

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.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 30 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers,

The two short parables we hear in the Gospel today speak to us of the reckless reaction we can have when we are overwhelmed and overjoyed by discovering or experiencing something that we have only dreamt of, but thought in our wildest dreams would never become a reality for us.

I must say that I find it hard to imagine myself behaving as recklessly as the characters referred to in today's Gospel story – they sell everything they "own" in order to acquire either the field containing the hidden treasure or the pearl of great value. There is obviously a risk involved. The hidden "treasure" could prove worthless and the pearl could become devalued.

However, we must remember that we are dealing with parables, which are not meant to be taken literally; they are stories told to make a particular point and not meant to be analyzed and scrutinised in every detail. In today's parables, the point is that the hidden treasure and the valuable pearl refer to the "kingdom of heaven" – the kingdom of God.

Through Matthew, Jesus is telling his disciples that the kingdom of God is so valuable and precious that if we truly appreciate it, we would be prepared to let go of everything unrelated to it. We would "risk" doing this if our faith were strong enough. Difficult and all as it is to imagine, there have been characters in history – Saints like Paul or Francis of Assisi and Martyrs like Titus Brandsma – who have been prepared to do this. Their lives were completely changed by the deep faith they developed in God's love for them and the deep conviction they developed that they were called to give their lives in love for others as witnesses to the "kingdom of heaven" – God's love for them and in them. An integral aspect of their wholehearted embrace of this gift was a deep desire and driving motivation to let others know that this gift was on offer for them too.

As we hear and reflect on the two short parables of today's Gospel Reading, we might pray in thanksgiving for the gift of "hidden treasure" and "precious pearl" that we have been offered. We might pray, too, that we grow in our appreciation of this gift and how it might direct our lives.

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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

5.00pm (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 Phone Number 0419 136 030

Email parish@sj-mc.org.au

Parish Website www.sj-mc.org.au

Carmelite Website www.carmelites.org.au

Office Hours:

Tuesday - 9am - 4pm Wednesday - 9am-4pm Friday - 9am-12pm

(CLOSED MONDAYS & THURSDAYS)

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm

Parish Secretary

Cathy Garbellini

Pastoral Assistant

Kelly McEnhill **Business Finance Manager**

Mark Zanon

Sacramental Co-Ordinator

Baptism - Angela Cox First Reconciliation - Angela Cox First Eucharist - Aimee Nguyen Confirmation - Sally Diserio

Safeguarding Officer

Frances Correa

Facilities Manager

Dave Fletcher

Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street, South Melbourne 3205 Telephone 03 9699 2928

THIS WEEK

Monday 31 July

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 1 August

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 2 August

9.00am Anoiting Mass, St Joseph's

Thursday 3 August

9.00am Anointing Mass, Mt Carmel 10.30am Rosary, then Funeral Mass for John Squillace, St Joseph's

Friday 4 August

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Saturday 5 August

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel, followed by Exposition of the **Blessed Sacrament**

5.00pm Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 6 August

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's 10.30am Mass, Mt Carmel

WE REMEMBER

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Victor Acciarito, Deepa Ariff, Lawrence Bassett, Grace Callaghan, Mary Tam Cao, Shawn Ceasar, Robert Chaminda, Mrs Chan, Josephine Clayton, Paul Cox, Daphnie Cramer, Mary Dalli, Andrew Derrington, Michael DeNittis, Maureen Dickason, Bernadette Falckh, Gigi Falk, Lyn Falk, Rebecca Fernando, Marie Julie Fernandez, Tony Fernandez, Father Des Fitzgerald CSSR, Jill Foster, Gus Gleason, Amelia Grace, Evelen Greach, Brendan Gurry, Michael Gurry, Portia Hendrick, Shawn Handricks, Marija Jelinic, Tae Yoon Jin, Tera Kwol, Robert Masquiren, Sharon Beverly Mendes, Marta Menjivar, Simon Millar, Baby Alba Middleton, Natalie Pringle, Dan Quickley, Helen Quickley, Rafal Rafakski, Daphnie Rasika, Shawn Raymond, Jill Ridge, Elise Rimington, Michael Risteviski, Keith Ryder, Sharmini Senanayeke Chris Silkok, Ailbe Sheehy, Sash Somerset-Beauverie, Jim Sullivan, Danielle Szeto, Angela Trigar & Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently:

Giovanni (John) Squillace, Zoe Sullivan & casualties of the Ukrainian/Russian conflict.

