



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.*

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

2 August 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Well, another week in quarantine! Ho hum!

Most importantly, let's be mindful of those who are unwell and those who died and those who care for them in so many ways.

Remember especially Bev and Richard's son, Tom, who has the virus and is "stuck" in Malta, along with Lydia, his sister – for his recovery and her safety – let us pray.

A CARMELITE REFLECTION

18 SUNDAY OF THE YEAR "They all ate were satisfied" (Matthew 14:13-21)

"For a garment begun, God sends thread" (Italian proverb)

"Every journey begins with a first step"

The thoughts above could help us reflect on today's Gospel of the "Feeding of the 5,000".

The Cathedral of St. Patrick in Melbourne is deemed to be at the very top of architectural achievements in Australia. It was the dream of a great architect, but the Catholics of the time were lower class and battling to build up their local parishes, churches and schools. But the journey began – relying on the "pennies of the poor" and the faith of the people.

In the Gospel today, Jesus faces the great necessity of feeding the multitude – in the desert! It began with a few loaves and fish, and as we know, ended with a great banquet.

Maybe that is one of the lessons for us today As we face our problems and projects, and hesitate to take the 1st step. Let us advance, walk with faith in Jesus, and pray that God will see us through.

The crowds could not get enough of Jesus; the miracles had to be repeated, and by now the crowd was ready to make him King. But Jesus had a different agenda –

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, Michael Ristevski,
Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, 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: Neil Donovan
and all those affected by COVID_ 19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about
this time:**

IN OUR PARISH

he did not come to be Santa Claus – but to inspire
faith and acceptance of his teaching ... but, as
we know, the throng could not think above the
waistline. When he spoke to them about his Body
and Blood, and Bread from heaven, they turned
away. Even many of his disciples left him But
Peter and the apostles held on.

We have to wait till the Last Supper to get the
meaning of this event – when he prays over the
Bread and Wine.

For ancient peoples, especially the Jews, life was
in the blood. When they saw someone dying from
wounds, they could see, as the blood flowed out,
so did the life of the person – as with Jesus on
the cross. Jesus gave his life for us: "I have come
so that you may have Life and have it to the full",
i.e., ETERNAL LIFE.

Holy Mass is the Death of Christ made present
to us, and the life he yielded up is now in us.
That makes us the sisters and brothers of Jesus,
calling God our Father and enlightened by the
Holy Spirit.

This is the greatest gift of God, and the Eucharistic
Sacrifice, which we call The Mass, is our constant
act of thanksgiving.



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.**

SOME PARISH TIDBITS

A few gems to brighten our days and gladden our hearts.

Lis Northam writes:

Archie (grandson aged 5) received a stellar report recently but the highlight was his triple A for religious studies. Accordingly, he is much given to liturgical 'bon mots' not always appreciated by 'the brothers', Charlie aged 10 and Monty aged 8. They live in Sydney and Sarah has always found driving there something of a challenge and is often tooted. The other day, she incurred the wrath of a Sydneysider and was duly tooted, to which Archie responded " Don't worry Mummy, Jesus still loves you". Clearly, all will be well.



Joan Cusack writes:

Having read our friend Marianne's account of her faith journey I wondered if I might share my journey to becoming a Catholic.

When I was very young until I was about 14 yrs old I attended Sunday school at the Church of Christ with my family and I can remember lots of singing which I enjoyed, and the Communion wine being passed around in small shot glasses – always wanted to try one but not old enough then.

At age 21 I began flying as a TAA air hostess and was sharing a flat with two other hostesses both of whom were Catholic. My boyfriend was Brian, I had been going out with him for a while and it was getting a bit serious so my flatmates told me that if I was to marry Brian I would need to become a Catholic as he was from a very strong Catholic family. I decided they might be right so between nightly discussions with them and about a year of attending Fr. Gerard Dowling in the City for instruction during which time we became engaged. Finally, in 1971 I was baptised in the morning at St. Finbar's church in Brighton then in the afternoon received my first Holy Communion and was married in St. Vincent's Church in Strathmore by Fr. Dowling all on the same day.

