



St Michael's Parish

Incorporating the Churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

PARISH PRIEST:	Fr Gerard Keith (email: gerard.keith@cam.org.au) Fr Rolyn Vics	Web Page Address: www.pastoralclustergeelong.org		
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OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
PARISH MANAGER:	Trish Stickland	Phone 5278 1343 (email: trish.stickland@cam.org.au)		
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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	Holy Family	Peter Brunt	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
	Holy Spirit	Rachel Holdsworth	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
	St Patrick's	John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

One cannot choose which passage of scripture is going to really hit home, make an impact, and become a huge challenge in your life. This passage of scripture, today's Gospel, changed my life – completely. Revelation became revolution!

I had always read 'Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect' as advocating rather static anaemic fault-less-ness. Not very appealing! But, sitting in my room one day, I realised that the Greek word we usually translate as 'perfect' is closer to the idea of a perfect wine – one that has matured and has reached its full potential, everything it was capable of being. So, Our Lord is saying, 'Be a person who is becoming fully mature, someone who is everything you are capable of being.'

Our Lord gives a striking example of the challenge. It is far from static or anaemic! '... our Father in Heaven ...causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike.' And then Our Lord commands us to be everything we are meant to be as human beings in exactly the same respect. We are to be gracefully mature adult disciples of Jesus by imitating God who does not withhold life-giving sun and rain from people because they are bad or dishonest. God does not extinguish the life of human beings because they are evil, because they are enemies. This exploded in my consciousness like a bomb! We are to be the same as God in this regard. That is how we are to love our enemies.

To cut a short story short, I became a Christian Pacifist. I revered the Church of the first three Centuries, the Martyr Church which refused to bear arms. Dr Martin Luther King became my

hero. He had practised active non-violence precisely in following the Sermon on the Mount, and had transformed a segregated and racist United States. I purchased a black and white poster of King, hanging it on the wall above my desk. On my return to Australia, I got involved in politics. The rest is history. I was elected to the Senate and was Minister for Justice for six years. Everything was going swimmingly, and I had the satisfaction of a certain superiority. I knew what it was to be a true follower of Jesus Christ, and I was living the dream.

The dream was shattered in January of 1991. Iraq's Saddam Hussein had invaded and occupied Kuwait. The Prime Minister required a vote in the Senate supporting the despatch of naval units for a UN Security Council-authorized military operation to expel Iraqi forces.

/Cont'd P4...



To Preps and Teachers of Holy Family School

- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - Feb 19, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Is 49:14-15
2nd Reading: 1Cor 4:1-5
Gospel: Mt 6:24-34



PARISH PRAYER:

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more. Help the parents to be a good example to the children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy. May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

Heavenly Father, help us to respond to and live out our mission in the Church, and in the world.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life and assist them to live it well.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people, call many to be priests and religious.

Give those whom you call the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English... 8am and 9.30am Sunday
Croatian... 11am Sunday
Slovenian.. 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

6.00pm Saturday
11am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Saturday
11am 2nd & 4th Sundays

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family:

9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs

Holy Spirit:

9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat. **Reconciliation after Saturday Mass**

Grace McKellar Centre:

10.15am - 1st Tuesday

Maryville Nursing Home:

11am 1st & 3rd Friday

Multicultural Centre:

1.30pm - 1st Friday;

Vincentian Village:

3.00pm 1st & 3rd Monday, (2nd & 4th Communion Service)

St John of God Hospital:

11.30am every Thursday in SJOG Chapel

BAPTISMS:

1st & 3rd Sundays 12noon at Holy Spirit, 2nd & 4th Sundays 12noon at Ss P&P,
3rd Sunday 2pm at Holy Family

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Mon... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Tues... Meditation Group

5.30pm

Holy Family Community Centre

Wed... Prayer of the Church

Before 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Wed... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Thurs... Italian Prayer Group

10.00am

St Patrick's Chapel

Fri... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After 11am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Fri... Divine Mercy

3.00pm

Holy Spirit Church

Sat... Rosary

After 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

Feb 6-26: O'Neil family, 11 Derby Rd; **Feb 20-Mar 5:** Brown family, 23 Bostock Ave.

If anyone would like to have Our Lady's Statue or if you could spare an hour a month to help, ph Tina Montalto on 5278 9314.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Milka Kustera

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ivan Vanjek, David Rhodes, Domenico Mileto, Rosina Maiolo, John Vanstan, Robert Neeld, Daniel Dempsey

BAPTISMS:

Peter Cameron, Archie Ling, Lewis McKay and George Walker.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Johann Angerbaure

Please note: After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list . Please phone the office on 5278 1343.

