



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.*

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9 August 2020

CARMELITE REFLECTION: 19TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

“Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27)

We have heard about tight-rope, or high-wire walkers – like the one who walked over Niagara Falls; we have people skating on thin-ice, and we even have those who walk 20 metres or more over a stretch of white-hot coals but the apostle Peter is the only one who walked on water but not for long!

The essential strategy for the high-wire artist (and maybe for the fire-walker) is NOT TO LOOK DOWN. When Peter set out from the boat, his eyes were fixed on Jesus but then – he looked down! ... and saw the black depths beneath his toes and remembered that this devouring darkness was the habitat of demons and evil spirits (according to popular Jewish belief of that time). So, he had his panic attack And began to disappear But – his cry for help fetched him the life-belt he needed.

“Man of little faith,” said Jesus, but Peter was also “all heart” and, as someone said, “a man of endearing human weaknesses.”

Like Peter, each one of us is on a journey of Faith too, and our horizon must be Jesus (“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life ...”)

Maybe that is the reminder we get from the Gospel today.

The Church is often referred to as the barque (or boat) of Peter. We should rejoice that we have such a colourful captain ... and that the Lord is our Guiding Star.

We might also remember the Christmas story of the Three Wise Men ... they were on a journey of Faith too, and guided by a star, from ancient cultures, through the clutches of Herod, to the stable at Bethlehem.

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

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

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, Kevin, Brodie, Paul Caghi - Cao, Kelly Edwards, Rose Fennell, Gary Finn, Maurice Fitzpatrick, Michael McGowan, Marino Mihocic, Sylvia Poliakova, Charles Portelli, Rafal Rafalski, 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: Frances Donegan, and all those affected by COVID_ 19.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur about this time: Maria Victoria Fava and Thelma Betty Griffiths.

IN OUR PARISH

The star for us is Jesus; the road map is the Gospel, and our destiny is – out of this world!

Jesus is also the "Good Shepherd". Unlike our drovers, the shepherd always walked ahead of his little flock to lead them where they needed to go and to spot the dangers ahead. The sheep would not survive an hour without him ... **"He guides me along the right path no evil shall I fear You are there"**



Small Gestures

Thank you, God,
for small gestures:
for an acorn squash left on the doorstep,
for an unexpected card in the mail,
for an encouraging email,
for cats that sneak in with a smug look,
for music that touches the soul,
for cups of tea,
for ladybirds on the widowsill,
for wind chimes.

Thank you, God,
that, when life gets overwhelming,
you send kindness through friend,
stranger and nature;
that when life feels like it's swirling out of control,
you have us held in the palm of your hand.

*Katrina Crosby
Acorns and Archangels
Compilation © 2009 Ruth Burgess
Wild Goose Publications*

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.

LITURGICAL ART

Reflection by Artist- Jenny Close

The story from Matthew's Gospel, about Jesus walking on the water, is reminiscent of Paul's description of Jesus in the letter to the Colossians: 'the firstborn of all creation' (1:15), 'the firstborn from the dead' (1:18) and 'through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things' (1:20). In Matthew's story Jesus is not a 'ghost', but a flesh and blood human whose divinity becomes apparent while he blends with the earthly elements. This is truly a graphic illustration of how all things will be reconciled to God.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

A conservative Protestant Church in a sleepy fishing village had to find a new minister. Over the protests of Jimmy, the senior Elder, a woman was hired as the new Pastor.

After the Reverend Gayle had been there a few weeks, Tom, a member of the congregation, offered to take her out fishing. Jimmy reluctantly agreed to allow them to use his boat for the day's outing, but insisted that he lead the expedition.

The trio got into the boat and motored out on the lake. When they got ready to fish, they realised that all their tackle had been left on the dock. Tom concluded that they would just have to go back and get it. Reverend Gayle said that wouldn't

be necessary, and she got out of the boat and started walking across the water toward the dock.

Jimmy, who refused to be impressed by Gayle's miraculous abilities observed, 'See I told you we never should have hired that woman. She can't even swim.'

The hit animation film Shrek was praised by critics for many things but most especially for the clever way it quoted from several other much-loved animation films. When writers do this it's called 'intertextuality', where one text uses another text to tell the story. Some of the references in Shrek were obvious; others took a little longer to reveal themselves. Some were used in a new way that turned the original story upside down. Whether any of us got all or none of the references didn't affect the enjoyment we derived from the film, it only added to what was already a great tale.

The story of Jesus walking on the water is in a similar vein to Shrek. In eleven verses Matthew quotes several other stories in the Old Testament, uses them in his own way and re-interprets all of them in reference to Jesus. It might be lost on some of us who just enjoy the power of the story, but none of this intertextuality would have been lost on Matthew's first hearers.

Poor old Job found God in the midst of a storm, and winds and waves are a usual Old Testament shorthand for the perils of life. The image of the boat was an early symbol for the Church and Matthew has all Jesus' disciples in it. Jesus hovering over the waters has echoes of the action of the Spirit in the first account of creation in Genesis. Even Jesus restoring calm to the sea follows on from what the Prophet Jonah had done before. For the keen student there is much more besides.

Matthew's account is magnificent on its own terms, but with these details we can see he is also interested in a theological message. Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of creation, remains faithful to the disciples, no matter how treacherous the seas or how great their fear. He has come to them so that they may be saved and recreated as the Church who recognises that he is the fulfilment of creation, the one whom Israel has been longing to see and embrace.

And what does all this mean for us?

We are inheritors of Matthew's faith. We're here because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who has saved us from ourselves and from destruction. But it also means that in every storm that threatens our lifeboat Jesus comes to call us to faith, to catch us when we think we're drowning, to accompany us back to safety and to bring calm to the troubled seas of our life.

Aren't we lucky Jesus never learnt to swim?

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 84: LORD, SHOW US YOUR MERCY AND LOVE

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

Response: *Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

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

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

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

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 19:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while



the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

**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.**