



St Michael's Parish

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

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OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
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Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

I have never been able to reconcile the long faces some of us put on in Lent with the prayers of the Church that describe this as 'a joyful season'. The following story takes seriously that laughter is an essential element of our Lenten observance.

Once upon a time in a nice little forest, there lived an orphaned bunny and an orphaned snake. By surprising coincidence, both were blind from birth.

One day, the bunny was hopping through the forest while the snake was slithering along the same path. The bunny tripped over the snake and fell down. 'Oh, my,' said the bunny, 'I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where

I'm going. In fact, I'm also an orphan, so I don't even know what I am.' 'It's quite okay,' replied the snake, 'my story is much the same as yours. I've been blind since birth and never knew my mother. Tell you what, I could slither over you, and figure out what you are.'

'Oh, that would be wonderful.' replied the bunny. So the snake slithered all over the bunny, and said, 'Well, you're covered with soft fur; you have really long ears; your nose twitches; and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny.'

'Oh, thank you! Thank you,' cried the bunny in obvious excitement. The bunny then suggested to the snake, 'Maybe I could feel you with my paw, and help you in the same way you've helped me.' So the bunny felt the snake all over, and remarked, 'Well, you're

scaly and smooth, you have a forked tongue, you're impossible to pin down and you have no backbone at all. I'd say you must be either a contractor, a consultant or possibly someone in senior management.'

On reflection the Gospel of the man born blind is a joyful one too. Imagine this man's elation at having his sight restored. As the story develops the all-seeing Pharisees move to spiritual blindness by putting on the blinkers of the law. They cannot recognise Jesus or his works of mercy because of their tunnel vision. Jesus doesn't fit their worldview. Meanwhile the blind beggar, who has sight restored, goes on to gain insight about who Jesus is and the way that God works in the world; he begins to see how shallow and pathetic the Pharisees really are. /Cont'd P4...

Congratulations This coming week we congratulate the children from our three Primary Schools' Catechetical Program who will be making their First Reconciliation

- Fourth Sunday of Lent -

(Year A/1 - March 26, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light
of life.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Ezek 37:12-14
2nd Reading: Rom 8:8-11
Gospel: Jn 11:1-45



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:

Mar 20-Apr 3: Wright family, 42 Logan St. **Apr 3:** Martin family, 26 Honey Lane

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:

David Martini

ANNIVERSARIES:

Joseph Ribaric, Bodillo & Eugenia Buhisan, Leonardo Cassio, Domenic Pellizzeri, William & Gertrude Paul, Winnie Bohan, Chiara Gulli, Manuel Almeida (Snr) & Manuel Almeida (Jnr), Gracinda & Manuel Oliveira, Anna Kot, Becky Lunn, Lorenzo Leone.

BAPTISMS:

Claudia Bradley

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Joanne Straughan, Anita Capicchiano, Theo DaCosta, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Johann Angerbaure

Roster for Next Sunday, April 2, 2017

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

R Allum

V Pavlovic

J Bartolo, B McFarlane, I Baulch

K McArthur

R Allum

9.30AM

J Siketa

C&J Taylor

P Carmody, B Kline, D&M Horoba

M&E Hoffman

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

J O'Neill

M Abbott, D Torpy

M Kroger

11.00AM

C Neilson

B Middleton, M Wright

R Pugh, V Trinder

I Cleary, L Fossey

L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

C O'Brien

Sr J McGonigal

N Neeld, P McGlinchey

B Pleasance

D Whelan

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.pastoralclustergeelong.org

Lent at St Michael's:

LITURGICAL/SACRAMENTAL DATES:

- March 26...** Commitment to the Sacraments by the children of Holy Family School, 9.30am at Holy Family Church
- March 27...** Sacrament of First Reconciliation for children of Holy Spirit School, 7.30pm at Holy Spirit Church
- March 28...** Sacrament of First Reconciliation for children of Holy Family School, 7.30pm at Holy Family Church
- March 29...** Sacrament of First Reconciliation for children of St Patrick's School, 7.30pm at Ss P&P's Church
- March 30...** Sacrament of First Reconciliation for children of St Patrick's School, 7.30pm at Ss P&P's Church
- Whilst the focus of the Reconciliation Service is on the children, everyone in the Parish is welcome to attend.***

- ◆ In next week's Bulletin there will be the Roster for the Easter Ceremonies. There may be some vacancies so if you are able to assist, please let Bernadette know at the Office.
- ◆ I will be joining the Holy Spirit School staff for a 2-day Seminar this Thursday and Friday. The focus will be on Faith Formation and Faith Leadership in the School.

LEASE OF HOLY SPIRIT LAND:

You may have read in the Geelong Advertiser (14th March) an article about the use of Holy Spirit land for a Childcare Centre.

