



# 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.*

**Pentecost Sunday**

**31 May 2020**

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

The great feast of Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit and the feast of the birth of the Church. Not really being an expert on either, I sometimes dream of what the Church would have looked like if it had not become allied with the Roman Empire and its structures. My guess, and, of course, it is only a guess is that we would have a number of things:

- A simpler Church that may or may not have churches. I wonder if it would be a church that gathers in homes and meeting places but doesn't align itself with monumental structures;
- A decentralised Church where the local community chooses its leaders and the local community decides on what is required for membership based on the Gospel.
- A pastorally centred Church focussed on the needs of the poor and that creates a sense of responsibility among its members for all people;
- An itinerant Church that doesn't locate itself in any particular area like a diocese or a state but is constantly on the move preaching the Gospel and responding to the needs of people.
- A poorer Church that depends more on goodwill and generosity than on investment accounts and the like and where its ministers earn their keep in a multitude of roles.
- A more transparent Church where decisions are made and enforced by the community itself.
- An honest Church that isn't allied with state structures and held in chains by the status quo.
- A humble Church where the sheep and the shepherds interchange their positions often and no one is counted as more important than the other.
- A joyful Church where the members realise their great dignity and are unrestrained in telling of the good things that the Lord has done for us.
- An inclusive Church where the criterion for membership is baptism but a baptism that requires those baptised to care for all humanity.
- A Church where the laws are based on love and everything that benefits the true good of other people.
- A sacramental Church which is much greater than 7 Sacraments because it recognises the sacrament of the present moment and realises that God is to be found in the most trivial, the most hurtful, the most unclean of places because they are inhabited by people.

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**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

Please ask permission of the sick person(s) before asking their name(s) be put on the list. We need to be sensitive to the fact that some people may not wish their names published.

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

**Those whose have died recently:** Br Kevin Woodruff, csc, and those affected by COVID - 19.

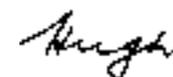
**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time:** Ellen Cooke, Kieran Fahy.

## IN OUR PARISH

I'm not being entirely critical of the Church as it stands now: it is a great place to be and it has and continues to do wonderful things for the world. It is also beset by the sin of pride and hubris that creates a false dichotomy between the leaders and the people.

In saying all this, I can hear some of you say: "Tell him he's dreamin!" (to quote from a quintessentially Australian movie) and you'd be right, I am dreaming and I've probably committed more heresies than we can count. But there is always a place to dream! Jesus did it when he spoke of the Reign of God: a reign that pervades every facet of human and non-human existence. You cannot divorce God from anything and anyone. Never lose your dreams – God resides in them too.

Happy birthday everyone!



### Reflection on an Ecumenical Life

A good friend's favourite saying is that we are all born at the right time (in history) for us. When I look back over my life I have to agree. I've had a very good life with many opportunities, for which I'm extremely grateful. I've also witnessed great changes. One of the greatest changes I've witnessed is our Mother Church moving from the Dark Ages into the light.

I grew up in Northmead, NSW, a suburb about 4km from Parramatta on the Windsor Road. My mother grew up a Catholic and my father was a Church of England (C of E) man until his death. Hence they had to marry 'behind' the altar. Dad was a good man and fulfilled his obligation to educate us as Catholics, even when at times money was tight. Our home was right next door to St Luke's C of E, so after 9 am Mass at St Monica's, North Parramatta, we would come home and sit on the fence between our house and the Church and join in Sunday School. The stories we heard were of a kind and gentle Jesus who loved us. This was in direct contrast to the flip-chart pictures of the Devil the Nun's subjected us to in Primary School and a God who was into punishment. I preferred the C of E Jesus. When the children went back into the Church for the service we would stay on the fence and sing along to the hymns. I preferred the C of E hymns.

## ARCHDIOCESE

**Archdiocesan Hotline for  
COVID-19**

*In light of changing advice and circumstances, please keep visiting this webpage: [www.cam.org.au](http://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](mailto: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.**

They were so uplifting compared to the dirges sung at St Monica's. Who wouldn't want to sing along to hymns like 'Onward Christian Soldiers' – a real favourite. I was very fortunate that I wasn't aware it was frowned upon for a Catholic to attend Church services of another religion, so I blissfully attended, as a spectator, many weddings and funerals at St Luke's as well as Sunday School.

The presence of Jesus within the Uniting Church was made evident when I was staying with my sister in Canberra (many years ago now). My very young niece and I drove to what we thought was the Catholic Church for Mass. As soon as we arrived, I knew I was in the wrong place because we were greeted so warmly. To my shame, instead of staying for the service I gave our apologies and asked for directions to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church has come a long way since those days and are far more welcoming to strangers.