IN OUR PARISH



Happy 100th Birthday

to Joan McCarthy a faithful and long time parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Library of Father Bob Maguire

HUGE CLEARANCE ALL STOCK MUST GO GIGANTIC BARGAINS

Next time you are in the Carmelite Library you must check out the books of Fr Bob Maguire. In May the Father Bob Maguire Foundation donated the religious section of his impressive collection to the Library. We have sorted those that must be added to the Library collection, which leaves a sizable range that we either hold already or that fall outside our scope.

You will be pleasantly surprised at the range and depth of his reading interests. Or possibly you will not be surprised. Be the first person on your block to have a Maguire book, or three, on your shelf. There's some great value material. Each book has been marked inside with a special memorial stamp.

The books are displayed on the sale shelves near the entrance to the Library, priced at \$10, \$5, and \$2. Cash preferred.

If you need assistance, please speak to Philip Harvey, Librarian, Carmelite Library.

Parish Men's Dinner

We are looking for a volunteer to organise the monthly Parish Men's Dinner which is held on the last Wednesday of the month.

For more details, please contact Cathy for more details (Cathy@sj-mc.org.au or 9681 9600).

5-6 August 2023 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 5.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Tris Tanumihardio

Reader: Pat Mount

Offertory: Kathy Mount Communion: Kathy Mount

Music: Tris Tanumihardjo

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: TBA

Reader: TBA

Offertory: Toni Stuart

Communion: Frances Correa

Counters: Ron & Sandra Cassano

Music: Joan Cusack Hospitality: TBD

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: TBD

Reader: John Molnar

Offertory: TBD

Communion: Denis Churkovich

Music: Peter Russo

Hospitality: Denis Churkovich

Communion to the Sick:

Marlene Carlin: 6-12 Aug

THANK YO

for your generosity last weekend

Parish Stewardship Offerings

Envelopes \$ 1,590.00 Credit Card \$ 480.00 **Direct Debit** \$ 775.00 Loose Plate \$ 883.85 Tap & Go \$ 117.00 Total \$ 3.845.85

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 58 216 8515 Account Name: Port Melbourne / Middle Park Parish

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Vale Giovanni (John) Squillance

Our prayerful sympathy and support is extended to Concetta (Connie) and her family on the recent death of their husband and father. May John rest in the peace of God's eternal embrace. His funeral will be held at St Joseph's Church next Thursday, 3 August, commencing with Rosary at 10:30am, followed by Requiem Mass at 11am.

Thanks Hong

Many thanks to Hong Pham, Saturday morning Sacristan at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, for her generous gift of some beautiful altar linen on her return from a recent visit to her homeland of Vietnam..

Parish Meeting this week

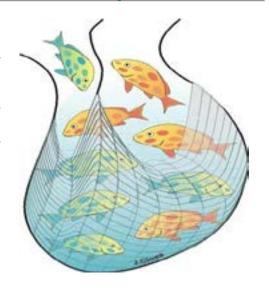
As I am preparing this column in advance of the meeting, I am unable to offer any report or reflection on it. However, I am confident of good numbers participating, either in person or by Zoom, for which I am very grateful, and I look forward to offering some report and reflection on it in future editions of the newsletter.

Blessings for the week ahead.



LECTIONARY ART & REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE

'The Kingdom of heaven is like . . .' Jesus likens heaven to a hidden treasure, a pearl of great price and a fishing net. In the last image, heaven is described as a grab bag containing a jumble of marine life. The net drags everything in and then the catch is sorted. No rubbish gets into heaven!



