



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.*

4th Sunday of Lent

27 March 2022

Hi Everyone,

CANONISATION OF TITUS BRANDSMA, O.CARM

On May 15, Pope Francis will canonise one of our Dutch Carmelites who died in Dachau Concentration Camp. His name was Titus Brandsma and he was an educator, journalist, lecturer in theology and spirituality before being arrested by the Nazis for speaking out against the victimisation of the Jewish people by the regime. His story is inspiring and you can read about him at the Order's website: www.carmelites.org.au



A number of Australian and Timorese people are travelling to Rome for the canonisation so if anyone wishes to represent our parish at that event it would be great. Unfortunately, we cannot pay for airfares etc, but we could make a contribution to the costs. If interested, let me know.

I find the example of Titus to be especially inspiring when the world is growing more and more controlled by autocrats and anti-social regimes that have little respect for human rights. There is a new world order emerging and that fills me with a level of anxiety and deep mistrust of single party/person governments.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE PARISH

As I've indicated to you a few times, the parish is undergoing something of a new phase due to our financial situation and the declining number of priests who can serve the community. At the same time, we may also be on the cusp of a new growth with the opening up of Fishermen's Bend for more housing. As a result, we are seriously looking at different options for our future, one of which will possibly be the relocation of the parish offices to the Carmelite Hall in Middle Park.

Next week I will publish a discussion paper on the Parish and its future and I would encourage you to read and respond to it. I am asking for volunteers to help establish some new directions for us.

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

For some time now the Archdiocese has been looking at a new pathway to the future which will involve parishes supporting each other to a greater degree. Part of the necessity of this new approach is the presence of small inner-city parishes like our own and mega-parishes in the outer reaches of the Melbourne Archdiocese. It is these outer parishes that are really struggling with enough priests to serve the needs of their communities.

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

Safeguarding Officer

Frances Correa

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street
South Melbourne Vic 3205
Telephone 03 9699 2928

THIS WEEK

Monday 28 March

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 29 March

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 30 March

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

7.00pm Sacrament of First Reconciliation, Mt Carmel

Thursday 31 March

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Friday 1 April

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Saturday 2 April

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

6.00pm Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 3 April - 5th Sunday of Lent

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel

WE REMEMBER

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Hein Basten, Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Maureen Dickason, Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Lyn Falckh, Michelle Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Lyn Fleming, 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, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Vivienne Williams, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Noela Chiang, casualties of the Ukrainian/Russian conflict, and all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Ann Rzesniowiecki and Carmelite, and Carmelites Alphonsus Kindelan and Aloysius Farnsworth.

IN OUR PARISH

For some time now, our local clergy have been discussing the future of the parishes that are closely related to our own: Sts Peter and Paul in South Melbourne, St Joseph's in South Yarra, St Joseph's in Malvern and the parish of Armadale-Toorak. With the exception of the last parish, these parishes have been mainly served by religious orders which, in many ways, have a similar charism and style of leadership like our own. These Orders are also experiencing something of the challenges around personnel that the Carmelites are facing into the future.

My guess is that, in time, there will be rationalisation of resources, both personnel and facilities and this will change the complexion of our parishes. The Carmelites have been in this Parish since 1882 but the question will remain as to how long we can sustain our presence in ministries here in Australia.

Keep well and stay safe.

Blessings and peace,



Carmelite Conversations:

Teresa of Avila for Today

with Austin Cooper OMI,

10.30am - 12 midday Wednesday 6 April

Austin Cooper OMI with talk about the wisdom of Teresa of Avila and its relevance for today.

At first sight, a 16th-century Spanish Carmelite nun and someone living in today's world might seem to be hopelessly remote and irrelevant to one another. Yet Teresa's rich humanity, her gentle humour, and her deep love for the Lord still have about them a freshness that is both appealing and practical. Her wisdom still speaks to us with great appeal.