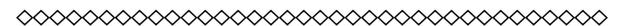
We settled in a small flat in Essendon then later bought a home and saw a lot of Brian's family which was very helpful as we had 3 small children born very close together and their help was much appreciated. Brian's sister Lorraine invited us around for tea one night and asked if we would like to join Teams of Our Lady so we did and have now been Team Members for over 40 years. This has been a great experience for us and especially for me as it has enabled me to learn a lot

more the Church as well as forming some wonderful friendships. For those who don't know Teams as it is now called it is a worldwide movement existing in 92 countries which was started in Paris in 1939. Each team consists of 4-6 couples normally and a priest ideally, and monthly meetings are held in each other's homes. Mass is celebrated and then a discussion topic and family news is shared finishing with either a simple meal or supper. It is excellent for young families to share and our children loved it for many years. We have also been extremely lucky to have a Columban Mission priest as our Chaplain and as they are moved around regularly, we asked if they could replace themselves and they always have.

After 43 years in Strathmore and our children having left home to marry and deliver us many grandchildren which has been fantastic for us, we moved to Port Melbourne.

We first attended St. Joseph's Church about 6 years ago and found it very welcoming to us and have stayed ever since. I was co-opted into the Port Melbourne Conference of St Vincent de Paul by having coffee with the Mounts one morning and was quite surprised to go to Mass the next week and a few of the ladies were congratulating me. I soon discovered I was the newest member of St. Vincent de Paul! This has also been a great experience and I have found it most rewarding to be able to help people in many different ways and once again have joined a very loyal and dedicated group of people who are making a difference in many people's lives.

We have a wonderful priest in Fr Hugh Brown who is very caring, inspiring and an excellent communicator and we hope he never leaves us. Thanks Hugh!



I still have a few contributions from people to use but the more the merrier. Keep sending them in and stay safe, stay warm, stay sane, stay masked and know that you are loved.



RAR'S JULY 2020 - UNSUNG HERO



SISTER BRIGID ARTHUR

Sr Brigid and Sr Catherine Kelly co- founded the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) in 2001; since then it has grown in strength. Sr Catherine who specialised in visa applications died in 2015 and Sr Brigid continued as the driving force behind the project.

From 2001 until 2020 Sr Brigid has visited detention centres and championed the cause of detainees. In 2011-12 there were nearly 3,000 minors in closed detention in Australia and by 2013 the numbers of families in detention in Australia had increased.

Sr Brigid identified a group of vulnerable young Afghan boys at MITA and became their litigation guardian and with legal assistance took action all the way to the High Court. The intention of the litigation was to change the law to stop children from being held in detention. While this action saved these boys it did not change the law.

JULY 2020 – Congratulations Sister Brigid Arthur csb!

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The BASP not only supports detainees but advocates to get detainees into the community and settles and supports them in the community by sourcing accommodation, furniture etc. Over the life of the project many hundreds of people have been able to live in BASP houses. In addition BASP undertakes community

education and fundraising, visits schools to speak about asylum seekers, takes asylum seekers on outings and provides meals. The aims of BASP are:

- to provide hospitality and practical support for asylum seekers
- actively network with like-minded individuals and groups who are working for justice for asylum seekers
- promote advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers
- raise awareness of asylum seeker issues and concerns through a range of activities

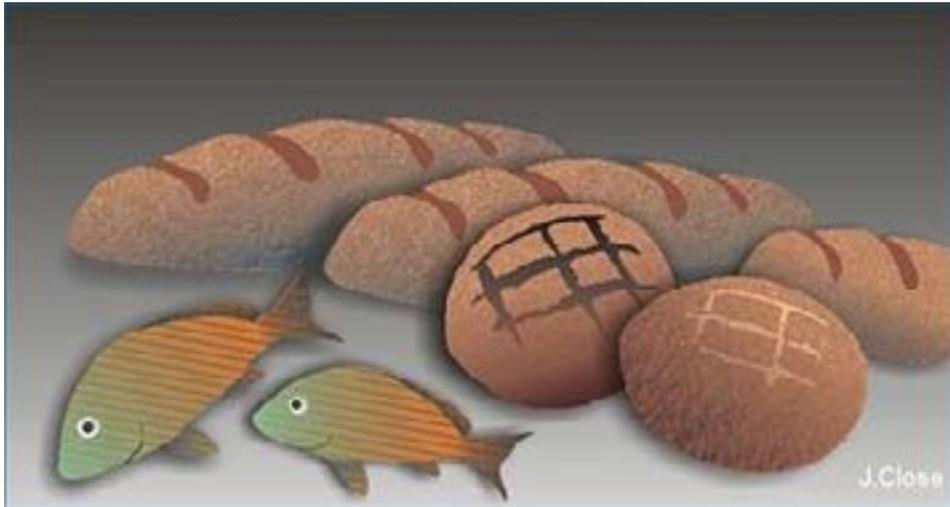
In 2016 Sr Brigid and Pamela Curr visited asylum seekers on Christmas Island.

