



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.*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 September 2021

Dear parishioners,

CARMELITE ASSEMBLY

The Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste were due to meet in Melbourne last July. Due to COVID lockdowns and travel restrictions it was decided that the Assembly should be held in 2 sessions, one in Timor-Leste and one in Australia. Last week almost 40 Carmelites gathered in Hera, Dili, from 15-17 September. Next week, Carmelites in Australia will gather on Zoom from 28-30 September.

NEWS FROM THE CARMELITE JUSTICE PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION TEAM

The Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor encourages us to LISTEN with an open heart to those who are most affected by the many crises our world is facing. We can begin, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discern the signs of the times.

During Week 4 of Seasons of Creation we are invited into ongoing conversion, to transform our outlook and actions to be in accord with the loving presence of God.

EXTRACTS from the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22 *Cry Of The Earth, Cry Of The Poor*

The call to care for creation goes to the heart of what it means to be human before God and in the world. It requires a profound conversion expressed in new ways of living, both personally and collectively.

What seeds of change can we water today?

Pope Francis invites us to conversation:

"The state of our common home calls us to a 'profound interior conversion, whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in our

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 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: all those affected by COVID_19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Frank Mount, and Carmelites, John Cogan and Albert Groenveld.

IN OUR PARISH

relationship with the world around us". It is not just a matter of awareness or changing our minds, but a shift at the level of the heart and will, that results in changed action.

"To achieve reconciliation with creation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart". Lament, repentance, the effort to repair damage done, and the transformation of behaviour – these are elements of a process of conversion.

We are called to a renewed way of understanding the cosmos and humanity – a new vision of what it is to be a human being before God and in the world. It calls us to a new spirituality, or way of understanding and expressing our relationship with the Divine in our lives.

To bring about lasting change, it must also be a 'community conversion'.

We are being called to a new way of thinking, feeling, understanding and living; to a more humbler, more sustainable way. An ecological conversion entails an economic conversion.

"... a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximising their efficient use, reusing and recycling them."



Blessings, peace and gentle relief from languishing!

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



Despite the ongoing lockdowns our Port Melbourne/Middle Park Vinnies conference continues to provide material aid to our clients. We have been classified as an essential service and are able to deliver food vouchers and other assistance into our clients' letter boxes. We are still not allowed to conduct client face to face visits and instead do these by phone. Our fortnightly conference meetings are held by Zoom and thanks to our members computer skills these have been very well attended. I would like to say a huge thank you to our dedicated members and office bearers Pat, Kathy, Daniel, Joan and Pauline who have not lost their sense of humor during these challenging times and have embodied the motto of "Service with a Smile" whilst continuing to carry out the good works of our Society. As always a big shout out to Fr Hugh, Anne, Michael and Shane at the parish office and to all our parishioners who continue to support us.

Gerhard Correa, President SVDP – Port Melbourne/Middle Park Conference

Please Support our Parish Food Cupboard if you are able...

Our Food Cupboard on the wall outside the Parish Office in Rouse Street is in constant need of non-perishable food and household items such as:

- 50 gm jars of coffee and boxes of 50 tea bags;
- Cans of soups, fruits, fish, meals, baked beans and spaghetti;
- Packets of rice, pasta and sauces;
- long life milk;
- Toiletries, soaps, toothpaste and tooth brushes etc;

All items can be placed directly into the cupboard which is accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week. Thank you for your generosity as always.

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**

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Today's gospel makes me very pleased I'm a Catholic, and that we don't take the bible literally. Our Christian brothers and sisters who insist on the literal truth of the scriptures must have a tough time trying to avoid cutting off their hands and feet, plucking out their eyes and worrying about how hot hell is! I'm not sure about them, but I know my feet have taken me to places I wish I'd not gone, and when I got there my eyes saw things I wish I'd not seen. Still, in spite of the times I've let myself down, I am glad I'm still in one piece, and not all that worried about the worms and weather in hell!

As Catholics we believe the Scriptures reveal the truth of our salvation – they are not books of fact. Jesus was a skilled and powerful communicator. And like all great teachers he used metaphor and exaggeration to make his point. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus takes evil very seriously. He is always conscious of it around him and is aware that it comes from within us, and without us. Jesus teaches us today to stop doing the destructive things that prevent us from loving God, each other and ourselves.

Sinful behaviour often falls into two categories of human activity: habitual and compulsive. Habits are unusual things. There are good habits, like saying 'please' and 'thank you'. There are habits that can start out well-intentioned enough, but end up being obsessions, like caring for one's physical fitness. And there are habits that bring moments of relief or let us off the hook – like lying, dishonesty and stealing – but always end up being destructive.

