



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.*

2nd Sunday of Advent

5 December 2021

Hi Everyone,

Well, Summer seems to be here with a bit of a vengeance, so I hope you are managing to keep cool.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Because of the continuous lockdowns, many of our young members have been unable to receive the Sacraments for the first time. Thankfully, Fr Gary from South Melbourne has agreed to have our Galilee students join in at SSPP.

Those students who do not attend Galilee will be making their First Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation on Saturday 11 December (1st Reconciliation and First Eucharist) at the 6:00 pm Mass. The following day, Sunday 12 December, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at the 10:30 am Mass.

Bishop Anthony Ireland, our regional bishop, has given permission for me to celebrate Confirmation. It is always a joy to do this, and I would ask for your prayers for these young men and women.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

6:00 pm Family Mass at OLMC

8:00 pm Christmas Mass at St J's

As we did last year, there will be **NO** midnight Mass on Christmas morning.

Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day)

9:00 am Mass at St J's

10:30 am Mass at OLMC

THERE WILL BE NO VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY EVENING (25 December) AT 6:00 pm AT OLMC

Sunday 26 December (Feast of the Holy Family)

9:00 am Mass at St J's

10:30 am Mass at OLMC

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

Monday 6 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Tuesday 7 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Wednesday 8 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

Thursday 9 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

Friday 10 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's,

Saturday 11 December

9.00am Mass, Mt Carmel

6.00pm Vigil - First Eucharist Mass, Mt Carmel

Sunday 12 December

9.00am Mass, St Joseph's

10.30am Mass with Sacrament of Confirmation,
Mt Carmel

11.00am Indonesian Catholic Community Mass, SJ

WE REMEMBER

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

Tommy Bednar, Paul Caghi - Cao, Nawal Cox, Jeffrey Dalton Kelly Edwards, Judy Fairhall, Gigi Falckh, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Gerard Friary, Ivy Hermence, Silvio Ierardo, Chris Kowalski, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakov, 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: Johanna Corder, and all those affected by COVID_ 19 throughout the world.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: and Carmelite, Anthony Moffat

IN OUR PARISH

REFLECTION

This weekend's readings highlight a real glimmer of hope and encouragement. They also focus our attention on that "wild" man, John the Baptist, who has a message of both hope and gloom. We don't know very much about John at all, except that he lived a very frugal existence and preached a baptism for repentance in the period prior to Jesus' ministry.

Scholarship suggests that Jesus and some of his disciples may have been early followers of John, and that Jesus' ministry did not begin until after John's execution by Herod Antipas.

Perhaps one of the most interesting things is that Jesus himself underwent this baptism for repentance in the river Jordan. Now you might be asking yourself, why would Jesus need to repent if he was all good? It's a good question and one that has puzzled and possibly embarrassed Christians throughout the centuries. I find the best answer in the thought that Jesus' identification with humankind was total.

Although sinless himself, his baptism was an act of immersion into the human world of sinfulness and the need for forgiveness. He didn't balk from the situation of a God who wanted all humanity to know that God identified with their cause. It is really saying that Jesus became as fully human as possible in order to show solidarity with us. Hence, the name Emmanuel ("God is with us") and isn't that the gift of Christmas?

Have a great week and stay safe and well.

Blessings,



ARCHDIOCESE

11/12 December
Third Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mount Carmel (Vigil)

Commentator: Des Collins

Readers: Mary Chow

Eucharistic Ministers: Joe Chow

Communion to the Sick: N/A

9.00am St Joseph's

Commentator: Ron Cassano

Reader: William Kininmonth

Eucharistic Ministers: Elaine Kininmonth

Counters: Jim Power & Brian Rochford

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

10.30am Mount Carmel

Commentator: John Molnar

Readers: Teresa Paradowski

Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Goral

Childrens' Liturgy: N/A

Hospitality: N/A

THANK YOU

for your generosity last Sunday

St Joseph's

Carmelite and

Parish Offering \$553.00

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

Carmelite and

Parish Offering \$1,411

PARISH NEWS

Arrangements for the reception of Sacraments for our Parish children in 2021

The children who have prepared at home to receive the Sacraments in our Parish Program will receive these Sacraments on the following dates:

First Reconciliation: Saturday 11 December at 5.00pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (before the 6.00pm Mass)

First Eucharist: Saturday 11 December at the 6.00pm Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday 12 December at the 10.30am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Father Hugh will administer this Sacrament.

