



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.*

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

31 October 2021

Hi Everyone,

PRAYERS FOR PNG

We received a plea for prayers for the people of PNG who are facing extremely serious outbreaks of COVID19. In a country as poor as PNG and due to the difficult terrain it has been nearly impossible to get vaccines to the people. This is probably compounded by the fact that vaccines are in short supply. Please remember the people of PNG in your prayers.

MORNING TEA

A big thank you to those who joined us on Wednesday. It was good to see them and get their advice about the reopening of Churches for Weekend and Weekday Masses. I very much appreciate their wisdom and support.

CHURCH OPENINGS: SUNDAY

After our Parish consultation on Wednesday and with the relaxation of rules governing the opening of places to the public, I am happy to announce that we will have our usual 2 Masses this Sunday: **9:00am at SJs** and **10:30am at OLMC**.

There will be **NO** Saturday evening Mass at Mount Carmel for the time being.

Unfortunately, only vaccinated parishioners can attend and you must have either proof of your vaccination status or a valid medical exemption. We cannot make any exceptions to this rule. Also, everyone must QR code into the Church and wear a mask.

This weekend the Masses will be very simple – no music.

We will use only **ONE** entrance into both Churches.

At St. Joseph's, this will be the usual back door.

At Mount Carmel, only the door between the Church and the Hall will be open. This allows access by step or ramp.

I'm sorry if this sounds draconian, however I need to protect as many people as possible.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE THE PARISH OFFICE

The office will reopen next
Wednesday 3 November
and we will be back to our usual
office opening hours on
Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from
Monday 8 November from 9.00am - 4.00pm

WE REMEMBER

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

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

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time.

IN OUR PARISH

CHURCH OPENINGS: WEEKDAYS

We will not return to weekday Masses for the coming week but will review the situation for the following week. This is because I have to consider the welfare of the priests involved, including myself.

REFLECTION

This weekend the 1st Reading and the Gospel are about loving God with our whole heart. The 1st reading is from the book of Deuteronomy (6:2-6) and the Gospel is from Mark (12:28-34) and it prompted in my memory an old story I used to tell when I was in lecturing roles. Trouble is, I can't remember where the story came from. It might have been one of the Stories of the Compassionate Buddha. Anyway, the story goes like this....

An old man went down to the river to pray. He sat in the shade of an old tree whose roots extended into the river. One day, he looked up from his prayer and he saw a scorpion struggling on a twig and caught in the roots of the old tree.

Getting up, he edged his way down to the river bank and waded out among the tentacles of the roots to pick up the scorpion. But every time he reached out to catch the scorpion, it bit him. But each time, as his hand began to swell and become sore, he tried to save the scorpion.

As this was happening, a young man happened to pass by and he saw the old man. He yelled out: "Old man, don't you know that the scorpion will bite you and you will die?" With a gentle glance at the young man, the old man replied: "Just because it is the nature of the scorpion to bite, should I deny my nature to save?"

In one sense, that little story is a story of God's love for us. I'll let the story tell its own tale.

Other than all that, have a great week, and I trust the weather remains as good as it is as I pen these notes.

Blessings and peace,



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 by phone and leave a message or email to organise this.

PARISH NEWS - THE CARMELITE CENTRE

November edition of the Carmelite JPIC Newsletter

The November edition of this newsletter addresses the many reasons why Catholics need to be vitally concerned and interested in COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow at the end of the month. The Action Plan for the Pope's Encyclical "Laudate Si" will also be launched on 14 November 2021. The JPIC Newsletter is now available for you to read in the Downloads tab on the parish website at www.sj-mc.org.au

Carmelite Conversation, Contemplation

– a Way of Being not Doing, with Wayne Stanhope OCarm.

10.30am – 12 midday, Wednesday 3 November, via zoom

"Reflectiveness is about changing paradigms as was outlined in the film Dead Poet's Society. Robin Williams gives his pupils a symbol for seeing differently: he asks them to stand on their desks to get a new view of old things. We see differently when we allow new awarenesses to... pierce our armour." Michael Carroll

Carmelites speak of themselves as 'contemplatives' in the heart of the world. Living contemplation / reflectiveness can change the way we see our relationships, our prayer and our outreach to others. In Carmelite terms; prayer, community and service in the midst of the people. Our conversation will allow us to explore how living contemplatively can change how we view ourselves, our God and our brothers and sisters.

This conversation will draw on reflections from Pope Francis and also the work of Carlos Mesters OCarm on the Carmelite vision.

Pope Francis' audience on May 5 2021 was reported in the America magazine with the title: In Jesus, there is no conflict between contemplation and action.

Pope Francis said: "To contemplate is not primarily a way of doing but a way of being. To be contemplative. Everything comes from this: from a heart that feels that it is looked on with love... being contemplative does not depend on the eyes but on the heart.... Prayer purifies the heart and , with it, also sharpens our gaze, allowing it to grasp reality from another point of view..... from a heart that feels that it is looked on with love. Then reality is contemplated with different eyes."