THE CARMELITE CENTRE MELBOURNE



The **August 2023 Newsletter** is available on the via the following website link: https://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org/

Some upcoming Carmelite Centre events that are available in person or online include:

- Centering Prayer Meditation 1 August (in the library)
- Carmelite Conversation 2 August (via zoom)
- Eco Spirituality Reading Circle 8 August (via zoom)
- Spiritual Reading Group 16 August (via zoom)
- Women's Art Circle 22 August (in the library)
- Monthly Gathering in Library 25 August (in the library)
- Prayer Meditation every Tuesday 5pm (via zoom)
- Meditation every Thursday 7pm (in the Malone room and on-line resources)
- Lectio Divina every Friday 10am (via zoom and on-line resources)

REFLECTION

Close encounters with the Kingdom of God

In the Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom to treasure hidden in a field, to a merchant on the lookout for fine pearls and to a fisherman's dragnet which brings in a very mixed catch.

The point of the parables is the behaviour of the people in them.

In the first parable someone stumbles across the treasure by chance. Sometimes that can happen to us, too. We are happily living our lives when, by chance, something happens or we meet someone and our lives change for ever. On reflection we discern the presence of God in that encounter.

In the second parable the Kingdom is found after a long search. It is a reassurance that those who seek always find, and those who knock on the door will always have it opened.

The third parable introduces a note of reality: the Kingdom is a mixture of all kinds of things and some sorting out is needed.

In the first two parables the joy and delight of those who find (experience) the Kingdom is obvious. It is so strong that nothing is spared in order to possess the Kingdom.

The purpose of parables is not to provide answers to questions but to get us to think.

As we know, the Kingdom of God is not a 'thing' or a 'place'. It is an experience or an encounter with the life of God

In the life and ministry of Jesus many people experienced the Kingdom through their encounter with him which brought dignity, love, forgiveness, release from illness, disability, guilt, shame and even death. Jesus made present the reign of God's grace for people in all kinds of need.

While we are sometimes overwhelmed by the experience of the presence of God within our hearts, more often we experience the reign of God's grace through others. These people, like Jesus, somehow make present, make real the presence and action of God especially (but not only) in our moments of need.

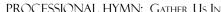
Having experienced that, we too, want to possess, to find and hold onto the Source which touched us so deeply and brought us hope, comfort and freedom.

The kingdom, as we are reminded in the third parable, is a mixed bag of good and rotten fish, saints and sinners. It is not the task of members of the kingdom to judge; the final sorting out belongs to God alone. In the meantime, patience and tolerance must guide the practice of those in the kingdom.

The people of the kingdom seek the things that are of real value in life. They are prepared to make areat sacrifices in order to make them their own. They live their lives with virtue and wisdom and their lives are a blessing for others as they draw from their rich store of values and virtues, of wisdom and grace. They never stop seeking the things of real value, the riches of the kingdom and they never stop making God present for those around them.

David Hofman, O.Carm. Celebrating at Home, Carmelite Communications, Melbourne

OUR LITURGY











FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 119 - LORD, I LOVE YOUR COMMANDS

Response: Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces. **Response**

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants.

Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

Response

For I love your commands
more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward;
every false way I hate.

Response

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple. **Response**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.



GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'



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.

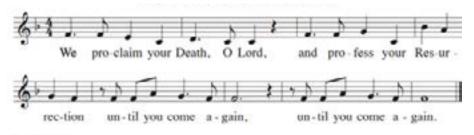


Cel: The Lord be with you. **All: And with your Spirit.**Cel: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to the Lord.**Cel: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **All: It is right and just.**



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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Text: KXE, C 2010
Music: More of Sont Am, Ed Boldse, C 2011, World Library Publications, a division of GEA Publications, Inc.



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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.

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

RECESSIONAL HYMN - SING A NEW SONG

Refrain: Sing a new song unto the Lord

let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord,

singing alleluia.

Yahweh's people dance for joy.
O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.

Refrain

Rise, O children, from your sleep your Saviour now has come. He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.

Refrain

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord. The trumpet sounds the dead shall be raised.

I know my Saviour lives. 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.