



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.*

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

28 June 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL

Today the passage from St Matthew's Gospel is an interesting insight into the mind of Jesus and is rather scary demanding. It's basically about giving up everything for God.

The 1st reading is the story of Elisha and the gift of a child to a Shunammite woman (pronounce that if you dare!), though if you read the full story it has an interesting twist to it: the child born to this woman dies and Elisha the prophet has to do the unthinkable and bring him back to life again. Strange stuff indeed! So how do we make sense of it all? I'm not quite sure I know the answer but I'll have a bash.

The many times I've been privileged to be beside by the bed of someone who is dying has taught me a lesson. In the final act of dying there is basically only me (or anyone) and God. That's not to say that the loved one is without family or friends or nursing staff – thankfully, that is so often true. But in the final analysis, this last act of dying is a personal moment between an individual and God. At the point where someone dies the most real connection is the connection between someone who is breathing their last and letting go into the abyss of God. And that final moment is a moment of trust and utter dependence on God!

Medical breakthroughs only work to a certain degree; familial ties, so essential for human life, falter at the moment of death because a person is in the most sacred place they'll ever be. They are face to face with the reality of having to hand themselves over to a Being who is beyond what we can ever describe or imagine. And, guess what, there's no other place to go.

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

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

Those whose have died recently:

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this
time:** Carmelite, Gerard Morganti

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

We are about to place an order for Plaques for the walls of our Memorial Gardens. The order will be lodged at the end of the month. If you would like a plaque in memory of deceased family members, then please contact Anne at the Parish Office - 9681 9600 or parish@sj-mc.org.au. Cost of a plaque is \$180.00, and they take approximately 6 -8 weeks to be delivered and placed on the wall.

IN OUR PARISH

Scary it is! Terror-filled it can be! Unnerving, to say the least! But there you have it. You see, God or whatever words you want to use to describe the indescribable, gets us in the end.

So, what do we do? Well, truth be told, I don't really know.

But I do know this, all our lives are spent in preparation for the moment that we enter into the infinity of God. Thankfully, for those of us who believe, that infinity is Love. It is a God of compassion, mercy and tenderness. That's not to say that God isn't that for all people, even those who most vehemently deny God's existence, but what can make the whole process easier for us is faith: faith in the power of a God who loved Jesus and us back into life again. And a God who says: you will be mine for eternity. Not just for an hour, not just for a day, not just for a year, but ALWAYS (to misappropriate an old song!)

Now, that brings us to the Second Reading from Paul to the Romans:

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

What a wonderful statement of faith and hope. May it be ours always!

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.



11th June 2020

Dear Father Hugh,

VINNIES ANNUAL WINTER APPEAL

I trust you are keeping warm, safe and well during these challenging times!

It is that time of the year again, when the Society reaches out to the community with its Annual Winter Appeal seeking assistance for the needy in our community. Winter has hit us with a real bang this year and our clients are desperately in need of assistance during these cold and freezing months. In addition, due to COVID-19 the Society's revenues have been adversely impacted by the closure of many of our stores and even those that are operating have had very little foot traffic through their doors. This has affected our ability to assist our clients to the fullest extent due to a lack of funds. Despite these setbacks and the shutdowns, our fantastic group of volunteers, continue to operate, helping the needy in our community. While we cannot conduct face to face home visits, we now speak to our clients on the phone and discuss their issues at length. Any financial aid is then dropped in the client's letter box or in the case of material aid at the client's door step.

Hence, this year we request our parishioners to donate even more generously if possible to the Winter Appeal than they have in the past.

As we cannot speak to parishioners in person at our churches due to COVID restrictions, I would be very grateful if you published this letter and its attachment in your next two weekly news letters to parishioners.

How donations can be made

The Society has introduced an online platform through which parishioners are able to make their donations. [A copy of the detailed instructions on how to donate are attached.](#) However, if there are any parishioners who wish to make a cash donation or are unable to access the online platform we can provide them with the usual winter appeal envelopes. Please contact Kathy Mount on 0437 588 855 and she will arrange to provide the envelopes.

In particular, we request parishioners when making their donations online to specify our "Port Melbourne/Middle Park conference" in the comments section. This way the funds will be allocated to our conference.

