



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.*

1st Sunday of Advent

28 November 2021

Hi Everyone,

ADVENT

Greetings for the new Church year. This weekend we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent - a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

I don't know about you but the time has flown and it's a challenge to get my head around the fact that we are about to begin a time of waiting for the Lord's coming.

It's been a challenging year and I fear that the challenges will remain for some time to come. Nevertheless, we are out of lockdown and it's good to see people walking the streets or sitting down to a meal together. Let's hope and pray that it will continue that way.

This week's readings are a reminder that, even in times of adversity, we should face the future with confidence and trust. Admittedly, it's something of a conundrum for us having been beaten around by this virus yet we are still encouraged to face the future with confidence that the Lord is with us.

Thank you for your patience about music in the liturgy - we are gradually finding new ways to make things happen but I have to confess that our office has been under enormous pressure now that people are ringing up to celebrate previously postponed baptisms, weddings and even funerals. We will get there eventually but it does require patience and understanding.

I haven't forgotten the fact that I was going to set up a couple of meeting times with you all after Sunday Masses. At the moment, I think we will need to leave that to the beginning of the new school year. It's a matter of getting the time to organise things and we still have sacramental celebrations to finish such as 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist and Confirmation.

Fr Gary Devery from Sts Peter and Paul's South Melbourne, has graciously agreed to celebrate these Sacraments with our Galilee children, however, we will be

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

Monday 29 November

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 30 November

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 1 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Thursday 2 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Friday 3 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's,

Saturday 4 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

6.00pm Vigil Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 5 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel, followed by Baptism

WE REMEMBER

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer:

Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Jeffrey Dalton Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Gerard Friary, Ivy Hermence, Silvio Ierardo, Chris Kowalski, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakov, 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: Silvio Ierardo, and all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Natasha Jones, and Carmelites, John Curtain and Joe Phillips.

IN OUR PARISH

celebrating these Sacraments with non-Galilee students on the weekend of 11/12 December. I would ask for your prayers for these young women and men as they reach important milestones in their lives.

This year we will not be able to gather as a community for our annual Christmas party. It is normally one of the highlights of the year but the organisation of such an event is very time-consuming and I think there may be a certain hesitancy for people to gather in large groups at present.

Rather selfishly, I dread the fact that Christmas is a Saturday this year which means we will have services on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. This year, we will not be celebrating a vigil Mass on Saturday night, however, our usual Sunday Masses will go ahead.

Prayers please for Abramo's Dad, Silvio, who died during the week. Also, for Carmel Cummins' sister Anne, who is most unwell.

Instead of having our usual Advent Anointing Mass this year, I think we'll have anointing during all of our Masses for a Sunday on one particular weekend before Christmas. I hope that is okay with you all and it will give everyone a chance to receive the Sacrament of Anointing if they choose. Haven't worked out a date as yet, but will keep you posted.

Take care and look after yourselves. Enjoy the beginning of summer - they say it will be wet this year because of some fancy lady called La Niña who controls our weather to a large degree.

Blessings and peace,



ARCHDIOCESE

5 December
Second Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Volunteer

Readers: Bro Anacleto

Eucharistic Ministers: Tris
Tanumihardjo

Communion to the Sick: N/A

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator:

Reader:

Eucharistic Ministers:

Counters:

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: Angela Cox

Readers: Margaret Fagan

Eucharistic Ministers: Sally
Diserio

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: Denis Churkovich

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$721.00

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

*Carmelite and
Parish Offering* \$639.00

PARISH NEWS

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;
- A little Christmas Cheer.

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

Thanksgiving Envelopes

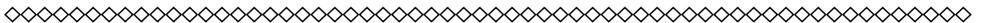


The next series of Thanksgiving Envelopes is available for collection in the foyer of the church at St Joseph's or at the entrance (off the driveway) at Mt Carmel. If you are able to deliver envelopes to people you know, that will help defray the cost of posting out those that are not collected. If you are new to the parish and would like to join our thanksgiving Program, please call Anne at the Parish office on 9681 9600 or email on parish@sj-mc.org.au.

Carmelite Conversation, The Poetry of John of the Cross with Philip Harvey,

10.30am - 12 midday, Wednesday 1 December (Via Zoom)

Contact the Carmelite Centre for details.



Centering Prayer Meditations

5.00pm - 5.50pm Tuesdays (via Zoom)

Meditation

7.00-8.00pm Thursdays in the Malone Room

Lectio Divina

10.00am - 11.00am Fridays (via Zoom)

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

ADVENT PRAYER AT HOME

Jer:33:14-16; Ps 25; 1 Thes 3:12-4: 2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Faithful and wise
Full of integrity
GOD IS OUR FRIEND

Honest and true
Keeper of promises
GOD IS OUR FRIEND

In the daytime
Through the night time
KEEP US ON THE RIGHT PATH

In our learning
In our growing
KEEP US ON THE RIGHT PATH

In our living
In our dying
KEEP US ON THE RIGHT PATH

BLESSING

We seek God's ways;
may we walk in God's truth.

We seek God's friendship;
may we live in God's justice.

We trust in God's promises;
may we delight in God's love.

May the God of pilgrimage,
Maker, Traveller, Spirit of adventure and joy,
bless us and encourage us all the days of our journey home. AMEN.

From: Candles and Conifers, 2005 Ruth Burgess. Used with permission.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'!

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.

© Richard Leonard SJ

LITURGICAL ART

Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

This Advent, our season of waiting begins with a dramatic foretelling of Christ's second coming. The signs that herald this event are on a cosmic scale and in line with the multi-layered imagery of Luke's infancy narrative. The signs are frightening and many will panic when the celestial bodies and the waters of the earth behave erratically – when the natural laws no longer apply. We must 'stay awake' and renew our lives through prayer and moral living in readiness for the end times.



OUR LITURGY

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant: Christ, our Light,
from the tree of Jesse you spring into our humanity
and bring your kingdom of peace.

Celebrant: Quieten the noise of these busy days

All: *so that we may hear your voice.*

Celebrant: Come and strengthen us now

**All: *so that we may bring your gift of love and healing
to all around us.***

Celebrant: May this candle remind us of your love,
enlighten our minds,
and open our hearts to welcome you
who are our Lord, for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 92: TO YOU O LORD

Psalm 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

Response: ***To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.***

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **Response**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **Response**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant **Response**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When



these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

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.

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.*

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.

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.***

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