

**INTRODUCTION**  
DAY 2: SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023 @ 6pm

**MARY AND ELIJAH IN MOUNT CARMEL**

Good evening to all!

We welcome you to our Eucharistic celebration on the second day of our Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. And thank the groups for sponsoring the mass: The Catechists and the Carmelite Missionaries.

As we are about to begin our celebration may I invite you now to turn off or turn to silent mode your mobile phones.

*Pause for a while.*

When Elijah was emptied, made aware of his own nothingness, and purified through his sufferings, God filled in, as he promised when He said, "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest..." And only then, after his purification, was Elijah able to encounter the Living God. Elijah lived his time at Mt. Carmel in prayer and fasting, giving himself over entirely to the Lord, as he told: "With zeal I have been zealous for the Lord God of hosts."

The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. They built in the midst of their hermitages a chapel which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, whom they conceived as the "Lady of the place." Since then, they celebrated the solemn liturgical feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with its objective of thanksgiving to Mary, for the benefits she had accorded to it through its difficult early years. The institution of the feast may have come in the wake of the vindication of their title "Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary".

Today also is the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the day to remember the Apostleship of the Sea.

Let us dispose ourselves to join in this Eucharistic celebration.  
Please stand and join in our entrance hymn.

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**First reading**

**Zechariah 9:9-10 ·**

*See now, your king comes humbly to you.*

The Lord says this:

Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!  
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!  
See now, your king comes to you;  
he is victorious, he is triumphant,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will banish chariots from Ephraim  
and horses from Jerusalem;  
the bow of war will be banished.  
He will proclaim peace for the nations.  
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,  
from the River to the ends of the earth.

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**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 144(145):1-2,8-11,13b-14**

**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

I will give you glory, O God my king,  
I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God.

**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down.

**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

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**Second reading**

**Romans 8:9,11-13 ·**

*If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

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## **Gospel**

**Matthew 11:25-30**

You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

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## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Priest:** God calls us to follow with generous hearts.

With Mary, our mother, let us pray for our needs  
and those of the whole world.

*Response:* Lord, hear our prayer.

1. May there be peace in every home in Australia, and peace among all her people, so that reconciliation heals past injustices, stimulates hope for this generation, and shapes the future of our nation. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. May the Catechists be always filled with the Holy Spirit and make Mary their model in following the will of God and proclaiming His Good News to others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. May the seafarers be faithful in their time of routine, and prompt to decide and courageous to act in any time of crisis. Protect them in the dangers and perils of the sea; and even in the storm, grant that there may be peace and calm within their heart. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. For the children in our Parish who that, planted in faith and grounded in love, they may bear witness to Christ our Lord by their way of life. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. For all of us gathered here that through the exemplar life of Mary, our mother, may we become keen and sensitive to love and care everyone who are in need.  
*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Let us pray our parish prayer:**

Creator God, Life is Your gift to me. Through Baptism, you invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world. Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call. I pray especially for those who serve you in ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. May we bear the "Good News" to those in need. Keep us close to you. Open the minds and hearts of many other men, women and young people that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom in our parish. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Priest:** God ever close to us, hear our prayer this day.

Keep our eyes fix on you and our hands extended to everyone in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **NOVENA PRAYER**

(After 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection)

### **Day 2: “Mary, Consoler of the afflicted”**

**Leader:**

Holy Mother of Carmel, your Son proclaimed:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Mat. 5:4)

**All:** You cried a lot. Mother, in your life: of the joy of seeing your Son Jesus being born, so handsome, so cute, so similar to you. You cried with sorrow when you lost him. You wept for joy and of emotion upon finding Him.

You cried all your tears on the way to Calvary. You were already lacking tears next to the Cross. He returned them to you. Sweet and compassionate, so that he could wash them away with His glorious and risen presence. The consolation of Israel was yours. The consoling Holy Spirit dwelt in you and filled you with joy to the extent of your tears and sorrows. Because you knew how to mourn, the blessedness of consolation was yours.

We ask you, Mother, may our tears be evangelical tears, deserving of associating with yours. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Leader:**

“During the death of her Son, Stabat Mater, she felt in her heart the terrible blows that fell on him; the lance pierced her soul, but she was neither daunted, nor terrified, nor fainted” (MM 591).

**Leader:** Queen and Beauty of Carmel,

**All:** Pray for us!



**FLOS CARMELI  
VITIS FLORIGERA  
SPLENDOR CAELI  
VIRGO PUERPERA  
SINGULARIS  
MATER MITIS  
SED VIRI NESCIA  
CARMELITIS ESTO  
PROPITIA  
STELLA MARIS**

**Flower of Carmel  
Blossoming vine  
light of heaven  
mother of God's dear Son  
vine and virgin;  
gentle parent,  
pure beyond human love  
Bless your children  
Star shining far above  
This world's ocean.**