Compulsive behaviour, however, is of a very different order. Gambling, drinking, shopping, smoking, violence, work, sex, eating, drugs, pornography, money and the Internet are fairly common modern manifestations of compulsive behaviour. As heart-breaking as these addictions are, they are the presenting problems of deeper issues related to self-esteem, personal history and even genetic disposition.

One of the comments I've heard people make about their compulsive behaviour is, 'I found myself doing it again and I am not sure how or why'. No doubt there are some people who feel so lonely and get so depressed about their habitual or compulsive behaviour, they contemplate severing an arm, a leg or gouging an eye.

Jesus underlines that we have to stop our destructive behaviour and offers three pieces of practical advice so we can. Firstly, do whatever helps. For some people the most unusual solutions attend to the deeper issues and help us piece our lives back together. It doesn't matter whether others approve of it, or it's related to religious faith, for as long as it doesn't lead to other destructive behaviour then, 'whoever (or whatever) is not against us, is for us'.

Secondly, accept help. None of us can battle through life carrying all our burdens on our own. Steps four to six of Alcoholics Anonymous deal with sharing the exact nature of our burdens as a means to coming to terms with them. Our family and friends are not mind readers and we need to seek out wise counsel and follow it wisely. The help and support we receive could be like the cup of refreshing water Jesus tells us about today.

Finally, habitual and compulsive behaviour always has a pattern. St Ignatius Loyola taught in the sixteenth century that it was only when we regularly examined ourselves to see where, when, how and with whom we are most likely to walk away from God's love, that we can work out why we do it and change the pattern.

And when we really know ourselves as we are, and not as we would like to be, we have the chance to choose life over death more often than not. ©Richard Leonard SJ

REFLECTION

*Ever present God,
Giver and sustainer of everything that has life,
maker and fulfilment of all that exists,
although we fail to respect your creation,
listen to the prayers of our heart:
We too are creatures,
turn our hearts to your love and care for all creation.
With you we gave names to all living things.
Turn our minds to your vision of the heavens and the earth.
We live off the bounty of earth, sea and sky.
Turn our hands to your stewardship.
Through Christ, in whom all things are made and held in being,
we pray for the power of your Spirit:
to transform our words and actions,
to care more deeply for all creatures,
to save what is threatened,
to mourn what is lost,
to seek Christ in the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor,
and to give glory to your name through all creation.
AMEN*

SEASON OF CREATION 2021

Sunday 4 Season of Creation 2021

Introductory Comments:

Today's readings continue to warn us that our sinfulness is destroying our communities, the human family, and Earth, the supportive and nurturing home of us all. They challenge us to be active and prophetic in working for the New Creation in these times. And they guide us in prayer to ask for greater awareness of our "unknown faults" and of their grave seriousness, to ask for freedom from their destructive power no matter the cost.

So, as we begin, let's enter into the quiet of our spirits ... conscious of God's gift of Earth, its rich diversity of life, ... conscious of its destruction and suffering from overconsumption, exploitation, and the crisis of dangerously rising temperatures globally ... yet home to millions of people rising up to restore, heal, and save our common home....

Penitential Rite:

Creator God, You have evolved extraordinary consciousness in the human family and revealed to us creation's overwhelming power, beauty, and splendour, yet we too often respond with greed and abuse rather than awe and gratitude.

Creator Spirit of God, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, the human community has polluted Earth's air, land, and waters, made countless species extinct, turned our greed into a major ecological crisis, devalued human life and torn the Web of Life of which we all are a part.

Word of God, have mercy.

Holy Spirit of God, You are at work in us and among us now in these times, reweaving the web of life's community, restoring Earth, our common home.

Wisdom of God, have mercy.

May God, the Creator, Who is raising up prophets and inviting humanity into one loving community in a New Creation, have mercy on us, free us from our sins, and guide us into the fullness of divine Life.

Amen.

Faith Reflections:

Are you among those who believe in God, Who nearly 4.5 billion years ago began to form Earth, Who patiently evolved Earth as a nurturing home for all creatures, all members of the Earth family?

Are you among those who believe in God, Who opens the ears and frees the tongues of those called to be prophets guiding us to integral conversion to nurture the New Creation among us in these times?

Are you among those who believe in Jesus, God become flesh of our flesh, a human part of the Earth community, Who lived and breathed and spoke prophetic truth among us, sending us to be prophets of his Word for the healing of the Earth community?

Are you among those who believe in Jesus, Who was rejected, tortured, and put to death on a cross, a faithful witness to God's call to loving care for all human beings and healing restoration for all creation?

Are you among those who believe in Jesus, the risen Christ, Who is at the heart of the New Creation, guiding us in our conversion and reconciling all things to God, renewing creation?

Are you among those who believe in the Holy Spirit Who is working now among us to deepen in all peoples a spirit of solidarity dedicated to service of all for the renewal of Earth as a nurturing home for all?

