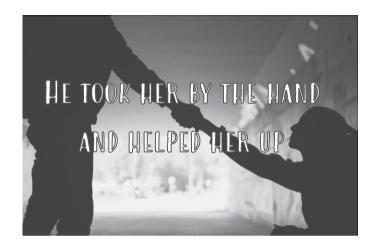


Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 4 February 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Reflections

Mk 1:29-39

Looking for Jesus

One of Jesus' first acts in Mark's gospel is to liberate a man from a demon, as we heard last week. Next, Jesus tames a fever; and by nightfall, everyone is after him. Is this a surprise? Not to anyone who's ever suffered. If there's a miracle cure for our pain, we'd all like to have a piece of it. Jesus, for his part, doesn't seem to mind. He gets down to business and sends those diseases and demons packing.

The next day, Jesus moves on to the next town, and the same thing happens. The world is full of opportunities to encounter Job, and one village is as good as another. Job, unhappily, lives in all of them. The early success of Jesus' ministry owes itself to the rampant misery in the world and our desperate desire for an answer or a cure. For those who'd given up the hope of happiness, the coming of Jesus was a new shot at life.

For believers today, the news is just as exciting. Jesus is ready to reach into our lives and liberate us from the demons that enslave us. Jesus is the only real healer, making even death itself a king without subjects. Though our misery runs deep and happiness becomes a memory, Jesus can restore our peace. No wonder so many are still after him.

Eat Up

A Polish friend once invited me to dinner at his mother's house. The only instruction I was given beforehand was: do not refuse second helpings.

I was young and skinny and I knew I would even accept thirds. So I ate and ate and ate until the terrible moment arrived. "Here, have some more, oh my goodness you don't have anything on your plate, take some of this. And this. You are going to starve!"

I took as little of each as I could politely do, then took my stuffed self away from the table, graced with a new Polish friend and a sore stomach.

Why do I tell you this?

Because Simon's mother-in-law in the Gospel must have been this sort of a woman. Whenever guests visited, I'm sure she would be hustling and bustling, stirring up a welcome, dish after dish.

But, when Jesus and the apostles came over one day, she was ill and helpless.

Jesus, immersed in his new career, saw how much out of character it was for her to just lie there and watch her guests. He took her hand, healed her without ceremony, and lifted her out of her frustration. The Gospel says that, "she waited on them." Just like the Polish mother.

But there is a contrast. In the First Reading we hear the ancient words of Job, who does nothing but complain that everything has been taken away from him.

Many of us will recognize these symptoms from our own lives. But, what had Job done to deserve such huge deprivations?

For that matter, what did Jesus do to deserve the loss of his people (and his frequent meals with them), and of his preaching and curing and befriending? When he hung on the cross did he remember his mother's meals?

And did she?

We too know that loss is included in the way of the world. God knows this also.

And he remains with us either way. God shows that love means "being with us" in good times and in bad as well. Yes, he does join us in delightful meals.

But he does not take troubles away.

He joins us in them.

John Foley // The Sunday Website

Parish News

Help our community sing at our Easter Triduum Celebrations

If you would like to assist with leading our community's sung prayer at our Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday Liturgy and Easter Vigil Mass, then we invite you to join the choir that will sing at these celebrations.

Practice will be on Mondays from 7:15 - 8:30 pm in the church, starting Monday 19 February through to Easter. Previous experience and/or training are not required.

For more information, contact Robert at

olmcwentyliturgy.org/contact.

Parish Sacramental Process 2024

Parents, if you feel you are ready to assist your children to celebrate the sacraments, you are invited to apply online using this link. If you would prefer to use a manual form, please email the parish office at ocarmswenty@gmail.com. For further information, please visit our website olmcwenty.org.au and select Sacraments for Children within the Grow in Faith option.

CONFIRMATION:

Applications close Friday 26 April.

Confirmation names & sponsors names due Friday 3 May. Confirmation practice at 3:30pm & 6pm on Thursday 23 May. Confirmation celebration at 6pm (Trinity Sunday Vigil) Mass on Saturday 25 May.

FIRST RECONCILIATION:

Applications close Friday 19 July.

Celebrations at 6pm on Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 July.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Applications close Friday 27 September

Taste & See sessions at 3:30pm & 7pm on Thursday 10 October

Practice sessions at 3:30pm & 6pm on Thursday 17 October Celebrations at 11am on Saturday 19 and 26 October.

Getting to know you Parish Dinner

The *Getting-to-Know-You Parish Dinner* is a near sell-out! Great effort from everyone, and it's great to see so many parishioners and others joining us at 7pm on Friday 9 February.

Be prepared for a few surprises and don't forget to bring your own drinks. Water is provided.

There will be a raffle on the night as well as lucky door prizes, so hold on to your tickets for your chance to win. See you all there!

Incident Reporting

As part of our commitment to keep parishioners, visitors, contractors and staff safe and compliant, we have created an Incident Report form that will be kept in the newsstand in the Parish Centre.

If you witness an incident where someone is hurt or could potentially be hurt, please fill out this form and return to the Parish Office. You can be as brief as you like.

The rationale for this form is so that we have a good understanding of which areas of concern we need to keep an eye on. So, for example, if there are several incidents of people slipping on the tiles on the parish centre steps, then it's an issue we need to address quickly. It may seem insignificant at the time, and maybe no one was hurt (which is great!), but if these little incidents are not reported, then we can't mend it.

