

PRAYER PARTNERS & PRAYERFUL DISCERNMENT

18th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 31 JULY 2022



HAPPY FEAST DAY TO ALL SIBLINGS

Last Friday at 9am Mass and at 6pm Evening Prayer, we prayed for our siblings, our sisters and brothers.

Friday's Feast of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus is the feast day of our siblings.

For those who missed the celebration on July 29th this year, we now pause and pray for our sisters and brothers.

For those who are an only child, we pray for those who have been like a sister or brother to you.

Let us pray.

[pause and pray]

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER PARTNER?

The farmer in today's parable puts his trust in storing up material goods for his future, not knowing that he will die soon.

His future is about himself, with no reference to love of God or love of neighbour.

He is fooling himself. We know that we cannot control everything in our lives.

WE ARE ON A JOURNEY

We are on a journey, travelling with God. Trusting in God.

In the early 1950s, a vibrant young woman who enjoyed her social life, discovered that God was calling her to a joyful life in a different way.

Looking back on her own life some years ago, Marcella said

"I have been so happy all my life, even with its ups and downs"

As a young person she went on a prayer retreat one year and she discovered

"I always thought the only time Jesus was in me was at Mass when I received him in Holy Communion, but, we always have Him within us".

Remembering the first talk by the retreat leader, she recalled

"As soon as he gave the first lecture, I was so attracted by the Carmelite spirituality".

He spoke of *"Divine in-dwelling"*.

Her quotes above, are from her Catholic Leader article interview at:

<https://catholicleader.com.au/news/sister-marcella-celebrating-60-years-as-a-carmelite/>

At 22 years of age, she joined the enclosed Carmelite Sisters in April 1952. Living in the Carmelite Community in Ormiston, Sister Marcella was a prayer person for many.

People around Brisbane and elsewhere could contact her and ask for prayers.

When my mother was deciding whether to go into respite care, she asked my sister to contact Sister Marcella for prayer and ask God to show her what to do.

When there was illness in our family over the years,

Mum contacted Sister Marcella as a prayer partner. Mum prayed for Sister Marcella as well.

Mum learnt from her mother the importance of having a prayer person in your life.

Our family remembered Sister Marcella last week especially on her funeral day, and we give thanks for her.

A link to the funeral is at: <https://bit.ly/SisterMarcella>

We pause now as parents and children talk about what a prayer partner means for them. Perhaps it is a Godparent or Grandparent or friend or member of the parish community.

[Pause for brief discussion]

GOSPEL OF LUKE 12:13-21

Let us read the Gospel story ourselves.

“Someone in the crowd said to him,

‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’

But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’

And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly.

And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?”

Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

And I will say to my soul,

Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”

But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you.

And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”

So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

The passage of the farmer is not just about control and hoarding possessions and selfishness.

It is also about fear. Fearing lack of control, we hoard, we become selfish.

Jesus calls us to place our trust in God, instead of being a slave to fear.

We ask God for guidance.

We heard three weeks ago about the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*

who moves beyond his comfort zone and provides for a person in need.

We heard two weeks ago about *Mary and Martha* and taking the time to listen to Jesus.

We heard last week about disciples asking Jesus how to pray and learn the way of *The Our Father*.

Now we have heard the *Parable of a Farmer* who has no plans to share with others in need, whose plans do not include time to pray and listen to God and who does not discern with God about the present and the future.

The farmer has no room for trust.

In our journey of seeking to do God's will and to live our lives in union with God, it is important to discern where God is calling us.

Discernment is both personal and communal.

My mother prayed to God about all aspects of her life.

And she sought out the prayer of others as well.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL INVITATION

That is why our Parish Pastoral Council spends some time at every monthly meeting on formation.

We seek an openness to God forming us as a pastoral group and as a parish faith community.

Our Parish Council Chairperson has an invitation in today's parish newsletter for members of parish community to respond, if you so wish.

The questions are:

- What do you like about our parish?
- What are your concerns?
- What would you like to see happen in 5 – 10 years?
- How might the leadership evolve to aid this?
- How might your parish work together in mission with the Deanery or neighbouring parishes?

All are invited to share with a Parish Council Member or email the parish.

Parish council members are available at the Masses this weekend.

After prayerful discernment, where do we believe God is calling us within the next five to ten years?

And what do we need to do this?

We recognize the reality of the Pandemic.

We consider the outcomes of the Plenary Council and new directions.

God has given us skills and talents, including the gifts of praying and listening and consulting.

Today Jesus invites us to put our trust in him.

We ask ourselves in what ways we allow fear to dominate us and enslave us

We ask God in our prayer to help free us from our fears.

We ask God to help us in deciding how to use our gifts.

We ask God to show you us how to share with our neighbour

We ask God for patience and perseverance when learning new things

With so much going on, may we also find time to relax with God, and to find joy in God's presence.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/073122.cfm>

SISTER MARCELLA MARY RAPHAEL OF CHRIST THE KING



Eternal rest grant unto
Sister Marcella, O Lord,
and let Your perpetual light
shine upon her.

May her soul
and the souls
of all the faithful departed
rest in peace.
Amen.



On Wednesday 20 July 2022 our dear
Sister Marcella Mary Raphael of Christ the King
passed from this life to enter her eternal home.

www.carmeliteormiston.com

The Parish of St. Joseph & St. Anthony Bracken Ridge / Bald Hills acknowledges the Discalced Nuns of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ormiston for the use of the above photograph and gives grateful thanks to God for the life of Sister Marcella Mary Raphael of Christ the King.