



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.*

Second Week of Advent

6 December 2020

My dear Friends and Parishioners,

Well, at last we are back on the air, electronically speaking. Again, apologies for our lack of responses to emails but we were not able to access them until Thursday. Give us a chance to catch up with the backlog.

WORKING BEE AT ST JOSEPH'S

We had a marvellous turnout for our St J's working bee on Thursday and our enthusiastic band of helpers did magnificent things both in the garden and in the church. So, to everyone who helped a very big thank you. This great response as prompted

WORKING BEE AT OLMC

A working bee will be held at Mount Carmel on Thursday, 10 December starting at 1030am and we hope to see quite a few Mount Carmel parishioners to help with either the gardens or the inside of the Church. Bring your tools and we'll supply the rest.

SUNDAY MASSES

These will continue as per the new timetable at least for this weekend. We may have some changes in the near future depending on government regulations. Remember:

Saturday evening at OLMC at 6:00pm

Sunday morning at SJs at 9:00am

Sunday morning at St J's at 10:00am

Sunday morning at OLMC at 10:30am.

As we did last week these Masses will be simple and short.

Remember masks and the need to check-in with name and number.

RECONCILIATION AND ANOINTING SERVICES

Because of the very strange events of this year we will combine Reconciliation

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

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

THIS WEEK

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE THE PARISH OFFICE

Even though there has been some easing of restrictions, the Parish Office will NOT be opened to the public until further notice.

The directive from the Archdiocese of Melbourne is that all staff must work from home if possible.

We anticipate that there will be new guidelines from the Archdiocese from 6 December.

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

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 and leave a message.

Those who are sick or ill and in need of prayer: Baby Luca, Thecla Broderick, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Frances Farrugia, Lyn Faul, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Carl McCarthy, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Felicity Morgan, Marie O'Connor, Sylvia Poliakova, Rafal Rafalski, Andrew Ratel, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Jane Spiteri, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

Those whose have died recently: Judy Sharpe, and all those affected by COVID_19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Bill Pearson, Nell Myers, Frank Matthews, Carmelite, Anthony Moffatt.

IN OUR PARISH

and Anointings prior to Christmas.

On Monday 14 December at 6:00pm, we will hold a Service of Reconciliation and Anointing at OLMC.

On Wednesday 16 December at 9:00am, we will hold a Mass of Reconciliation and Anointing.

All are most welcome though again these will be fairly simple affairs.

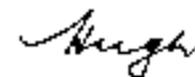
GRADE 6 GRADUATION AND SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Galilee Grade 6 Graduation will be held at OLMC this Monday at 9:15am and the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at OLMC on Thursday at 9:15am. On that Thursday there will be NO 900am Mass at Mount Carmel. Unfortunately, these celebrations will not be open to the community but will be solely for Galilee students, staff and parents.

A NEW FOODCUPBOARD

Thanks to the initiative of our staff members, we are trialling a new concept in Port Melbourne. Outside the office at 274 Rouse Street, there is a new food cupboard. It is on the street purposefully so that anyone passing by can either put stuff in or take stuff out. You will find such cupboards in both St Kilda and Elwood. It is a new out-reach for those who have very little and those who have a bit more. This means that any non-perishable food that comes to the Church, especially at the Offertory time, will be used to stock the cupboard. So, just a reminder that as we get back to some-thing like normal, we will still take up foodstuffs at the Offertory at our Masses. The only thing to remember is non-perishables and especially small items.

Have a great week everyone



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 to organise this.

Reflection by Artist, Jenny Close

Mark's Gospel begins with a narrative about baptism with water and the Holy Spirit. The earthly water washes away the detritus of sin and the Holy Spirit regenerates: the water is ours to use, but the Holy Spirit is pure gift. The focus on repentance and grace is part of our Advent task – to prepare ourselves by reflecting on our lives and seeking forgiveness while we watch and wait.



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it,' she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Psalm 84:9-14. R. v.8

Response: ***Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.***

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:



Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

**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.**