Ideally, the reporting would include your name and contact number but, if you would prefer to remain anonymous, that's ok. This is not an opportunity to raise general grievances, but a serious attempt at addressing any patterns of risk in our parish.

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: \$2762

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 749 Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ 100 Loose cash: \$ 858 Direct Deposits: \$ 525 Tap & Go: \$ 530

Parish Online Banking: If you would like to pay fees or are able to make a donation, our online banking details are:

BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 00602

Account Name: Wentworthville Catholic Church **Reference:** [YourSurname]DONATION NAME

Fees for special Services

Please see below, a simplified guide to our fees for special

Services:

Wedding: \$700 Funeral: \$700

Baptism: \$50 **Memorial service:** \$400

What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving is a pledge you make to assist the parish with their finances. Your contributions would go toward staff salaries, insurance, maintenance, loan repayments, liturgical resources, etc. You can choose to set-up an automated deposit from your bank account with the amount and frequency you would like to donate. Just make sure to use the banking details above. Planned Giving is a very convenient and practical method of contributing to the parish, even if it's just \$5 a week.

If you would like to receive a receipt for your Planned Giving please contact Gennie, our Finance Officer, on ocarmswentyaccts@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Please pray for

Those who are sick, especially Rita Ientile, Vivian Sultana, Roseline Fernandez, Yolanda Gonzales, Edwin Macwan, Sharon Dolan.

Recently deceased, Jennifer Kelberg, Charmaine Kelberg, Baby Egan, Rachael Sumagaui, Matthew Spiteri, Tony Campton, Thea Flynn, Robert Howe, Joanne Tabone, Charlie Bonnici, Duyen Tran.

Our special intentions, especially Sinfarosa Dias, Edgardo Perez, Leonardo Close Tito, Michael Perez, Valda Cox, Michael Bigeni, Heather Sanders, Stella Galea, Elizabeth Perez, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Franz Tito, Santiago Tito, Antonio Tito, Mr & Mrs Ronnie Perez & descendants, Mr & Mrs Oly Pace & descendants, Mr & Mrs Cesar Domingo & family, Clivin family, Anthony, Monica & Catherine Kong, Charlie Zammit, Mary, Joyce, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Lawrence Dias, Charlie Sultana, Holy Souls in Purgatory and in honour of St Anthony.

Names published with permission from families.

Coming events

5 February: St Agatha of Siciliy

6 August: St Paul Miki SJ and companions8 August: St Josephine Bakhita FDCC8 February: Church cleaning after 9am Mass

8 February: Liturgy Committee Meeting at 7pm in the

Parish Centre

10 February: St Scholastica

11 February: 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Rosters for 10 and 11 February 2024

MASS	ROLE	VOLUNTEER
6pm (Vigil)	Reader Commentator Communion	Trish Maldigri Anne-Marie Torrens Ann Zahra
8am	Reader Commentator Communion	Cat Paulo Cecilia Cotter Roslyn Khattar (Assembly) Cathy Rossiter
10am	Reader Commentator Communion	Carmel Gauci Marina Peter Rosemary Chung (Assembly) Mary Vijila
6pm	Reader Commentator Communion	Volunteer needed Nelissa Almeida Jovan Titus

Next week's readings

10 and 11 February - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1

Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

Around the Diocese and beyond

Maltese Cultural Association

Singers from Malta, Ludwig Galea & Jasmine Abela, will be performing with a theatrical group at 1pm on Sunday 3rd March at Wentworthville Leagues Club, Smith Street Wentworthville. Tickets are \$30. Children with parents go free. For bookings, please contact 01421662298, 0414859386, 0421345325.

- Mary Ramundi PRO

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

Carmelite Conversations with Fr Matthew McPhee OCarm

10:30am - 12pm on Wednesday 7 February via Zoom

Fr Matthew is a Carmelite with a very rich and varied life and recently celebrated his Golden Jubilation of Ordination and 70 years of religious life with the Carmelite community. Fr Matthew has ministered in a variety of pastoral settings and roles including Parish Priest, Teacher, Retreat and Spiritual Director in Australia and overseas (Ireland, America). Fr Matthew is also known for his gift of singing which has brought joy to many people and he continues to perform at aged-care facilities in Melbourne.

Today we have an opportunity to hear from Fr Matthew about his journey into Carmel – the joys and the challenges of his ministry and the passion and joy that he continues to exude in abundance.

For more information, please visit thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org

Lent 2024 with the Catholic Guy

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is free and you can sign up here: brucedownes.org/Lent

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Connect with us

Online at www.olmcwenty.org.au
On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty
Email ocarmswenty@gmail.com

Parish Office

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday Phone 9631 8302

Parish Priest: Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm Assistant Priest: Fr. Albino Dos Santos, O.Carm In Community: Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm, Fr. Paul Gurr, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior), Fr. Wayne Stanhope, O.Carm (at Jamberoo), Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

Parish Secretary: Paola Yévenes **Finance Officer:** Gennie Cosgrove

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic

Phone: 8832 1100

Liturgy times

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil) Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9am

Friday: 9:15am (except on the first Friday of the month)

Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 8am Rosary Group

Monday - Friday: 8am

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Anointing within Mass

First Friday of the month at 9am Mass followed by a shared Morning Tea

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

On request

We acknowledge the Darug people as the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders; past, present and emerging.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Carmelite Friars, are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe.