



# 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.*

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**3 October 2021**

## A REFLECTION

Hi Everyone,

If my memory serves me right, I remember learning at school that “the doldrums” meant that a sailing ship was languishing in the same place because there were no winds around to give it impetus. Sailors know it as the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and it is situated around the globe at approximately five degrees north and south of the Equator.

Well, I think we might be experiencing the “doldrums” at present. We have had riots, an earthquake, cold weather and a few balmy days, yet somehow we don’t feel we are getting anywhere. We endlessly wait for vaccination numbers to reach a certain level, and then, we are promised some relatively minor concessions on our freedoms.

Despite the sadness and anger that the recent protests turned riots have generated, it wasn’t unexpected, given the collective mood that seems to engulf us and drive a few to rabid stupidity and law enforcement officers to act with an intensity that can seem to be over-compensatory.

Just lately, I’ve been trying to write an essay on Sacraments. My sacramental theology is probably years out of date, but an important lesson I’m (re)learning is that there is an endless supply of “sacraments” surrounding us. I’m not thinking just of the Eucharist or Baptisms and such. I’m thinking of those precious things in life which direct us to something more profound. They point us to a deeper Mystery!

Photographs can be sacraments because they remind us of another time, but behind those precious memories, they can also evoke a sense of the sacredness of those whom we love.

A garden is a sacred place. If it turns our mind to a sense of wonder, a sacramental garden is found when we delight in the beauty and artistry of a Creator God.

Another person is also a sacrament when they teach us the beauty of communication and remind us that goodness can be found in the most minor and unnoticed acts of kindness. Therein lies God.

Music is also a sacrament because it can recall times of joy and happiness or sadness and loss and because it points to the magnificent gift of creation. For example,

**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](mailto:parish@sj-mc.org.au)

Parish Website [www.sj-mc.org.au](http://www.sj-mc.org.au)

Carmelite Website  
[www.carmelites.org.au](http://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**

Michael Murray

### **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**

Given the change in circumstances due to Stage 4 restrictions, the Parish Office will **NOT** be opened at all until further notice.

This means that no-one will answer phones and emails as regularly however, in a genuine emergency, please ring me on

**0408 754 283**

If I can't answer at the time, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

## 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:*** all those affected by COVID\_ 19 throughout the world.

***Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time:*** Carmelites, Gabriel CLery, Joseph Cassar and Kevin McMahan.

## IN OUR PARISH

someone wrote a song or a piece of music that has inspired us to go deeper into ultimate mystery.

Some of you would know that I took piano lessons at the age of 58. My piano teacher, who is now a close friend, was very patient with me. She understood that a 58 year old's brain and hands don't always go together very well. Now, at the age of 70, I still try to play the piano where the emphasis is on the word "try". In fact, my piano playing is like my typing: "hunt and peck!" But it never ceases to enthral me how some minds were able to put together notes on a staff and create something beautiful to the ears. Whether it's an aria from La Traviata or La Boheme, to a folk song by Pete Seeger, to Elton John's "Crocodile Rock", to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" or Gustav Holst's, "The Planets": these can be sacraments because they suggest something far more profound and more mysterious.

And we all know that the ultimate Mystery is God! During this lockdown, I have been finding "sacraments" all over the place – hanging out the washing, sitting in my car in Bay Street drinking coffee, watching some dreadfully crappy show on "Binge", listening to the windows and doors rattle in the Priory (maybe that's the bones of my confreres!) It doesn't matter where we are, who we are with, what we are doing – if something points us to "mystery", then let's name that "mystery" as God and be grateful that we can see God.

Now I don't want an endless supply of people writing to me to say that "a sacrament is a sign that effects what it signifies." That definition is true, but it sounds awfully dull.

Peace, gentle languishing and delight in finding new "sacraments" each day.



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

# OUR PARISH NEWS

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## **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;

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

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## **City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival**

Welcome to the 2021 City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival 1 - 17 October. In conjunction with the Victorian Seniors Festival, the two week long celebration recognises the valuable contribution people aged 55+ have made and continue to make to our community. We are disappointed that we could not present live (in-person) events for the 2021 Festival, however we have programmed a range of free online events and activities for you to enjoy.

You can access the 2021 Festival program by visiting the City of Port Phillip website at [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au) and clicking on the Senior's Festival webpage.