Roster for Next Sunday, February 26, 2017

(4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

8.00AM

F O'Neill

Lectors

L Kelly

Special Ministers

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

Welcomers

L&E Kelly

Projectionist

R Allum

9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Baird, P Gizycki

D Lunn, P McBride, C Simpson, V Resciniti

A Sare, A/I Dugandzic

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

6.00PM

M Carson

Lectors

Sr J McGonigal

Special Ministers

C McShanag, R Stanley, D Yeatman

Welcomers

M Brown

Projectionist

T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

5.00PM

A Henderson

Lectors

G Tolan

Special Ministers

A Henderson, G Tolan

Welcomers

J Cowell

Projectionist

B Middleton

11.00AM

M Burn

J Fraatz, L Eastman

D Dougherty

D Dougherty

R Zarb

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN ST MICHAEL'S:

St Michael's Luncheon...	First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.
Holy Family Luncheon..	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO casserole & drink to share.
Holy Family Women's Group...	First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.00pm
St Vincent de Paul...	Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre 7.30pm. Holy Spirit meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7.00pm in Holy Spirit Hall
Legion of Mary...	Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre
Baptism Preps	4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
Holy Family Choir Practice...	Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm
Manifold CWL...	Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month
Italian Mass...	First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
Catholic Diners' Club...	2nd Tues of each month, 6.15pm at Capri Receptions. Dinner/Guest Speaker - ph 0431 959 584

If you wish to know more about these groups, as well as about our Sacramental Program for children in non-Catholic schools, our Baptism and Wedding procedures, our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines and so on, please visit our webpage:

www.pastoralclusterqeelong.org

St Michael's News:

Dear Parishioners of St Michael's Parish,

As you begin your work together as a united parish, I greet the generous and devoted people of Holy Family, Holy Spirit and Ss Peter and Paul who, together with your priests and parish workers, are rejoicing in the gift of each other in the newest parish in the Archdiocese.

I thank you for your goodness and very real faith, for the ways in which you have worked together so creatively so that our people, whether young or old, can be drawn more closely into love with Jesus Christ and our Mother Mary, and can spread this love into the community in the days ahead.

I want to assure you of my prayers and wishes and of my gratitude for all that you have done to bring this new community about. I thank Fr Gerard Keith, your Parish Priest, Fr Rolyn Vics CM and all who have contributed generously to this special work.

May the Lord give you many blessings as you commence your new journey as a parish family, united in Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

DENIS J HART, Archbishop of Melbourne

LITURGY MEETING: Thursday 23rd February 7pm in the Parish Office.

BAPTISM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:

An invitation is being extended to families who have primary school aged children and who are not yet baptised. The program is that there will be a parent/child session **on Wednesday March 15, 7pm at the Parish Office.** The child thereafter will be welcomed into the parish community with the baptism taking place later, perhaps at Easter. Please contact Bernadette at the Office on 5278 1343 or email cluster@cam.org.au

PARISH RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:

The program is as follows -

- Session 1:** Sunday Feb 26, 9.30am at Holy Family Church
Welcome & Commitment Mass and lesson for children
- Session 2:** Wednesday March 1, 7pm at Holy Family Community Centre
Family based presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation - parent/child in attendance
- Session 3:** Sunday March 19, 9.30am at Holy Family Church
Lesson for children during the first part of the Mass
- Session 4:** Sunday March 26, 9.30am at Holy Family Church
Lesson for children during the first part of the Mass.
- Please Note:** Attendance at all sessions is compulsory.

First Reconciliation is Tuesday, March 28, 7.30pm at Holy Family Church.

The cost of the program is \$70 per child. Please contact Bernadette at the Office on 5278 1343 or email cluster@cam.org.au for an enrolment form.



Registration for Relay for Life in February - Sat/Sun April 1/2:

Registration forms available at each Mass during the month.

Cost of \$20 per person prior to March 1st, 2017, then \$25 per head.

MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE... are seeking assistance from parishioners to assist with their Funeral Catering at the Holy Spirit Hall. This ministry is an important and much appreciated parish ministry and if you are able to assist please contact Tricia Joyce 0431 512 354 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 for further information.

FR MICK'S MATES:

- ♦ **Movie Night Friday February 24th - "HIDDEN FIGURES"**
CANCELLED DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

There will be a refund for those who have already purchased tickets.

CANCELLED!!