I strongly encourage parishioners to view this excellent video online which contains a message from the Society's President regarding the winter appeal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMHjafiUkDo&feature=youtu.be>

Once again we would like to thank you for your great support and encouragement for the good works of our Society in our local community. We also thank all our parishioners for the ongoing support they have given us over the past six years that we have been operating. It means a lot to us as volunteers of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

Gerhard Correa
President – Port Melbourne/Middle Park Conference
Phone: 0400 640 611

by Sandra Nicholson

Reflection: This too will pass.

When the COVID19 lockdown first commenced many of us were not too sad about it as it gave us back time in our very hectic lives – time we could justifiably spend indulging in our passions and hobbies as many of the things that normally crowded our days were not available to us anyway. In my case that is my Shakespeare classes, my Book Club, theatre, ballet, opera, even our Mass. We cleaned out our cupboards, repaired things, long overdue, around the home and reconnected with family in a way that busy lives prevented in many cases. Initially, this was all done with great enthusiasm because we knew it would end and most of us had an end date in mind. Lately, that initial enthusiasm is waning to be replaced by frustration and 'cabin fever'. Sadly, in Victoria, it would appear that the end date is not as soon as many of us were hoping for, however, I say very confidently that there will be an end to this pandemic. We just have to hold on and have faith a little longer.

One of the things I've missed most is not being able to kiss and hug my family and friends when we meet. All my family live interstate, apart from one niece, and I haven't been able to visit them except on Zoom, a poor substitute for the real thing! It was something I definitely took for granted until I could no longer do it. I believe that being able to hold those we care about, an expression of deep affection and love, is such a gift. Virtual hugs and air kisses don't do it for me.

As I'm sure is the case with most people, I've used this time to indulge in a bit of 'navel gazing'. I downloaded a Mindfulness Course in 2015 and, the usual story, life became busy and I didn't do the Course. However, I've now completed that Course and I'm into Week 2 of the next one and finding it immensely interesting and beneficial. When I was working full time I had a career that I loved but at the same time was very stressful. I relieved my stress by taking myself off to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) to sit in front of Frederick McCubbin's The Pioneer, a large triptych he completed in 1904. I've spent hundreds of hours in front of that painting over many years (told you I had a stressful job!) and I still seek it out in times of stress, although at the moment the NGV is closed so I have to content myself with a print in a book until the 27th June when the NGV opens again. Every time I look at the painting I discover something new. The name gives it away but for me the painting is really about the fact that time doesn't stand still, time is dynamic, and we can't get it back so we have to make the most of every second of every day or it just leaves us behind with regret. How does that saying go, 'No-one on their death-bed ever said they wished they'd spent more time working.' These are hard times and although we can't see the end yet, it will come. It would be great to look back and see how

productive we've been during this time instead of looking back at ourselves curled up in the foetal position under a blanket waiting for it to end. I take inspiration from the following quote by Walter Scott an English poet,

One hour of life, crowded to the full with glorious action, and filled with noble risks, is worth whole years of those mean observances of paltry decorum.

However, 'noble risks' doesn't include being silly and putting others lives at risk by not observing the COVID19 rules!

Another poet I've discovered recently (on Instagram no less!) is James Berry OBE. He was born in 1924 in Jamaica and died in 2017 in England. Throughout his life he observed the discrimination of black people, both in America where he worked for 6 years as a farm labourer and the UK after arriving there in the 1940's, and yet he was able to write about the beauty and excitement of the world. I've included his poem, Benediction, in which he gives thanks for the senses of hearing, sight, feeling and touch because he is hopeful that people 'may' use these senses to see what is happening in the world around them. His description of the 'flowering of white moon and spreading shawl of black night' as the things that hold villages and cities together, I believe is another reference to society needing all of human kind, both black and white, to hold people together.

***Benediction
Thanks to the ear
that someone may hear
Thanks to seeing
that someone may see
Thanks to feeling
that someone may feel
Thanks to touch
that one may be touched
Thanks to flowering of white moon
and spreading shawl of black night
holding villages and cities together***

James Berry (b. 1924)

Perhaps I've done too much 'navel gazing' during lockdown but it has given me a far greater appreciation of the world and how lucky we are to live in a country where there have been so few deaths due to this insidious virus.

There is so much beauty in the world, even at this time, we just have to open our eyes to it.

