



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.*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 October 2021

Hi Everyone,

REOPENING THE CHURCHES – "TIS A PUZZLEMENT"

For those of us old enough to remember the musical "The King and I", Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr often engage in intellectual debates, and the King will frequently say, "Tis a puzzlement!" when he doesn't understand something. Well, that's the case with the easing out of lockdown in the coming weeks.

As you may know, Churches will be allowed to have services for 20 vaccinated people or 10 unvaccinated or "unknown status" people from this weekend. In this decision, those who minister (readers, sacristans, commentators, singers, etc.) must be vaccinated and have proof of such. Another headache!

Well, in trying to determine what is best for the community, I have to bear in mind:

- A responsibility to parishioners (both vaccinated and non-vaccinated);
- A duty of care to the priests who celebrate services;
- The care needed for those who are justifiably anxious about reopening;
- The minimal numbers that can attend;
- The reality that Mass takes longer than a Communion Service;
- The need for additional staff to check proof of double vaccination before entering the church to ensure that the law is adhered to.
- The requirement to clean the Churches between services.

Given these factors and after advice from my fellow Carmelites and several local parish priests, I have decided that we will **NOT** provide any services this weekend.

At present, it will be too confusing for many people (myself included), and I have to also think of the welfare of those who have ministries in the Church and who might volunteer to assist at any activities.

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

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 Falckh, 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, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Eric Ryan, all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time:, Carmelite, Jacobinus Mahoney, Timothy Malone, and Paschal Molloy.

IN OUR PARISH

For this reason, I would also like to hear your advice, so I'm inviting you to a Zoom Morning Tea next Wednesday, 27 October at 10:00 am, or alternately you can email me with your thoughts at parish@sj-mc.org.au. A link to the Morning Tea Zoom meeting will be sent next week.

At present, I do not think that weekday Masses will start until we can allow more people. This is a blow for many. However, my concerns for the welfare of all are paramount, and I am aware that there are vaccinated and non-vaccinated people among us, which means that only 10 people would be allowed. It also means that all parishioners (vaccinated and non-vaccinated) are in a situation of mixing with each other, and that is a position I am **NOT** prepared to support.

Also, I am aware that if one of our priests becomes infected with COVID19, then all of us will need to be quarantined. I'm not prepared to take that risk with Matthew, Maurice, Wayne, David and myself. All the Carmelites at Port Melbourne Priory are fully vaccinated, as are all the staff of the Parish Office.

For the sake of the community, I would strongly encourage non-vaccinated parishioners to get vaccinated unless there is a proven medical exemption required.

ON A MUCH LIGHTER NOTE

It was terrific to see so many familiar faces during our little lunch hook-up. Not only that, but we also shared some of the things we have been doing. I think the prize goes to Sash for her comments about no earthquake in her life and to Rob W. for having blood taken by a nurse when the earthquake hit and the nurse running out the

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.

OUR PARISH NEWS

door while he bled all over the surgery. It was great to see Kelly, who joined us for our lunchtime hook-up. She looks well and enjoying the time with her family in Michigan. We also miss her.

Thank you to Abramo for organizing it and telling me that I need computer glasses because people are looking up my nose when I use Zoom – what a horrible thought!

Before he became famous, I saw David Campbell at a concert in a fairly run-down nightclub, and although I don't watch TV in the mornings, he writes a good column in the Stellar section of the Herald Sun. Last weekend he wrote about consciously uncoupling from comfort eating and that most of us have a love affair with our trakkie dacks. Well, I can tell you this, I haven't worn anything but trakkie pants since last year. I have a pair with no crease in them, and for formal occasions, I wear a pair with a crease sewn down the middle of the legs. I just need a jacket and tie to go with them! I'm never going back to a suit, and I made a vow NOT to wear black socks anymore! I need some colour in my life!

On top of all that, I'm doing a Pulmonary Rehab program from Cabrini on Zoom each week. Last week's lecture was on pelvic floor exercises. Now I know that the ladies of our Parish are all too familiar with this, but it's a novel experience for many men (me included!). The diagrams they show you are almost pornographic, and it's complicated to get your head around what muscles you have to contract. Just remember, at Mass, I'll be doing them, and on occasion, we'll stop proceedings, and we'll have a communal pelvic floor exercise time!!! Perhaps that could replace the homily!

By the way, I need to tell you this, but everyone who works or volunteers in the Parish is mandated to have the vaccination (not my rules, by the way), but it does make sense to protect everyone. So, if you haven't had the jab, get a move on unless you are on a walking frame.

