized that spiritual events need images to express a deeper reality that I came to appreciate the power of the story. It's the official ending of Jesus' "physical" presence in our world. Put simply, we know that Jesus lived, ministered and died and that, after 3 days of death he was experienced by his disciples as a living presence. He ate with them, spoke with them, walked beside them – all outlined in the Gospel stories but then: his living presence, as the disciples had experienced it, came to an end. In other words, Jesus returned to his Father. Why? In order to send us the Holy Spirit – a feast we celebrate next Sunday. (You really couldn't make this stuff up, could you?)

Anyway, the point is this: it is the Spirit of the Risen Lord who lives within, among and over us. We call this the Holy Spirit and this Holy Spirit is present whenever and wherever peace, goodness, healing, compassion, joy, sadness, hurt, forgiveness is found. Surprisingly, it is the Holy Spirit who sustains our lives though strangely, we very often don't realise it.

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

Please ask permission of the sick person(s) before asking their name(s) be put on the list. We need to be sensitive to the fact that some people may not wish their names published.

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, John Bassett, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakov, Rafal Rafalski, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Helen Stanley, Helen Sullivan, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Patsy Evers, Ian Jobling, Jean Lawson, John Ryan, Margaret McIlvanney, and those affected by COVID - 19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelite, Arnold Vaneman.

IN OUR PARISH

How forgetful we can become? How limited can our imaginations be? How selective we can be in deciding where God is and isn't?

It's not that God is ever absent; it is us who can be absent to the power of the living God. That's why the Ascension was needed; that's why Pentecost happened – so that we can experience God in any time, any place, any circumstance, any emotion: God never leaves us.

Here is a timely reminder by the musician David Haas:

So much has been and will continue to be, for some time, cancelled: sports events, concerts, plays, worship services, rallies, travel, meetings, classes, family gatherings, and so much more.

However –

Love has not been cancelled.

Mercy has not been cancelled.

Prayer has not been cancelled.

Love has not been cancelled.

Attentiveness has not been cancelled.

Goodness has not been cancelled.

Thanksgiving has not been cancelled.

Loving relationships have not been cancelled.

Kindness has not been cancelled.

Music has not been cancelled.

Conversations have not been cancelled.

Poetry and storytelling have not been cancelled.

Courage has not been cancelled.

Meditation and contemplation have not been cancelled.

Faith has not been cancelled.

Hope has not been cancelled.

And – God's presence with us, has not been cancelled.

(<http://stmarksaurora.net/covid-19-response/more-reflections>)

May each us rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

FURTHER NEWS

- Fr Maurice is home again and looking very fit indeed. Unfortunately, Miguel is still in hospital – so prayers please.
- Also, please remember in your prayers Mr. Christopoulos, father of Dimitra (Grade 1 at Galilee) who is also very unwell.
- Young Aiden Leonard is recuperating well and can now ride his bike! Excellent news!
- Please pray for Mrs. Patsy Evers, the mother of a friend of mine who died last week. Patsy was once the “Beauty Queen of Echuca” but that was a few years ago!
- Good luck to Galilee staff and students who are returning, in limited numbers, to the classrooms this week (I think!).

REFLECTION

This reflection piece is written by one of our community, Marlene Halim. I think I'll take up Zoom Zuma!!! Thanks, Marlene, for a great story:

As the year 2020 began, I started to take a design class with Billy Blue College of Design which was just recently being bought by a university. One week before, the 2020 Grand Prix was cancelled and it was the census date which meant that I had to decide whether to continue the course or not. That day I decided to continue the course after some consideration. I just decided to continue with one class.

Then the Grand Prix was cancelled on March 13. When that happened, I was doing a Zumba class at MSAC where the actual Grand Prix was located. As it happened, I predicted that things were getting very serious. My prediction was right, after that weekend most things started to close its doors one by one. It was justified either by business decisions or government decisions. That day, I regretted my decision a week beforehand, a decision to continue the class. The following week, my class was also got cancelled along with everything else.

By March 20, the decision was to move the class into online environment. There are so much confusion, concussion, loss of thoughts and emotional roller coasters as people started to lose jobs as a result of business closing down. My business also needed to “Stay Calm and Keep Calm” as things got very unpredictable.

Then it began, the period of people “staying at home” and “working from home”. Thanks to online platform, some of group activities and communications can be continued online. Some survive with this method and find it refreshing, some just could not handle it and quit their jobs, and some are indifferent.

I personally found it very challenging in the beginning, but slowly as I adapted to it, I started to accept it. Maybe this is a little glimpse of the future. The future of technology where people can do their work or activities from wherever they are. The future of Artificial Intelligence and robots and drones and surveillance cameras. An exciting era for someone who loves advancement and technology and a scary era for someone like me who loves nature and people's connection.

Then I found myself expressing my thoughts and feelings in my design class, the class which I regretted being involved with.

