



# 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.*

**23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**6 September 2020**

## **FATHER'S DAY**

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

### **HAPPY FATHERS' DAY**

A very happy Fathers' Day to all our Dads, Granddads, Great Granddads, Uncles and Carers.

### **THOUGHT FOR TODAY**



### **GERALDINE, CSB**

This Saturday is the 1st anniversary of Sr Geraldine's death and we miss her. I can only imagine what Ger would be saying about this lockdown! It would be feisty, caring, disobedient and compliant because that was a part of her wonderful gift – to hold different views at the same time but always with the welfare of others in mind. So, Geraldine, we still miss you and pray for us and pray for our world.

### **PARISH MID WEEK AND WEEKEND EMAILS**

Our two weekly emails are now uploaded onto the parish website in the download section. We are also uploading the Weekly JPICC newsletter each week for the

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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](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

### Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School

Bank Street  
South Melbourne Vic 3205

Telephone 03 9699 2928  
Principal Simon Millar

## PARISH OFFICE

### 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 the end of the **"state of disaster"**.

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](mailto: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, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Frances Farrugia, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Charles Portelli, Jim Power, Rafal Rafalski, Andrew Ratel, Michael Ristevski, Lucie Carmen Rodriguez, Lorraine Rohan, Keith Ryder, Helen Stanley, Jim Sullivan, Maureen Toohey, Troy Vincent, Julie Wain, Sr Barbara Walsh RSG, Jonathon Wil, Tami Yap.

**Those whose have died recently:** All those who and all those affected by COVID\_19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time:** Sr Geraldine Stapleton csb, and Carmelites, Michael Mansfield, Peter McAlpine, William Nugent and James Meehan.

## IN OUR PARISH

Season of Creation. Please go to our website: [www.sj-mc.org.au](http://www.sj-mc.org.au), and go the downloads tab at the top right of the screen.

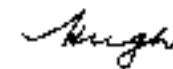
### MINI REFLECTION

As we celebrate the Season of Creation (Sept. 1-Oct. 4) we are reminded that we are all interconnectedness. This year, unlike ever before, whilst we confront the interrelated challenges of the environmental crisis, institutionalised racism, threats against other countries and the COVID-19 pandemic this sense of interconnectedness is ever important. The crises of Earth and relationships prove that we are intimately connected. It's time to open our eyes and ears so that we can assume our responsibility and speak in the name of God on behalf of creation and the people of the Earth. Ezekiel reminds us of our responsibility, and Jesus has promised to be with us in the process. The moment has come to remember that we are Christians, people baptized to be prophets not blind, deaf and silent sculpted monkeys. (Claude Mostowik, MSC)

### REFLECTIVE ARTICLE

Today's piece is by John Tidey and is a great story and a possible challenge.

Blessings in the Lord and stay safe and well.



### A WORD AT THE RIGHT TIME

It was 1957 and I was about to start my last year at school in Brisbane. A brutal letter which arrived at home from a former teacher actually changed the course of my life. The author, Brother D.V. Wallis (aka "George") had been one of my teachers

## 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.**

the previous year. In essence his letter said I was doing far too little work as matriculation (we called it Senior up there) approached. The bit that really hurt was his considered opinion that I would definitely fail to get a place at the Royal Australian Naval College, my ambition since childhood; then –really putting the boot in – he said the navy would probably not even be interested in recruiting me as a stoker. Well, thank you George. I lifted my game, did quite well in the final exams and, as forecast, missed out on the navy. Thank God. Then - in another piece of good fortune – I ended up in journalism.

The Christian Brothers – men like D.V. Wallis – made an extraordinary contribution to the development of Australia, principally through the education of young men. They were founded in Ireland in 1802 and by the end of the 20th century countless tens of thousands of young Australians had been educated at a Christian Brothers College (CBC). “Old Boys” range from politicians and judges to public servants, army generals, rugby internationals and publicans, bishops, priests, teachers and journalists. My father Leo was a first day pupil when St Laurence’s opened in South Brisbane in 1915. I spent nine years there myself, an experience and an opportunity for which I have always been grateful.

Back then there were few lay teachers in CBC schools. What astonishes me on reflection is the work load the brothers shouldered: teaching, religious instruction, training us for several sports; plus their own studies, community life and physical chores around the school and the monastery where George and the other brothers lived. All the blokes (and they were blokes) who taught me are dead now but I often think of some of them, more than 60 years after I left their care. George was a tough nut and I stayed in touch with him until he died at 88. Frank Rogan left me with a love of history. Pat Morrissey was a friend of our family. “Bluey” Morahan was a champion long distance runner. The New Zealander, Br Wilkes, was the first “Mr Chips” figure I ever met. Years later when I was in NZ I phoned him at St Peter’s CBC in Auckland. He remembered me and his first question was: ‘Are you still blessing yourself, son?’ [The Christian Brothers of my acquaintance invariably called us “lad” or “son.”]