During my working life I was exposed to religions from a wide variety of cultures. Most Friday's, the Imam at the Newport Mosque welcomed me for afternoon tea. The Imam was a wonderful man and often came to our assistance when one of his flock was behaving badly. While working as a volunteer at the Royal Children's Hospital, I saw the Muslim women come in every day during Ramadan to prepare meals for anyone who wanted them. They were delicious! I've attended many Ramadan dinners and Eid Festivals and have always been made to feel very welcome. I also had the privilege of assisting the Buddhist Temple in Footscray (a Taoist Temple) to receive a grant from the Federal Government to help fund a large community kitchen where they prepare meals for anyone the area who wants/needs them. The Heavenly Queen Temple (a beautiful name for a Temple) is a very welcoming place and their focus is very much on helping all who need their assistance in the community. The Sikh and Hindu communities of the Western suburbs are also favourites, particularly as they always invited me to the Diwali Festival – a Festival of Light. The food and festivities are always fantastic. Again, they were always on hand to offer assistance if one of the members of their community strayed from the straight and narrow.

There are many more religions I could mention where I've been welcomed by the community. However, I'll end with our Jewish community. I've had a lot to do with the Jewish community but the thing that stands out is a talk I attended by a Holocaust survivor. Anna explained that the Jews who were rounded up and treated so despicably could understand the behaviour of the Nazi's because that was what they were trained and under orders to do. What they couldn't understand was the behaviour of the ordinary citizens who had been their neighbours and friends, those who stood by and allowed it to happen. The greatest lesson I took from Anna's speech was that the behaviour you walk past is the behaviour you condone. I've shared this lesson with others many times over the years. As the Gospels often invite us to do – ask ourselves 'what would Jesus do?'

In every one of the communities I've mentioned above, Jesus was present in the people who were so welcoming. They may not be Christians but they are all Christ like in their actions. In the words of a wonderful Nun who was teaching a leadership course I was attending – show me what you do and I'll tell you what you think.

**Sandra Nicholson**

## REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Have you noticed how, these days when we meet someone and ask how they are, they reply, 'busy' or 'frantic' or 'as busy as ever'. I wonder what would happen if we replied, 'Relaxed and laid back' or 'taking time to smell the roses'. I don't think we would be believed, or we might get a lecture from our friends on how lucky we are not to be busy!

As Christians we have to be careful about this busy-ness competition. Being active in our lives and engaged with the world around us is a gift, but if we are honest about our busyness, some of it is not virtuous. It's about denial, avoidance or trying to stay up with our peer group.

In John's account of the first Pentecost the primary gift Jesus' Spirit bestows on the disciples is peace. It's curious, isn't it, that just as we all compete with each other to be the busiest person we know, we also complain that what we really want is 'some peace and quiet'. We can't have it both ways. Compulsive frantic activity is the enemy of peace.

Sometimes we can think that peace and quiet is sitting in the lotus position in a darkened room. Christ's gift of peace is more robust than that. Peace is like all the best things in life: an attitude of mind and a habit born of consistently making good choices. Some people can do a large amount of work and be quite serene about it. Peace, for them, is an affair of the mind and a way of life.

Seneca, a 2nd century philosopher, noticed, even in his day, how most of his friends and acquaintances were lacking peace. He wrote a famous book on anger and how to deal with it. He especially noticed that his richest friends were the angriest of all. Seneca came to believe that the reason so many people were agitated was that they had an unreasonable expectation about how smoothly their day would go. Those who were rich thought their money would buy them an easier life in every way and so when it didn't, they got the angriest of all.

If Seneca is right and we want more peace and quiet, we have to have realistic expectations of each day and factor in the things that might go wrong.

Seneca's secular wisdom holds that the more aware we are of the frailties in us, others and life, the fewer fights we would have. In turn this would lead to fewer occasions when we would need to ask or give forgiveness. In today's Pentecost Gospel forgiveness is the second gift Jesus bequeaths the disciples.

If we really want to cultivate peace and quiet in our lives we have to confront the things we are trying to avoid or deny. Often these things hinge on painful memories or events where we were destructive toward others or they were toward us. Unless we forgive ourselves or forgive them, our busyness will ensure that we have enough clamour and activity to stay away from ugly memories. Unfortunately it usually follows that when we are so busy not dealing with the sins of our past, peace and quiet stay well away from us as well.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that while the Spirit might allow us to retain any sins, we choose Jesus' first option this Pentecost and forgive as generously as we can those who have tried to crucify us. We might have to forgive ourselves as well. And then, like Jesus, with old wounds exposed, we can rejoice that the Spirit has breathed into us the greatest gift of all: the peace and quiet we most crave and need.

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## READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

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### FIRST READING

#### *Acts 2:1-11*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:      PSALM 103:      LORD SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT

**Response:**      ***Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.***

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches.

**Response**

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Response**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord.

**Response**

### SECOND READING

#### *1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13*

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

### SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,  
From the clear celestial height  
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,  
Come with treasures which endure;  
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,  
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,  
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;  
Pleasant coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,  
Visit thou these hearts of thine,  
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore  
Thee confess and thee adore,  
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;  
Give us life with thee on high;  
Give us joys that never end.

## GOSPEL

### *John 20:19-23*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you.  
'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'  
After saying this he breathed on them and said:  
'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven:  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'



**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.**