Carmelite Centre Program Bookings

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

ARCHDIOCESE

2/3 April

5th Sunday in Lent

6.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Abramo Ierardo

Readers: Tris Tanumihardjo

Eucharistic Ministers: Kelly McEnhill

Communion to the Sick:

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: Rob Lever

Reader: Kevin Mooney

Eucharistic Ministers: Kelly McEnhill

Counters: Jane Dee & Jim Power

Hospitality: Joan Cusack and Frances Galvin

Communion to the Sick:

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Margaret Fagan

Readers: Marlene Halim

Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Newman

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: Peter Thomas

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$762.00

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$647.00

PROJECT COMPASSION - FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Rosalie - Democratic Republic of Congo



Rosalie is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

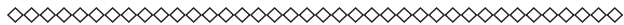
With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

She joined a Saving and Internal Lending Community group (SILC), which helped her with a loan to start her own small business selling second-hand shoes and natural remedies.

She has now become the SILC group's president, helping other women to start their own businesses.

“ The program allowed me to learn to work hand-in-hand with other members of the community... I learnt that there is more joy in sharing with others,” Rosalie says.

Rosalie has become a role model for other ex-combatants who are seeking to readjust to civilian life. Her leadership is inspiring others to overcome the trauma and violence of the past and to work towards a more peaceful and harmonious world for all future generations.



Your donation will support programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need. Project Compassion money boxes and envelopes are available for collection from the Church foyer.

The money boxes are an excellent way to introduce your children to Project Compassion.

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Bright and early on a Monday morning, in times that were much less ecumenical, Mick and Paddy, a pair of Irish ditch diggers, were repairing a Dublin road directly across the street from a house of ill repute.

Soon, they saw the Protestant Minister lurking about the place and then ducking into the house.

'Would ya look at that Mick!' said Paddy.

'What a shameful disgrace. That Protestant Minister sinning in the likes of that place!'

'Well', said Mick, 'he's got a ticket to hell anyway Paddy, so that's only getting' him an upgrade on the seat.'

A short time later they watched as a Jewish Rabbi looked around cautiously and, when he was satisfied no one had spied him, darted into the house.

'Did ya see that Paddy?', Mick asked in shock and disbelief. 'Is nothing holy to those Jewish people?'

'God in heaven above', Mick replied, 'Do they have "half price Monday" for the clergy at that sinful place?'

'Well, all I know Paddy is that a man of the cloth indulging himself in sins of the flesh is a terrible shame, I tell ya!'

Not long had passed when they saw a third man, Fr O'Donovan, their parish priest, lurking about the house looking around to see if anyone was watching and then quietly sneaking in the door.

'Mick, look it's Father O'Donovan', said Pat removing his cap.

'Ah Mick', said Paddy, taking off his own cap, 'one of the poor girls musta died ...'

Often our history colours everything about us, even those toward whom we can give the benefit of the doubt, be compassionate and forgive.

What is so shocking about Jesus' parable of the prodigal son is, that as the story goes, everything about the Jewish culture of first century Palestine set the boy up for a fall: he was greedy for his father's inheritance; we can assume he left the chosen land for the far country where he squandered his inheritance recklessly; he ended up eating with the unclean pigs; and then he had the temerity to return and ask for forgiveness.

This was the least likeable kid in town. He did not deserve to be treated better than a slave. That's what makes the boy's father so magnificent in love. He was derided by his faithful older son for this folly of the heart and he would have been considered a fool by his neighbours. And this is the model of compassion Jesus gives us to emulate.

The context for this story, however, matters. The author of Luke 15 has Jesus responding to charges about the company he was keeping and especially those with whom he dined. In Jesus' day, one only ate with intimates and Jesus shared his table with losers. Three parables are given as an explanation for this practice: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. In each case the shepherd, the woman and the father go to ridiculous lengths to save that which is lost.

Who was admitted to the table of Luke's community was a huge issue. It seems some things never change. The action and words of Jesus, however, lead us to conclude the table is here for those of us who know the frailty of our lives enough to recognise our hunger and thirst for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Today's Gospel is not just about each of us being welcomed into the arms of our compassionate God, it is also a challenge for us to defend the right of the outcasts, the public sinners and the losers who seek to turn their life around to be welcomed here as well.

This is not just about the table of the Eucharist, either. To the degree that we help our country be more hospitable to the most defenceless, the poor and the displaced then we live out the power of this parable.