And to get things started you are invited to

***Kick off Seniors Festival 2021 by joining our Seniors Festival Launch Event - Virtual Disco and Karaoke Night***

**Theme:** Anything Goes!  
**When:** Friday 1 October from 6.30 pm to 9 pm  
**Where:** Live online/FREE

Bookings Essential: Register to receive the link to join via Zoom  
Phone (03) 9209 6260 or 0403 904 092

(For registrations, general enquiries and to request support to participate)  
Email [cathy.horsley@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:cathy.horsley@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Send in your music requests prior to the event when you register

## **Faiths 4 Climate Justice.....**

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is calling on faith communities to be a moral voice calling on our Government to show courage and leadership. The UN recently ranked all 193 countries in terms of their action on the climate and **Australia came in 193rd** - dead last. ARRCC's aim is to mobilise faith communities to say that we need to do a lot better than this.

The coming Day of Action will be called Faiths 4 Climate Justice and will in fact be spread over two days - a Sunday and a Monday. The two days will be slightly different.

### **Sunday actions - at your place of worship on 17th October**

ARRCC is asking places of worship to display a banner calling for climate action by the Federal Government.

We are planning to display relevant messages at both churches in our Parish during the next couple of weeks.

### **Monday actions - at your federal MP's office on October 18th**

Monday actions will take place outside federal MP's offices.

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## **Join us for Plenary Tracker a daily Zoom with exclusive news, insights, and panel discussions hosted by respected former ABC presenter Genevieve Jacobs AM.**

Every night from Sunday October 3 to October 10 at 7.30 AEDT, Genevieve will speak with Plenary members and insiders summarising, highlighting, and discussing each day's events.

Registering for Plenary Tracker is FREE. Simply visit [www.garrattpublishing.com.au](http://www.garrattpublishing.com.au) and Community Events on their Homepage to register your details and to receive the one zoom link that allows you to join us each night.

By registering you will also receive daily emails with a video recording of the previous night's session, and a link to Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO's daily blog. John is a Plenary Council member.

Plenary Tracker is brought to you by the Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform in partnership with Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, and with the support of Garratt Publishing.



## **PRAYER OF PETITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*A prayer used before every session of the Second Vatican Council.  
This is to be prayed at the beginning of a Plenary Council.*

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,  
conscious of our sinfulness,  
but aware that we gather in your name.  
Come to us, remain with us,  
and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength  
to know your will,  
to make it our own  
and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom,  
support us by your power,  
for you are God,  
sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for All  
enable us to uphold the rights of others;  
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance  
or corrupted by fear or favour.  
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love  
and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name  
may we temper justice with love,  
so that all our decisions  
may be pleasing to you,  
and earn the reward  
promised to good and faithful servants,  
Amen.



## **Universal Prayer**

Presider The Spirit brings new life to the church. Let us be open to the prompting of the Spirit as we pray for our needs and those of the church.

For the Catholic Church in Australia as we begin the First Assembly of the Plenary Council; that the Holy Spirit may inflame the hearts and minds of all so that we may experience a new Pentecost in this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Plenary Council members who are assembling around Australia for the First Assembly: that their hearts and minds are opened to receive the Holy Spirit in all their conversations and prayer. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our Nation: that this journey of discernment and listening of the Plenary Council becomes a source of wisdom and courage as we move into the future. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who are currently living under lockdown conditions due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and those involved in the front line of care: that they may be supported in this difficult time by our loving and prayerful support. Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

# THE CARMELITE CENTRE

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## **Dorothy Day with Clare McArdle**

**10.30am – 12 midday - Wednesday 6 October**

Clare McArdle will explore with us the life and teachings of Dorothy Day  
– “a saint for our age”.

Dorothy Day (November 8, 1897 – November 29, 1980) was an American journalist turned social activist, who, along with Peter Maurin, founded the Catholic Worker Movement. She became known for her social justice campaigns in defense of the poor, forsaken, hungry and homeless. All are welcome to join. Please contact the Carmelite Centre so you can be sent the zoom link and any pre-reading material, and pay through bank transfer. Thank you.

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## **‘Interior Castle Explored’ by Ruth Burrows ocd, with Bernadette Micallef, Wednesday 20 October, 10.30 to 12.00 noon via zoom**

With the feast day of Teresa of Avila in October, this month’s Spiritual Reading Group will be on Ruth Burrows’ book on Teresa’s Interior Castle. This session will be in two parts each focusing on essential grounding for understanding Teresa: our call to ‘become human’ and grow toward union with God, and Ruth Burrows’ insights into the difference between the essence of mystical encounter and the experienced effects. This clarification helps to make sense of Teresa’s mystical experiences.