Prayer by Karl Rahner SJ - (Courtesy of Kath Kehoe)

Come, Lord, enter my heart,
you who are crucified, who have died,
who loved, who are faithful, truthful,
patient and humble,
you who have taken upon yourself
a slow and toilsome life in a strange corner of the world,
denied by those who are your own,
too little loved by your friends,
betrayed by them, subjected to the law,
made the plaything of politics right from the very first,
a refugee child, a carpenter's son,
a creature who found only barrenness and futility
as a result of his labours,
a man who loved and found no love in response,
you who were too exalted for those about you to understand,
you who were left desolate,
who were brought to the point of feeling yourself forsaken by
God, you sacrificed all,
who commended yourself into the hands of your Father,
you who cry:
"My God, my father, why have you forsaken me?"
I will receive you as you are,
make you the innermost law of my life,
take you as at once the burden and strength of my life.
When I receive you I accept my everyday just as it is.
I do not need to have any lofty feelings in my heart to recount to you.
I can lay my everyday before you just as it is,
for I receive it from you yourself,
the everyday and its inward light,
the everyday and its meaning,
the everyday and the power to endure it,
the sheer familiarity of it
which comes the dimmedness your eternal life.

(The Third Week in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius)

Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close

Again Jesus calls his trusted twelve to him and describes what it means to be a disciple. Among other things it means being compassionate and generous, which the gospel writer represents as offering a cup of cold water to 'these little ones'.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

For all the great things the Church of yesteryear achieved, it also did some terrible things. One of the worst demands it made was that a Catholic who married a person who was not a Catholic did so at a side altar, oratory or in the sacristy of the Church. How humiliating this directive was. For how long were we going to punish the Protestant Reformers and young Catholic woman or man who fell in love with someone from these denominations? In these ecumenical days, it's hard for us to understand these actions.

Today, especially at weddings, I hear older Catholics talk about this experience more than anything else. It's often given as the reason why the person or their family stopped practising their Catholic faith. Recently an older wedding guest told me

that her wedding day at the side altar was the last day she came to the Church of her own free will. She never had her children baptised and her painful experience was still palpable forty years on as she compared and contrasted her wedding day with the Catholic marriage ceremony of a couple in a similar religious circumstance to her own which we had just celebrated. All I can do in such circumstances is apologise for the hurt our shortsightedness caused and be full of admiration for those who were subjected to similar treatment but have remained constant to our Catholic community. These days inter-denominational marriages are rarely the reasons over which a family will divide. But we know that other religious issues can still break up a family. It's always a tragedy when this happens. For example, maybe you've had a son, daughter or a grandchild join a religious sect or cult. It's heartbreaking stuff for parents who wonder what their child sees in the sect and where it will all end.

The Church has sometimes let families down in this regard. Appearing to prefer dogma to the complexities of people's lives, formal liturgy to creating communities of hospitality, care and justice, the church can appear to be out of touch, especially with our young. I know that every person in authority in the Church today knows that the Catholic Church needs to listen to our young people, hear about the issues that concern them and present our faith in a way they find accessible and engaging. Very often it's not what we say about our rich faith, it's how we say it. Many people don't leave the mainstream churches because they are attracted by another group's doctrine, though some do want the world to be very black and white. Many leave for smaller groups offering a tightly knit community.

From today's Gospel we know that the same family heartbreak occurred in the early church. At this time, however, Christianity was the small sect drawing believers away from Judaism, to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah. It ripped families apart. The early church became the new family of many followers who were disowned. They lost their life and found a new one in Christ.

There can be moments when a family's lifestyle, beliefs, behaviour or values are such that one member feels that, in conscience, or by conviction, he or she does not belong anymore.

When this happens we can listen carefully to reasons the family member gives. Maybe we have lost something essential in our life together that needs challenging and change. And maybe it's the family member who is in the wrong.

Keeping the lines of communication open, speaking the truth with calmness and love and remaining as compassionate as possible are the best Christian responses. I can't pretend that any of this is easy, but, when I have seen families do it, the prophetic, truthful and charitable rewards Jesus offers in today's Gospel are powerfully in evidence.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 88: FOREVER I WILL SING,

Psalm 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

Response: *Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

Response

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss.

Response

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.

Response

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'



**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.**