There might still be a few Christian Brothers teaching in Australia. But the great work of the brothers continues through the schools run by Edmund Rice Education, named after the founder of the order. To my knowledge there is no comprehensive and accessible history of the Christian Brothers’ unequalled work in Australia. It is time there was.

John Tidey.

## *A Blessing Prayer for Father’s Day* BY GREG SUNTER

God of Kindness and Compassion,  
we are your children and you are Father to us all.  
We give honour and thanks to those who reflect your fatherly example:  
those who are dads and grandads;  
step-dads, foster dads, godfathers and fathers-in-law;  
those who are coaches, leaders and mentors;  
and those who are elders and wisdom-men of our communities.

We look to these men for strength of body and strength of character.  
We look to them to pass on skills and pass on stories.  
We look to them to protect and provide.  
We look to them for care and compassion.  
We look to them to be co-creators and stewards of the world.

For all those who embrace their role as father, we give thanks.  
For those who struggle with being fathers, give them strength.  
For those who are distanced from their children, give them comfort.  
For those who have passed from this world, give them peace.

Bless these men that we call father.  
Bless them in their strength and in their weakness.  
Bless them in their joy and in their sorrow.  
Bless them in their work and in their play.  
And bless them, Father, for being fathers.

We make this prayer through the one who taught us to call you Our Father:  
Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

### *Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close*

This week's gospel is about the difficulties and possibilities of a faith community. These involve our willingness to forgive and the promise of God's presence among us: 'where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.' The united prayer of such a community is powerful.



## REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

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When couples who are going to be married in the Church come to see me for the first time I get them to fill out a brief questionnaire. The last two questions on the form ask:

'What do you like best about your partner?'

'What do you like best about yourself?'

The first question usually presents no problems, although it can hold a few surprises and sometimes a playful punch if the right answer is not forthcoming! The second question seems to present all sorts of difficulties, especially for

prospective grooms. Some of us find it hard to name the God-given qualities we value most in our character. Some couples try to pass it off, 'That's for others to say' or, 'I don't want to blow my own trumpet.' Others try to dismiss the question as being new age or trendy.

But the question does, in fact, cut to the heart of both today's second reading and Gospel. 'You must love your neighbour as you love yourself.' We cannot say in the same breath, 'I hate myself, but I am a good Christian.' For St Paul, love of self was not indulgent, but the cornerstone of our mission to love as Jesus loves us. Paul knew the difference between self-love and self-adoration. Our love of God is expressed in the healthy and appropriate esteem we have for ourselves. Put another way, we cannot love anyone else if we don't love ourselves. If we have poor self-esteem then often we need others to fill up this gap in our self-love. Most relationships cannot sustain such a demand.

The Church has to take some responsibility for this state of affairs. We used to be taught that mortification and self-denial were good Christian virtues, and indeed they can be. When properly understood they are never opportunities for self-hatred. The sanest spiritual writers in our tradition saw these virtues as paths of closeness with God and service of our neighbour.

One such writer was St Ignatius Loyola who in the Spiritual Exercises saw that it was precisely as sinners that God loves us. He saw that one of the greatest gifts the Lord can give us is when we see our sinfulness for what it is, but are not overwhelmed by it, and that we experience the power of God's love for us who calls us to walk as children of the light.

Jesus in today's Gospel attends to this destructive side of our human nature. Jesus teaches us that those who do not love their neighbour as they should are to be treated with dignity and respect and offered every opportunity to seek forgiveness until it is clear they can no longer be a part of the Christian family.

The challenge and hallmark of the Christian life is the way in which we live out God's love and forgiveness. And, although the Christian community should be the last group to exclude anyone, even we have to have our boundaries. Sometimes this involves holding others to account for what they say and do, especially if they claim to be a follower of Christ. The love and forgiveness of God does not mean that 'anything goes'. It is a love that calls for constant conversion. We can witness to it only to the degree that we have experienced it, from God, from others, and in the way we love and forgive ourselves.

And we know when these qualities are taking deep root in us because answering a question like, 'What do you really like about yourself?' is a piece of cake!

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## READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

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### FIRST READING

#### *Ezekial 33:7-9*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 94: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE

#### *Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8*

**Response:** *O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **Response**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

**Response**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **Response**

### SECOND READING

#### *Romans 13:8-10*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.



*Matthew 18:15-20*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'



**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.**