



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.*

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th July 2021

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to all of you who viewed the Mothers' Mass last weekend and sent in very kind comments. It was good to hear that it was worthwhile celebrating in that form. A certain sacristan from PM (no names, of course) suggested that I looked like Buddha swathed in gold and sitting in the chair – he didn't realise that I was actually sitting in the lotus position!!) Now I need a chiropractor. It's interesting but for the 1st time in my life, I actually saw and heard myself on a video and it's very disconcerting to see and hear what others see and hear – now I know it's time to retire!

On another note, a big thank you to those who attended the Cancer Council Morning Tea which I believe was a most enjoyable experience. Thanks too to the Parish staff who organized and served – we'll do it again next year, lockdowns permitting.

The weather hasn't been all that kind to us lately. I don't know about you but I'm feeling the cold like never before. I used to throw out any electric blankets I found in a priory bedroom but now have come to appreciate them more and more. Anyway, it's good to know that we have them even if they do use electricity!

SUNDAY'S READINGS

The 1st Reading and the Gospel are two stories about feeding the multitude. The 1st story is from the Elisha cycle in the Old Testament. Now Elisha was an interesting and not very likeable person. He had a temper and his story, in many ways, parallels the story of Elijah who was his spiritual mentor. Perhaps the two characters are what you call a "doublet".

Anyway, to cut a long story short, Elisha gets a guy from Baal-shalishah (try and say that after a few glasses of red!) who had 20 loaves of bread and some corn to share among 100 men (On the lighter side, perhaps Elisha had a feminine side as well because he knew that the way to a man's heart was through his stomach!). Well, as you can guess, the 100 men were all fed with a bit left over.

Now, in the Gospel of John, Jesus does the same as Elisha but with less provisions and a whole lot more left over. Trust the Lord to do it bigger and better than Elisha!

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, Kate Downey, Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Fakkah, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Gerard Friary, Ivy Hermence, 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: all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Carmelite, Frank Shortis.

IN OUR PARISH

So, what's the point of the stories? My guess is that both stories are about the hospitality and generosity of God. The God of the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed was and is a God of unfathomable generosity. The Kingdom (or the Reign) of God is open-ended and is available to anyone who has a heart to recognise God's activity in their lives.

Now we all have different names for God: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, etc, even if we don't believe in just one God; but the point is that God doesn't ask us if we are a Catholic or a Lutheran or Zoroastrian or an atheist. What he does ask is for a heart that can recognise goodness and compassion and justice and mercy both in ourselves and in our community. In other words, whoever we are, we are asked to never forget that we are created in the image and likeness of God and if we are to reflect God then we need to be compassionate, generous, just and merciful in the same way that God always is.

My prayer is that Christians of any stripe will always be a people with open hearts and hands: never stingy or parsimonious or miserly with spreading God's hospitality to everyone. Next time you buy a loaf of bread, spread it around (with or without Vegemite)!

Blessings and peace,



**Unfortunately due to current
Victorian Government Restrictions
due to COVID_19
the July 2021 Parish Men's Dinner
next Wednesday 28 July 2021,
has been cancelled.**

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 ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Recently I was invited to a relative's home for dinner. This family has been having more than a little trouble with their 13-year-old daughter, who is going through a particularly defiant and rebellious stage. The young girl was not happy with the vegetables her mother served at dinner and so she refused to eat them. The uneaten vegetables became the staging ground for an adolescent conflict. Trying to coax the girl into eating, her mother calmly used some lines I'd heard before. 'Wasting food is a sin' and 'There are starving people in the world who would be grateful for what you don't want'. With that the girl jumped up and left the dining room. A few minutes later she returned with an oversized envelope and a marker pen. She began to stuff the food into the envelope and as she did she angrily asked, 'What starving people do you want me to send these vegetables to?' Who said being a parent was easy? Celibacy had never looked better!

In today's Gospel, after the 5,000 have been fed, Jesus says, 'Gather the pieces together that are left over. Let nothing be wasted'. Some of us have never truly been hungry, so it can be hard to fully appreciate how wasteful our developed world must appear to those who watch their families die of starvation. People who lived through the Depression or have lived through wars often carry the scars of being hungry. To this day some of them are on guard against waste. Others try to numb the memory of want by overindulging. For most of us in the developed world, especially 13-year-old middle-class kids, hunger has only ever been fleeting, and we are presently eating ourselves into obesity.

Some people would prefer to think of the story of the feeding of the five thousand exclusively in spiritual terms. There is no question that today's Gospel refers to the Eucharist where all are spiritually nourished by Christ our host. It also refers to the eternal banquet where hunger will be no more. But this Gospel asks us to look at our world through the eyes of Christ's kingdom where the mighty will be cast down from their thrones, the poor will be raised up, and the rich who will not share will be sent away.

There is such a thing as healthy guilt. It's where we become aware of what we have done or failed to do to bring about Christ's Kingdom in our world. Given that it is entirely unnecessary for 29,000 people, on average, to die each day because of lack of food and water and the diseases this brings, guilt on our part seems a reasonable response. It becomes a healthy moment in our lives when we decide to change our priorities, and call for similar changes in a nation's priorities which spends more on bombs than starving babies.

I often wonder what God thinks when he hears wealthy nations say that the reason they refuse to share more with the poor is because these poorer nations

often have unelected despots who divert their country's wealth into Swiss bank accounts or nuclear and conventional weaponry programmes. Even in the face of these complex issues we could find a way to feed the hungry who might, one day, be empowered to take charge of their nations.

'What starving people do you want me to send these vegetables to?', the 13 year old asked. To which I wanted to reply, 'Put your own name on the envelope because your own comfort makes you the neediest person in the world'.

May this Eucharist enable us to do on earth what is done in heaven, where the hungry are welcomed and fed, the leftovers are gathered together and nothing is wasted.

OUR LITURGY

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 144 THE HAND OF THE LORD FEEDS US

Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16

Response: ***The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.***

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

Response

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

Response

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

Response

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 7:16

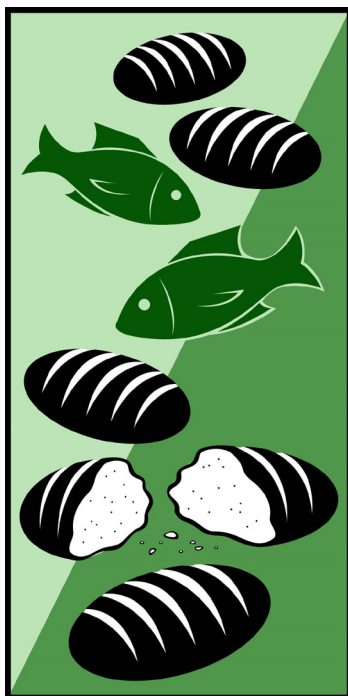
Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

John 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out

as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.



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