Taking of walking frames, my doctor, whom I admire greatly, told me that I need a walking frame because of my balance and respiratory problems. Well, my pride won't let me do it, so I compensate with a stick. Talk about becoming an old crock!

Recently I gave a talk on "Languishing" to the staff of the Catholic Development Fund. It was an honour to be asked, but I couldn't see anyone with my technical skills, so they may well have all been asleep!

OUR PARISH NEWS

A really big thank you to everyone who continues to contribute financially to the Parish – you are gems! I also have to tell you that we are running at a major deficit that I'll need to address in the coming months. More about that when we can meet in person!

Mike Murray has finally retired and we miss him already. I'm not entirely sure what to do to fill his role, but I have put out some feelers so we'll see what eventuates.

Prayers please for an old friend, Eric Ryan, who died on Monday and for Carmel Cummins' sister Anne, who is not doing so well. Also, Jane Spiteri is in Rehab but copes with an enormous amount of pain. Our parishioners in Aged Care facilities have been doing it tough in lockdown with no visits allowed in most places. So, please keep them in your prayers.

A big thank you to those who responded to my sister Therese's talk about Mental Health for Adoptees – she is thrilled to receive so much feedback.

Well, enough of my blathering. Keep well, safe and out of mischief.

Blessings to everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

THE CARMELITE CENTRE

**'Interior Castle Explored' by Ruth Burrows ocd, with Bernadette Micallef,
Wednesday 20 October, 10.30 to 12.00 noon via zoom**

With the feast day of Teresa of Avila in October, this month's Spiritual Reading Group will be on Ruth Burrows' book on Teresa's Interior Castle. This session will be in two parts each focusing on essential grounding for understanding Teresa: our call to 'become human' and grow toward union with God, and Ruth Burrows' insights into the difference between the essence of mystical encounter and the experienced effects. This clarification helps to make sense of Teresa's mystical experiences.

You are invited to read the chapter Fourth Mansion Part I which deals with some of the issues, concepts and common confusions about Teresa's writing. Ruth Burrows writes, in relations to the difference between essence and effect, "My conviction is that anything that can be described, given an account of, simply cannot be the mystical encounter in itself." It is the effects, not the essence, that can be described. "If we have faith, surely we know that God gives himself without measure and we can't attempt to gauge the depth of the giving by our totally inadequate plumb lines of sense (what we feel)." page 41

Please book via the Carmelite Centre (details below) Donation \$5.

Staying connected

We didn't get to meet in person in September and it seems unlikely in October also. However, our zoom groups continue with the weekly Tuesday Centering Prayer and Friday Lectio, and the monthly Carmelite Conversation and Spiritual Reading Group and the Eco-Spirituality Reading Circle.

Hope you can stay connected through these zoom opportunities, and make use of the on-line resources for some times of stillness and silence. [Available on Support page.]

As always we appreciate your support through donations to help us continue our work. Blessings to all!

The Carmelite Centre is a joint venture of the Carmelites of Australia and East Timor and our Parish of Port Melbourne/Middle Park.

Address: 214 Richardson Street, Middle Park Vic 3206 (Mel Ref 2K C10)

T: (03) 9690 5430 Website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

Carmelite Centre Program Bookings

T: 9690 5430 (leave message if unattended) or reregistration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org
via website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

PRAYERS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Carmelite Conversation, Contemplation

– a Way of Being not Doing, with Wayne Stanhope OCarm.

10.30am – 12 midday, Wednesday 3 November, via zoom

“Reflectiveness is about changing paradigms as was outlined in the film Dead Poet’s Society. Robin Williams gives his pupils a symbol for seeing differently: he asks them to stand on their desks to get a new view of old things. We see differently when we allow new awarenesses to...pierce our armour.” Michael Carroll

Carmelites speak of themselves as ‘contemplatives’ in the heart of the world. Living contemplation / reflectiveness can change the way we see our relationships, our prayer and our outreach to others. In Carmelite terms; prayer, community and service in the midst of the people. Our conversation will allow us to explore how living contemplatively can change how we view ourselves, our God and our brothers and sisters.

This conversation will draw on reflections from Pope Francis and also the work of Carlos Mesters OCarm on the Carmelite vision.

Pope Francis’ audience on May 5 2021 was reported in the America magazine with the title: In Jesus, there is no conflict between contemplation and action.