Are you among those who believe that with Christ and in the Holy Spirit we will rise to celebrate the New Creation?

This is our faith. Through it we see God's revelation emerging in new ways among us. Through it we embrace the promise of God's saving love and our mission to restore the household of creation. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Numbers 11:25-29

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 18: THE PRECEPS OF THE LORD

Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9

Response: ***The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.***

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

Response

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Response

So in them your servant finds instructions;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

Response

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

Response

SECOND READING

James 5:1-6

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

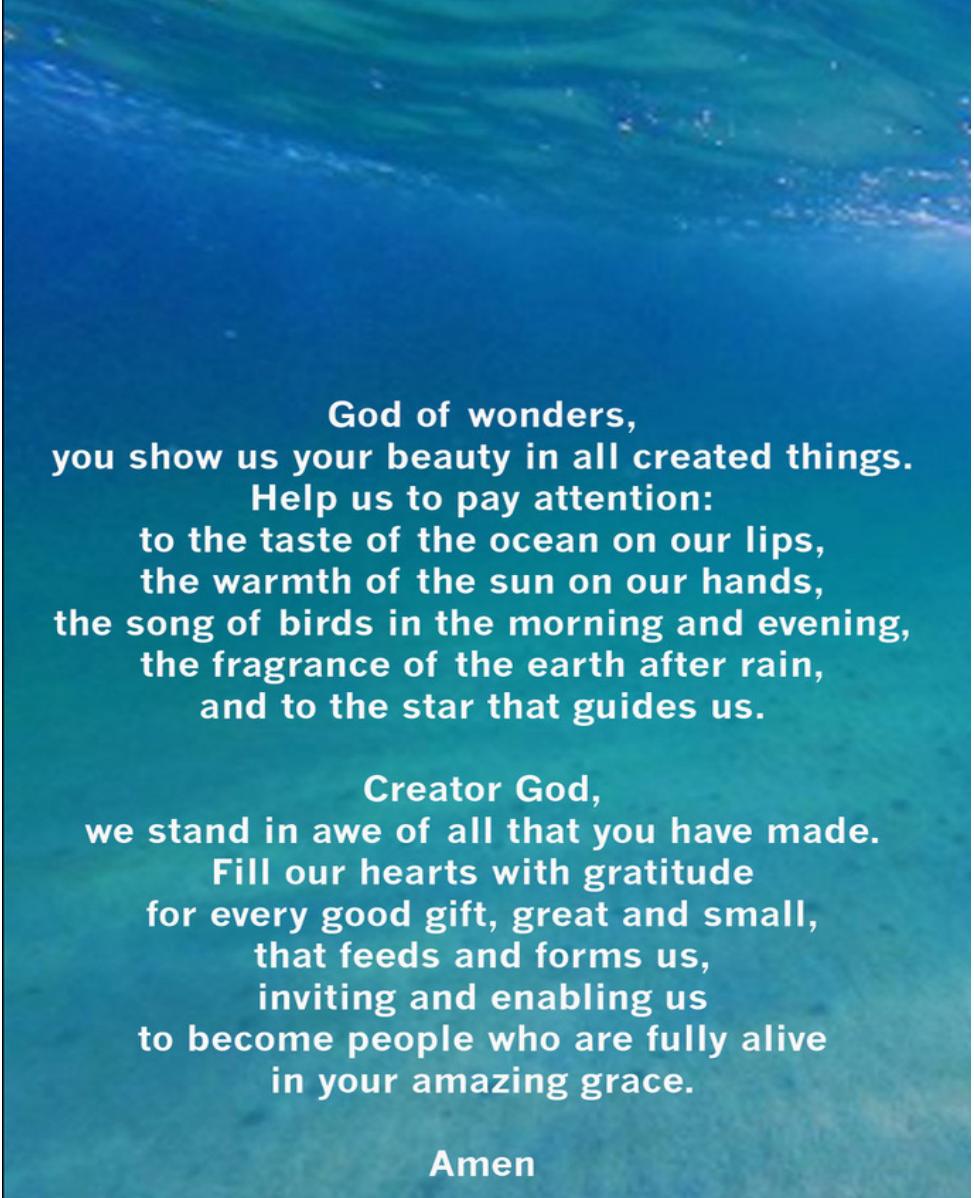


John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

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



**God of wonders,
you show us your beauty in all created things.
Help us to pay attention:
to the taste of the ocean on our lips,
the warmth of the sun on our hands,
the song of birds in the morning and evening,
the fragrance of the earth after rain,
and to the star that guides us.**

**Creator God,
we stand in awe of all that you have made.
Fill our hearts with gratitude
for every good gift, great and small,
that feeds and forms us,
inviting and enabling us
to become people who are fully alive
in your amazing grace.**

Amen

Source: ACBC Social Justice Statement
Photo: Fiona Basile