May this Eucharist then, help us live beyond our history, which so often colours those toward whom we can give the benefit of the doubt and show compassion and may it give us the courage and faith to be ridiculously generous, and magnificently loving.

© Richard Leonard SJ

LENTEN PRAYER - 4TH SUNDAY

Young and old
Friends and strangers
GOD WELCOMES US

Lost and bewildered
found and rejoicing
GOD WELCOMES US

Proud of our success
Afraid of our poverty
GOD WELCOMES US

This morning, this day
This night, for ever
GOD WELCOMES US
WITH A HUG OF LOVE

Our message is this:
GOD WELCOMES SINNERS
AND EATS WITH THEM

Our hope is this:
GOD WELCOMES SINNERS
AND EATS WITH THEM

Our home is this:
GOD WELCOMES SINNERS
AND EATS WITH THEM

PROCESSIONAL HYMN - CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

**Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Longing for shelter, many people are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. **Refrain**

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. **Refrain**

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: We have been called by God to be the Church,
the Body of Christ in this world.
We are not a building, but a people,
gathered and grounded in the Word of God,
the love of Christ,
and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant: We were darkness once,
All: but now we are light in Christ.

Celebrant: We no longer need the darkness, O God,
for now we live in the light of your truth:
All: so that all may plainly see that what we do is done in you.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ,
you shatter the darkness of our blindness,
and light a new path for us in mercy and compassion.
All: You are the Light of the World!

Celebrant: Out of darkness, dust and ash:
All: you raise a people of clear vision and new sight.

Celebrant: Holy Spirit come!
**All: Surround us with your love,
so that we may come home to you with all our hearts.**

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 34: TASTE AND SEE

Psalm: 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Response: ***Taste and see, taste and see,
taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

I will bless the Lord at all times
His praise shall be ever in my mouth
Let my soul glory in the Lord
The lowly will hear me and be glad.

Response

Glorify the Lord with me
Let us together extol His name
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
and delivered me from all my fears.

Response

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy;
and their faces may not blush with shame
then the poor man called down the Lord heard
and from all his distress He saved him.

Response

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
Taste and see how the good Lord is
Blessed the man who takes refuge in Him.

Response

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain: ***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.***

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have

sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."



'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

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 HYMN - HERE I AM

Refrain: ***Here I am, here I am, I come to do your will.***
Here I am, here I am, I come to do your will.

I waited for God, who bent down to hear me
God put a new song in mouth, a hymn of praise.

Refrain

You did not seek offerings or sacrifice,
You opened my eyes to see, my ears to hear.
Yes, I will come to do your will

Refrain

I proclaim your greatness, Lord, to all those around me
My lips are not sealed, never holding back the story
You know this is true, I come to do your will.

Refrain

Cel: The Lord be with you. **All: And with your Spirit.**

Cel: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Cel: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **All: It is right and just.**

The Celebrant prays the preface at the end of which all say:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace.

Cel: Behold the Lamb of God.
Behold him who takes away the sins of the World.
Blessed 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.**

Refrain: **Turn our hearts, turn our minds,
make us branches holding fast to the vine.
Patient keeper, draw us to your tender mercy, tree of life.**

We remember we are mortal, breath of God but of the earth.
Through the desert we must travel, tasting hunger, knowing thirst. **Refrain**

We are sinful, we are prideful. We have all gone astray.
Deep within us we are needful of a clean heart day by day. **Refrain**

As we travel on our journey, take our hearts and make them new.
Jesus walked this road before us as our God but human too.
Jesus walked this road before us as our God but human too. **Refrain**

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Refrain: **"I am the light of the world", says the Lord
They who follow me will have the light of life.**

"Arise," says the Lord,
"Have no fear within you;
for in my presence there will be no darkness.
I am the Light of the world." **Refrain**

"Walk in the light,
there is no cause to stumble;
I have come to light the path before you.
I am the Light of the world." **Refrain**

"Listen to my words;
they are from you who sent me:
He has chosen you to share.
You are the Light of the world." **Refrain**

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