Pope Francis said: “To contemplate is not primarily a way of doing but a way of being. To be contemplative. Everything comes from this: from a heart that feels that it is looked on with love...being contemplative does not depend on the eyes but on the heart.....Prayer purifies the heart and , with it, also sharpens our gaze, allowing it to grasp reality from another point of view.....from a heart that feels that it is looked on with love. Then reality is contemplated with different eyes.”

Wayne Stanhope OCarm entered the Carmelites in 1971, and ordained priest in 1977. He has been involved in the ministry of spirituality, formation of young Carmelites and pastoral leadership both within the Order and in parishes in Melbourne, Sydney and most recently in Brisbane. He is currently undertaking studies in pastoral supervision.



All are welcome to join. **To book, and to enquire about some pre-reading please contact the Carmelite Centre.**

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

One Monday, three priests, a Franciscan, a Dominican and a Jesuit were having a hard time on the golf course. The golfers in front of the priests were the slowest and worst they had ever seen. Golf balls were going everywhere. Against golfing etiquette, the group never asked the priests to 'play through'. By the 18th hole the priests were furious. At the clubhouse, just as they were going over to blast the group, they were told that the men were blind.

The Franciscan, moved with remorse at how they had spoken about the group, said to the Dominican and the Jesuit, 'I am going to say Mass every day that God may grant them a miracle and restore their sight'. The Dominican, equally filled with regret, told the Jesuit and the Franciscan that he was going to get the blind men an appointment with the best eye surgeon in town. The Jesuit, however, looked at the Franciscan and the Dominican and declared, 'I can't see why they don't play at night!'

To have any type of disability in first century Palestine not only meant financial hardship, but social segregation. Because Jesus' contemporaries did not understand the causes of disability and illness they assumed it was, to some degree, a curse sent by God in punishment for sins. They also thought the curse could be caught. So the blind, the lame, the crippled, the leper and the bleeder were desperately poor and socially outcast. Incredibly in our day, with all our supposed sophistication, some Christians have made similar statements about God cursing gay people with AIDS. Given the way Jesus acts toward those he encounters with illness, we know that God never sends disease as a curse for sin.

Bartimeaus is, however, a desperate man and in the story he acts desperately, calling out until he is heard. And in one of the strangest questions in the Gospel, Jesus asks a blind man what it is he wants. Maybe Jesus wants Bartimeaus to name his deepest desire. Maybe Jesus knows that it is, often, the unseen hurt that is the most diseased and needs healing first. Whatever of his motives, Jesus' question gives the man dignity.

American dramatist, Michael Moynahan, has written a moving play entitled Bartimeaus which centres around that pivotal question, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. The action of the parable, as we have it in the Gospel, freezes when Jesus puts the question.

As Bartimeaus considers his options, he hears the voices of those he might have to look at if he regains his sight. The poor remind him that, 'once before you could see and what you saw disgusted you'. The hungry ask, 'do you have the courage to experience and share my hunger?'. The elderly inquire whether he wants to

see those 'put away because we remind you of the frailty of life'. The captives challenge him to see those 'unjustly bound and oppressed'. And finally the Self wants to know, 'Are you willing to look inside yourself to see your beauty and ugliness, darkness and light?'. It's a gripping scene.

It reminds us all that sight, and the insight that can come from what we see, bestows on us the dignity of having options and the responsibility to do something about what we behold. We are in the position of making choices about what we look at. Not everything in the world needs to be seen. There is enough violence and abuse of human dignity in real life to discourage us from seeking out most fictionalised portrayals of it. We cannot, however, let ourselves off the hook in regard to seeing the world as it is and doing something about creating a better vision of humanity for everyone, everywhere.

Michael Moynahan's play finishes, like the Gospel story, with Bartimaeus requesting from Jesus the gift of sight. But in the play, in a powerful twist, as Bartimeaus follows Jesus on the path, he stops, turns and sees the human faces behind the challenging voices. He goes back, embraces them and together they walk the Christian path.

In this Eucharist, then, the same question is put by Jesus to us, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. And if our answer is to have sight or insight, then let's also pray for the courage to shoulder the responsibility that comes with every gift.

© **Richard Leonard SJ**

LITURGICAL ART

Art and Reflection by Jenny Close



Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants. It must be perfectly obvious to Jesus what needs to be done, but he waits for Bartimaeus to put it into words. Through the desperation of his faith, this blind beggar relocates himself from edge to centre – from the position of social fringe dweller to the focus of the saving power of Jesus. Here again is kingdom logic at work: the first shall be last and last shall be first.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **Response**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **Response**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **Response**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:1-6

Every high priest has been taken out of human mankind and is appointed to act for all in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

Mark 10:35-45



As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

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