Wayne Stanhope OCarm entered the Carmelites in 1971, and ordained priest in 1977. He has been involved in the ministry of spirituality, formation of young Carmelites and pastoral leadership both within the Order and in parishes in Melbourne, Sydney and most recently in Brisbane. He is currently undertaking studies in pastoral supervision.



All are welcome to join. **To book, and to enquire about some pre-reading please contact the Carmelite Centre** T: 9690 5430 (leave message if unattended) or registration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org or via website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

NATSICC Virtual retreat

21-24 November



This National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) retreat will focus on the understanding of Faith and Spirituality from both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non- Indigenous perspectives. The event is suitable for those



working in a Catholic Context with First Nations Catholics in addition to First Nations people.

We have adopted a true 'Retreat' format (in difference to a conference format) that incorporates quiet time for reflection and a slower, more contemplative pace.

We hope to foster healing and mutual respect through sharing and understanding.

Session presenters:

- Dulcie Isaro (QLD)
- Toby Whaleboat (Torres Strait)
- Bishop Columba Macbeth – Green (Wilcannia - Forbes)
- Caroline Hughes (ACT)
- Archbishop Christopher Prowse (Canberra- Goulburn)
- Fr Steve Fletcher MGL
- Fr Dave Tremble MGL



For further details please contact the website:

<http://natsicc.org.au/2021-retreat.html>

ALL HALLOWS PRAYER

*All Hallows
All Saints
All Souls
All holy*

*Weekly we say the words,
'We look for the
resurrectiopn of the dead
and the life of the world to come.'**

*Those who have died are part of us.
We name them, we tell their stories.*

*The love they had for us and we for them
is not dead is not forgotten.*

*They may be alive in another world
but we cannot know that.*

*And when we die we do not know
what will happen to us.*

We do not know what life there is to come.

*All living
All looking
All dying
All mystery*

All the journey

*Give me what I can grasp
and your love to keep me holy,
I will walk with you, God*

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

It is amazing to note how leaving out just one half of one verse of the Gospel can affect the Christian life for centuries.

All of us know by rote the command of Jesus that we must love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and we must love our neighbour.

But the second half of verse 31 is not usually quoted because, sadly, it is not as imbedded in our memory. It reads: 'You shall love your neighbour AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF'

There are very clear historical reasons why the second part of Jesus' summary of the commandments was quietly forgotten. Given the chequered personal experience he had of his own body, St Augustine, in the fifth century, had very ambivalent feelings about the human body. He thought that, generally, it was to be feared as the instrument through which we would sin. He encouraged us to tame it through prayer, mortification and penance. Augustine's ideas about the body held sway until Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century and the Jesuit Theologians of the 15th century argued that while the body can lead us to sin, it is also a temple of the Holy Spirit and a vehicle of God's love and grace.

In the 16th century Cornelius Jansen denounced Aquinas and the Jesuits and argued that Augustine held the correct Christian view. No matter what the Church did to denounce Jansen at the time, his thinking took deep root in Europe, the USA and missionary countries throughout the world. Jansenism, the belief that our body and its desires are evil and that we need to harshly mortify ourselves, is, tragically, still active in Christian thought today.

Jansenism is irreconcilable with today's Gospel where Jesus tells us that the love of God, the love of neighbour and the love of self are the cornerstones of the Christian law. And the opposite must be true too. We CANNOT call ourselves Christian if we hate God, hate our neighbour or hate ourselves.

Some people argue that Western society has already gone too far in the direction of self-love. They maintain that the lengths some people go to achieve a sculptured body, the use of steroids, the growing frequency of eating disorders, the adoration of sportsmen and women, the cult of the gym and of the sex industry all point to a culture too much in love with itself. Some argue what we need is a good dose of self-control. They are only half-right.

The problem with the term 'love of self' is that we often hear in it an encouragement to 'adore self'. Nothing could be further from what Jesus is saying. We are called to love our body, not worship it. Jesus is not calling us to a narcissistic love, like we see in the sex industry and the gym cults, where the only thing we love is ourselves. If we have no sense of our own self worth, our own dignity and the personal love of God for each of us, it is impossible for us to give the same to others and to claim from others the dignity we deserve. We will either treat others as our inferiors on the one hand, or allow others to walk all over us, on the other.

Love of self is not about canonising a loss of self-control. Jesus shows us by the way he loved his Father, us and himself that true love always involves sacrifice. If we love our self in the right way, we have the self control to forgo those things that are most destructive in our life and we have the generosity to do for others the things that will enrich their lives. Jesus knew, that we can never love others if we hate ourselves.

Let's pray in this Eucharist, then, that we will develop our mind, heart, soul and strength to love the One who has created us in love and love those given into our care with the same love we lavish on ourselves. The Gospel of Jesus Christ demands nothing less!

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GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Psalm 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

Response: ***I love you Lord, my strength.***

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **Response**
Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. **Response**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-34



One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.'

Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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.**

The Celebrant prays the preface at the end of which all say:

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.**