You are invited to read the chapter Fourth Mansion Part I which deals with some of the issues, concepts and common confusions about Teresa’s writing. Ruth Burrows writes, in relations to the difference between essence and effect, “My conviction is that anything that can be described, given an account of, simply cannot be the mystical encounter in itself.” It is the effects, not the essence, that can be described. “If we have faith, surely we know that God gives himself without measure and we can’t attempt to gauge the depth of the giving by our totally inadequate plumb lines of sense (what we feel).” page 41

Please book the Carmelite Centre (details below) Donation \$5.

*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](http://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org)**

### **Carmelite Centre Program Bookings**

T: 9690 5430 (leave message if unattended) or [reregistration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org](mailto:reregistration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org)  
via website: [www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org](http://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org)



# OCTOBER: ROSARY MONTH

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For those of us old enough to remember, the month of October was set aside as a month to encourage the recitation of the Rosary. I would commend the practice to you. The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary were added under St John Paul II. This is just a reminder of the various mysteries:

## **JOYFUL MYSTERIES**

(Mondays, Saturdays, Sundays of Advent and Sundays from Epiphany until Lent)

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of the Lord
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

## **LUMINOUS MYSTERIES**

(Thursdays throughout the year)

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

## **SORROWFUL MYSTERIES**

(Tuesdays, Fridays, daily from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday)

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

## **GLORIOUS MYSTERIES**

(Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the year)

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension of the Lord
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

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During World War II, Mary was one of hundreds of Australian women who fell in love with an American soldier. She married her Episcopalian Army Major at the side altar in a Catholic Church in 1945. He was dashing and handsome and by the time it came for him to return to Philadelphia in 1946, they were expecting their first child.

Upon arrival at her new home Mary found that her brave soldier was not as fearless as she thought. He was completely dominated by his aristocratic, wealthy mother who made it clear from the beginning that she opposed the marriage. Mary's life in the family home was a nightmare. The tensions boiled over when Brendan was born. Regardless of the promises his father had made in Australia to have their children baptised Catholics, the soldier waged no war against his mother who declared that if any grandchild of hers was baptised a 'papist' she would disinherit the three of them. The Major buckled under the maternal pressure and demanded that Brendan be baptised an Episcopalian. Mary was devastated. She gathered her few possessions together, had her son baptised a Catholic and fled home.

In 1950, by now a divorcee, she met Maurice, a wonderful man who wanted to marry her and be a father to Brendan. When they went to see the local parish priest, he told them they could not be married in the Church and if they contracted a civil marriage they ran the risk of going to hell for eternity. They were tough days. Catholicism was one of the reasons Mary left the USA. In turn, the very Church she defended shut her out.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly about marriage and divorce. In Jesus' day only a few women had rights before the law. These were wealthy women from the priestly families. They could divorce their husbands. The vast majority of women, however, were seen as possessions of their father, husband or son. A husband could draw up a divorce writ for any reason he wished and so force his wife out of their home into destitution or humiliate her by sending her back to her own family. No wonder Jesus lays down the law so strongly about fidelity and commitment. His new interpretation of the Law of Moses defended women's rights to dignity and security.

Every Catholic parish today has parishioners who are divorced and remarried; no doubt some are here at this Mass. In the face of the negative messages you hear, I want you to know how much we admire your often heroic faith, how much God loves you and how grateful we are that you hang in here with us. The problem for the Church is that, on the one hand, we want to keep affirming the permanence

of married love, and yet, on the other hand, we have an increasing number of Catholics who are divorcing. We are caught between the fine ideal Jesus teaches and the frail human condition we all carry in different ways. We have not got the balance right yet.

The Church's remedy to marriage breakdown is an annulment. An annulment is not a Catholic divorce. A civil divorce says the parties that were married are not now. An annulment says that there were factors, often unknown to the couple on the day, which meant that there was never a full and true Christian marriage in the first place. The sacrament is therefore null and void.