Community News:

- Mar 3...** **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE:** 11am at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St - "Am I being unfair to you?" written by the Christian women of the Philippines. Guest speaker Trish Stickland who has visited this country several times. Your support in prayer and attendance will be appreciated. A light lunch to follow. Information/transport ph Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 or Amy O'Brien 0427 866 891.
- Mar 8...** **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: Sacred Patterns for the Lenten Journey** - A series of reflections for the season of Lent. 5.30-6pm - *Essence* featuring Vicki Hallett - Clarinet.
- " **SACRED HEART COLLEGE: Circle of Mercy Community Evening** with Rabbi Fred Morgan "A Jewish Perspective on Mercy". 7-8pm Celies Hospitality Centre, SHC with supper provided. RSVP Monday 6 March to Rita on 5222 0467 or rchiav@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au
- Mar 18...** **ST PATRICK'S DAY RACES:** At the Geelong Racecourse, Breakwater Rd, Breakwater. For further enquiries phone Catherine Moon on 0409 007 913.



Has limited vacancies - contact Cheryl Conder, Director of Nursing, on 5221 5299.

CONGRATULATIONS! To the two new Chaplains appointed to Deakin University - **Len Monk and Veronica Biddle**. Both are well known around Geelong and both bring a wealth of experience to their roles, offering a listening ear for anyone associated with the University. Please keep them in your prayers as they take up their new roles.

Lent at St Michael's:

Lent is soon upon us. Lent has a penitential spirit with a focus on Prayer, Self-denial and Helping Others. In preparation for Lent on - **Ash Wednesday (1st March)** there are the following Masses:

	Holy Family	9.30am -	all school children in attendance
	Holy Spirit	9.30am -	all school children in attendance (please note change of time from 9am to 9.30am)
	St Patrick's Ss Peter & Paul's	12noon - 7pm	all school children in attendance

Sunday (5th March) - Holy Family School children's commitment to the Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.30am at Holy Family

Also there will be other opportunities for developing one's own prayer life and spirituality...

A DAY OF MINDFULNESS BY THE SEA: *Santa Casa, 33-35 Flinders St Q'Cliff, Wed March 15 and/or Tues March 28, 10am-3pm*

Lent is a time to allow ourselves to be open to the voice of God in our daily life. Mindfulness is a form of meditation. "Living in mindfulness means paying regular, calm attention to the present moment". It helps us to see, feel, understand and know our life as God knows it." This attitude can radically alter our relationship to the world, ease our suffering and enhance our joys." (Christophe Andre)

The day will consist of a series of mindful activities using the beauty of the environment, the labyrinth, and artworks as well as quiet times. Cost \$15 incl morning tea/light lunch. Facilitator - Sr Jean McGonigal RSM. **RSVP Sr Jean on 5229 2754 before March 13th.**

HOPE - LENTEN PROGRAM 2017:

This year there is an invitation to those who would like to be involved in small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. The times and dates to be advised.

/From P1... To cut a very long story short, after an anguished weekend I voted for the motion. I was sure that that first Iraq war was justified by the teaching of the Church for the last sixteen hundred years - the "Just War" doctrine. But my heart broke. I realised that I had betrayed the Divine Teacher of the Sermon on the Mount. I turned the photo of Martin Luther King to the wall.

I could not bear his eyes gazing into my soul. I could not open Matthew's Gospel for fear of opening it at today's passage. I am still not entirely at peace. I derive some consolation from the fact that Pope John Paul II, usually a Pope of great certainties,

experienced the same turmoil of heart and mind in wrestling with this issue. No-one can read his Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* without seeing the struggle. [see especially *Evangelium Vitae* 55]

We need two things to happen. First, the Church as a whole has to keep wrestling with the issue. Jesus' command: 'You must be ...' is directed to *You* in the plural. It is communal, social. The Holy Spirit is moving the Church as the community of Christ's faithful in a direction not experienced since its first three Centuries. It will be interesting to see what Pope Francis has to say in his homily on today's Gospel, should he choose to focus on this point.

Second, Our Lord insists in this passage that

we pray *on behalf of* those who want to do us harm. If they are evil, if they are aggressors, if they are willing to harm the innocent, they *need* prayer. We have to pray on their behalf that they be rescued from the deforming, dehumanising, diabolical ideology which impels them.

To pray for such as these is to share in the perfection of 'Our Heavenly Father who causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike.' It is to move towards becoming *perfectly mature* followers of the Divine Teacher, those who might better hear His voice: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'