I was supposed to make a Tableau Vivant image and chose an historical era for this project. But I was naughty. I chose a future period instead. I asked the lecturer whether I'm allowed to do a Vision Board using a futuristic era and she said yes. My heart leaped and my mind was overjoyed. Honestly, that was the point of my decision to continue the class. It was because I can build a Vision Board, something that I have always wanted to do but the idea was just sitting at the back of my mind. But now, how am I going to build this on my own?

I'm not good with doing things online, being alone and not interacting with people. The idea of taking the class was to be with people, not to be by myself and still having to do the project by myself like this.

I was scared that I couldn't do it and not being able to survive the class in this condition. I found it hard to find motivation in the beginning.

However, as a lot of things started to move online, I also started to accept any invitation online with the hope to just be able to connect with others and not feeling alone.

This online activities through Zoom or Webinar had helped me to go through this “stay at home” time. I started to schedule my days with online activities, whether it is listening to Webinar talk on certain topic, Schedule Meeting activities, Zoom Rosary Meeting, or even a Zoom karaoke session or dance session. Eventually many activities that I had done in groups previously still could be done through online / internet method without having to leave home. Very interesting. I was grateful that at least this is happening now, not 10, 15 or 20 years ago when the internet was not this advanced.

From there, I was able to survive. I was able to continue my study and did my project through online student mentor help and every other support provided by the university online. There was one time that I even received a call from the college's coach just to check on me. I found that very nice and extremely helpful for someone who lives alone like me. As I chatted with her and talked about the loneliness concern, she suggested to connect with family and friends through a video call. I tried that and it actually worked! It felt totally different connecting with someone just by video call since you can actually see them and feel their energy!

I started to be able to focus on my project, and here is the result of my final project:



It is about a futuristic era. In this futuristic concept, the story is about how we, as humans, are being controlled by the future technology and this technology would be our world. The Matrix background represents the world of Artificial Intelligence. Me sitting inside the Giant Phone symbolised that I live in the digital world which is a virtual world that can project a virtual reality. The Robot Hand represents the power of Robots in the future in the automation world. Last but not least, the Drone represents that in the AI world, the world is watching us through the drone.

On my personal reflection, I have learned tremendously from this project and how resilient and adaptable a human can be during challenging time. It can either make us or break us.

In this particular design project, the real challenges started to come when I started to compose a new image. With very limited software knowledge I had to quickly learn Adobe Photoshop software's function within a short period of time to be able to create the images I wanted. The next challenges came in the initial remaking process when I had to imitate my futuristic image with real limited resources at home.

I faced the challenges by thinking deeper and more creatively. I started to observe items and things that I have at home and paid more attention closely. As my mind wondered, I found things at home that I can use as elements for the project.

What I learned from the design project was how far I can go with my creative thinking. I learned that when I pushed myself to think and look further, I could find things (even with Covid-19 limitations) that I could use for the project. It could be tough in the beginning, but it is achievable. I am grateful that I can learn so much during this challenging time. Furthermore, I also realised that the class became one of the things that had helped me during this time. My regret had turned into my gratitude.

Last but not least, I hope my personal journey and story have inspired you in one way or another just like how Michael Murray's Banana Bread Story in the previous writing had inspired me to write this little reflection piece.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER CHOIR

The Australian Chamber Choir will live stream a concert:

Sunday 24 May at 5.00pm

SURVIVORS OF THE LONDON PLAGUES

When Bubonic Plague broke out in London in 1563, Queen Elizabeth I moved her court to Windsor Castle. Not much has changed. More than four hundred years later, Queen Elizabeth II has just done the same for much the same reason. On Sunday 24 May at 5 pm, the Australian Chamber Choir will live stream works composed by survivors of the plagues that ravaged Elizabethan London. Douglas Lawrence talks about choosing the music for this program "Some would say that the reign of Elizabeth I was the greatest period in the history of English music. The list is extraordinary: Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Morley, Tomkins, Tye and on it goes. Given his three stunning masses, Byrd is tops for me. Add to that list of composers, Henry Purcell, born sixty years after Elizabeth's reign and the problem becomes not so much what to choose as what not to choose!" Eight ACC choir members will come together, adopting COVID-19 safe measures, to bring live music to Australian and international audiences. The \$24 ticket price will help towards paying the ACC's singers and staff. Live streaming is done in partnership with the Melbourne Digital Concert Hall. This is the first in a series of monthly live-streamed concerts from Mandeville Hall Toorak. More at: AusChoir.org/London-Plagues



**Carmelite Conversations session
with Paul Cahill
Wednesday 3 June,
10.30am - noon
via zoom**

<https://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org/events/carmelite-conversations-blessed-titus-brandsma-with-paul-cahill-ocarm-wed-3-june-10-30-noon/>

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. And though there is now a school of thought that holds that he was beaten to the summit by Tenzing Norgay, his Tibetan colleague, there was an aura around this New Zealander who had been to the top of the world.

Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time.

Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. While other denominations describe their liturgy as 'worship', we tend to use it only in a more secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.

In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 46: GOD MOUNTS HIS THRONE

Response: ***God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **Response**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

Response

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Response

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



**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.**