Please remember the children and their families in your prayers at this special time in **their Faith formation journeys.**

Plenary Council Assembly Follow-up 2021-22.

Following the first Assembly of the Plenary Council the following steps will take place regarding the proposals and propositions that have emerged.

Over the December/January period, new thematic documents, which collate and capture the proposals and propositions from the first assembly will be drafted and returned to the Members for further individual or small group discernment.

After Easter 2022, the drafted, discerned, re-drafted, yet still-not-complete versions of the documents will be made available for the whole People of God to read, reflect on and pray with. Of course, Members will continue to do this also.

This will bring us into Pentecost season, and to the final stages of preparation towards the second assembly -- during which the four-and-a-half-year process of the Church in **Australia discerning together will be brought to a completion point. Then, of course, comes implementation – the third stage of the Plenary Council. You can read further details in the latest edition of the Plenary Post now on the Parish Website at www.sj-mc.org.au/downloads.**

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

Carmelite Centre Program Bookings

T: 9690 5430 (leave message if unattended) or reregistration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org
via website: www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

ADVENT PRAYER AT HOME

Jesus,

*Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our
preparations for Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do seek quiet
spaces to hear your voice each day.*

*We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways long
for the complete joy of your kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.*

*We are your people,
walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.*

To you we say,

“Come Lord Jesus!”

Amen.

Henri J M Nouwen.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his followers to be patient, as the wait for salvation will soon be over. The Israelites longed to see the day when the Messiah would come. Each generation hoped and prayed that they would be the one to witness the appearance of God's anointed. The Jewish people still hope and pray for this event in every generation.

But Jesus did not come as many expected. Some thought he would arrive in a dramatic event and the end of the world would occur. Others expected a regal entrance or a political overthrow of the Romans. Luke's Gospel repeatedly points out that the very people who longed for the day to see the Messiah missed out because they were looking for the wrong signs.

John the Baptist is the first to see Jesus for who he really is for the world. He recognises that Jesus' sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low, make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth.

Advent is not a season where we have to pretend that we do not know Jesus is coming and then put on mock surprise at Christmas. Advent is the season which celebrates a 'patient yes'. Every year all of us in the Church stand in a queue and remind ourselves of how blessed we are to have seen our salvation in Jesus. We remember the faith of those who longed to see what we see and to know what we know. And we cultivate our patience for life's valleys, mountains and crooked paths where sometimes we can feel Jesus' absence more than his presence, where only when we look back we can see he was with us all the way.

So, as we all wait together in line this Advent let's say yes to all that salvation holds for us: yes to God's personal love; yes to Jesus' kingdom of justice and peace; yes to every opportunity to serve the Gospel and yes to knowing that our God is a companion to us at every step of our journey, even in the most unexpected ways.

Scottish poet John Bell expresses it this way:

'Light looked down and saw the darkness.
"I will go there", said light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
"I will go there", said peace.
Love looked down and saw hatred.
"I will go there", said love.

So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us!

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LITURGICAL ART

Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Advent is a time of waiting, but it is not an uneventful time. 'Prepare the way of the Lord' says John the Baptist: the hills will be levelled, the valleys filled in and the roads straightened and smoothed. John speaks as if this smoothing process could happen in an instant;

but time is relative when we are talking about the actions of the creator God. While the world has been waiting for its fulfilment in the end times, the processes of smoothing have been happening for millennia in places like the Australian desert. The landscape pictured here – near Coober Pedy – is worn down by millennia of weathering. It is difficult for humans to imagine the vast time spans that God uses to shape this environment, but the season of Advent acknowledges all time – past present and future – as the time of Redemption.



Photo by Tim Freeman

OUR LITURGY

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

- Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ
you are already in our midst,
yet we long for you to come more fully
and more deeply into our hearts.
- Celebrant: Give us patience and hope
All: *as we prepare for your coming.*
- Celebrant: In the desert of our fear and anxiety
All: *your light is calm and strong.*
- Celebrant: In the wilderness of violence and despair
All: *your light is peace and hope.*
- Celebrant: In the desert of narrow, darkened alleys
All: *your light lets us see to build anew.*
- Celebrant: In the wilderness of our hearts
All: *you light up our way as we prepare for you.*
- Celebrant: May this candle remind us of your presence
which enlightens our minds
and warms our hearts and shows us the way
as we gather in the circle of its light.

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 92: THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS
FOR US

Psalm 125. R. v.3

Response: ***The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.***

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **Response**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **Response**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap **Response**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **Response**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went



through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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.*

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.**