Some Catholics, and certainly people who are not Catholic, cannot face up to the long, complex and legal process involved in an annulment. It can be a traumatic experience. Others argue that the Church might step away from the more recent legal approach to dealing with marriage and, like the Orthodox Churches, use the Sacrament of Penance to nullify the Sacrament of Marriage. Whatever of the process, Christian teaching on this issue must always be metered with compassion.

From 1951 until 1993 Mary and her second husband did not receive the Sacraments. At my encouragement, she instigated annulment proceedings in 1990. In 1993 they received communion for the first time in 42 years. God had never moved away from them, embracing them in his arms, laying his hands on them every day and blessing them.

At that Nuptial Mass in 1994, Maurice's best man was Brendan, born in Philadelphia in 1946. Maurice had legally adopted Brendan the day after he married Mary. And as we all received communion, with tears streaming down our faces, we understood that it is to human, frail and open hearts that the Kingdom of God belongs.

© **Richard Leonard SJ**

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## Spring forward

Don't forget to set  
clocks ahead  
one hour  
at 2 a.m.  
Sunday.



# SEASON OF CREATION 2021

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## *Sunday 5 Season of Creation 2021*

### **Introductory Comments....**

As we enter the final days of this year's Season of Creation, our readings invite us to reflect on creation and the sacredness of the bonds that unite us all.

The reading from the second creation myth in Genesis focuses upon God's sensitive attention to Adam's loneliness and the special gift of human attraction and bonding that unites human persons for companionship, new life, and attentive care for Earth. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that what God has thus joined together, no human being must separate. This warning takes on new, more profound and challenging meaning as we become aware through contemporary science that every creature is actually "joined together" with every other in complex and evolving webs of interdependence. God has, we are coming to realize, joined together everything with which we share Earth and the Universe beyond in one great web of interdependent life.

As we begin, let's enter into the quiet of our spirits ... asking to be more conscious of the webs of interconnected life within which we live ... upon which we depend ... which invite our care ... asking for gratitude and awe ... asking to be part of birthing the New Creation in our times...

### **The Family of Earth.....**

In the context of the Season of Creation, contemporary scientific knowledge, and Pope Francis' writings, it is important to give greater attention to those other living creatures that this passage from Genesis refers to as "tame and wild animals and birds." While none of them proves to be "the suitable partner," they are much more integral to human life and flourishing than is portrayed in Genesis.

As the ecumenical steering committee of the Season of Creation noted in the passage quoted in the Introduction to these materials, to fully grasp human reality and the fuller life to which we are being invited, we need to look to ... the integral web of relationships that sustain the wellbeing of the Earth. The word ecology (oikologia) describes the relationships between animals, plants, nonsentient organisms, and minerals that each play a vital role in maintaining the balance of this beloved community. Each creature is important and contributes to the health

and resilience of the biodiverse ecosystem in which it lives. Humans belong in the right relationship within this Earth community. We are made from the same stuff of the Earth and are cared for by our co-creatures.

### Closing Note.....

As we come to the end of this Season of Creation, it should be clear that we human members of the full Earth community are standing at a critical, urgent, dangerous crisis point. Advancing and ever more destructive climate change is revealing Earth to be sliding quickly into devastating ecological collapse. Effective response to this situation cannot be a five-week focus on the issues annually that then turns to other issues and devotions. Pope Francis, the Vatican, and their collaborators are right in treating it as an “all hands on deck” effort over seven to ten years committed to achieving full sustainability and a planet restored to health as a nurturing home for all its inhabitants.

A new vision of interconnected and interdependent “family relations” is emerging before our contemplative presence. It is inviting us to a new level of consciousness. And it demands a new level of global solidarity for Care of the Earth and all for whom it is home if humans are to have a place in its future evolution.

May the Renewing Spirit of God bring to fulfillment the integral ecological conversion beginning among us.

May God’s Spirit of Wisdom provide us all the wisdom and courage we need to restore the household (oikos) of God on Earth, making it once again a true Home for All.

May the prophetic Spirit of God bring about true global solidarity in the human community so that together in that Spirit we may give birth to a great symphony of beauty in the New Creation.

Amen.

## FIRST READING

### *Genesis 2:18-24*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 127:

MAY THE LORD BLESS US

### *Psalm 127. R. v.5*

**Response:     *May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.***

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper

**Response**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

***Response***

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children.  
On Israel, peace

***Response***

## SECOND READING

### *Hebrews 2:9-11*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

*Mark 10:2-16*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made



them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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