For the last 18 years, BASP has operated as a provider that steps in when other agencies, for a range of reasons, are unable to support people seeking asylum.

<https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/unsunghero/>

Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close

Five loaves and two fish were more than enough to feed a large crowd of people in today's Gospel reading. A semblance of eucharist is apparent here in this four part action, i.e. in the taking, blessing, breaking and eating of the food. Likewise, our eucharist provides more than enough nourishment for our needs.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

There is an old line that runs, 'If you feel distant from God – guess who has moved?' It picks up the theme in the Romans reading which we have just heard, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.'

In the midst of persecution and suffering, St Paul writes to the community at Rome to tell them that, even in their fear, desolation and grief, nothing, and no one, can separate them from God's love. This shows us that when we feel separated from God we may have walked away from him, usually through destructive behaviour that sets up and maintains distance between us and the source of our faith, hope and love.

St Matthew and Isaiah also knew that nothing can separate us from God's love. Isaiah's river of plenty and Matthew's loaves and fish are all about the plenty of God's kingdom, the abundance of God's goodness.

Too often we focus on the miracle of transformation that occurs in Matthew's Gospel when all he tells about the actual miracle is that Jesus 'breaks and shares'. Matthew is more interested in the leftovers than he is in the miracle itself. From five loaves and two fish we are told twelve baskets of scraps are left over.

Numbers are rarely random in the Bible. The echo of the seven days of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of this story as Jesus takes seven fruits of the earth to feed the crowd. Similarly, the twelve baskets of scraps, the remnants of the meal at which all were filled and satisfied, echo the sign of God through the twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament.

For us today this story also has consoling resonance. Matthew is telling us that Jesus sees our need, does not turn us away, comes to where we are, as we are, and recreates us through the abundance of his love, so we can be signs of His kingdom in the world.

The Church has always believed that the feeding of the crowd prefigured the Eucharist, this weekly time where we receive the fullness of God in his Word, in the life of the community, in the minister and through the transformation of the Bread and Wine.

It's all about abundance. Our God has abundantly provided for us so that we can abundantly provide for all the world which is given into our care. 'Those to whom much is given, much is required.' The problem is that when we look around we see that while some of us have so much, others have nothing at all.

If this reality doesn't move us to a change of heart and right action then we have not understood the story of the loaves and the fish, that God's goodness is never intended for a select few.

Sometimes people look at the poverty in the world and think, 'How could God allow that?' This question can cause us to feel distant from God, but in light of what God has given us and our ability to share from this abundance, when we think like and feel like this, guess who has moved away from whom?

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 118: THE HAND OF THE LORD FEEDS US

Psalm 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

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

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

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,
call on him from their hearts.

Response

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

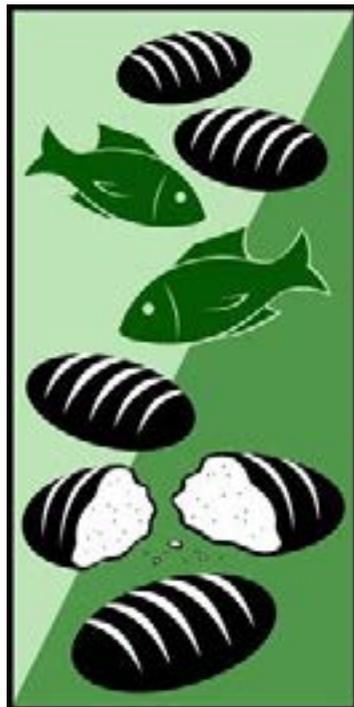
GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this

and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



**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.**