For clarification, the Parish is hoping to enter into a long-term land lease with a Childcare provider. The building of the Childcare Centre, and all matters that pertain to its operations, will be the responsibility of the Childcare provider, **NOT** the Parish.

As part of the proposed lease agreement, the Parish Hall will be upgraded by the Childcare provider but retained by the Parish for our own use.

If the proposed Childcare Centre proceeds, it will be a win for the Parish providing us with funds to ensure the ongoing maintenance and care of our beautiful historical Church. The win for the local community will be the provision of high quality childcare, as well as creating much needed jobs in both the short and long term. *(Fr Gerard)*

MESSENGRERS OF MERCY: Powerful and entertaining testimonies of God's Mercy, featuring John "Percy" Canavan, Comedian, and Tommy and Matthew who will speak of their conversion stories from drug addiction through God's Mercy.

Date: April 5, 2017

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St Bell Park.

DISTRIBUTION OF EASTER INVITATIONS: We require your assistance once again to deliver the Easter Invitations that have been left over in the Churches. Please collect from the Parish Office, 147 Separation St Bell Park. Many thanks!

REGISTRATION FOR RELAY FOR LIFE - SAT/SUN APRIL 1/2: Registration forms available at each Mass during the month. As of March 1st the cost is now \$25 per person.



CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA: *Visit of the International Centennial Pilgrim Image*



When...	Thursday April 6 2017
Where...	Holy Family Church, Separation St
Schedule...	5.30pm - Welcoming Ceremony, Holy Rosary and Procession, Rosary, Scapular and Re-coronation, Floral Offering
	7.00pm - Holy Mass with St John Paul II's Consecration Prayer
	7.45pm - Massive Enthronement to the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary, giving out of Scapulars and signing up for home visitation.

Community News:

- March 25...** **PRAYER FOR LIFE - Mass in Reparation for Abortion:** 9am at St Patrick's Cathedral with celebrant: Fr David Cartwright, followed by a **Rosary Procession** to the edge of the 15m zone from the abortion centre in Wellington Pde East Melbourne to pray and witness. Concluding with morning tea in the Fitzroy Gardens. All welcome!
- March 29...** **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC:** 5.30pm-6pm *Seeking Sanctuary* - Helen Seymour poetry and Tom Healey organ.
- April 1/2...** **MEN ALIVE MEN'S WEEKEND:** Is an opportunity for men to explore what makes them feel fully alive. The experience of the weekend is powerful and dynamic and many men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission. The weekend is organised by men in your local community and conducted by an experienced team of menALIVE leaders. It is suitable for all men from 18 years of age. **Lumen Christi Church, Kensington Leopold** - information ph John Brown 0428 409 345, John Brancatisano 0466 859 614 or Chris K 0407 522 055.
- April 5...** **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC:** 5.30pm-6pm *The Lenten Lily* - Sian Williams soprano, Frank DeRosso organ.
- April 9...** **WALK FOR JUSTICE - WALK FOR REFUGEES:** 2pm at the State Library, cnr Swanston & LaTrobe Sts Melbourne. Learn more from www.facebook.com/palmsundaywalk
- April 12...** **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA EASTER CONCERT:** 8pm at St Mary of the Angels - ***How shall we sing in a strange land?*** featuring Vox Angelica - Geelong Chamber Choir, directed by Tom Healey. Tickets \$30 adult and \$25 seniors/concession at the door or from trybooking.com/OLKN. Children and school students - free admission.

- ◆ **MARYVILLE has limited vacancies - contact Cheryl Conder, Director of Nursing/Manager or Andrea for an appointment, on 5221 5299.**
- ◆ **WING AND A PRAYER:** Now located at 116 Moorabool St Geelong (near 'Flight Centre') and opposite bus stops and Lt Malop St Mall. Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-2pm. Ph 5221 4451.
- ◆ **CARELINK:** Carelink was established and funded in 1996 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to coordinate and manage the ongoing care and support to the survivors of sexual and other forms of abuse and their families, perpetrated by clergy and other individuals appointed or employed by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. For more information ph 1300 810 957 or email info@carelink.melbourne

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 4th Sunday of Lent

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." (1Sam 16:7)

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God?

We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God.

Instead, he will look into our hearts to see how much we loved him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talents and treasure here on earth.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Semiti says, "Through the voice of the poor we can become one, and it's very powerful." Semiti grew up in an informal, or 'squatter', settlement in Fiji. More than a quarter of Fiji's people live in these settlements, with little hope of finding permanent housing and land. Their situation is particularly vulnerable – many live in unstable shelters, and there is a constant threat of extreme climate events. Children have few opportunities for education, and unemployment levels are high. There is little access to public services such as roads, water supply, electricity and garbage collection. Now Semiti is working together with other residents of informal settlements to make positive changes. He is the Director of the People's Community Network (PCN), which Caritas Australia supports. PCN helps empower landless people in Fiji, enabling them to address the issues that affect their lives. The network helps people in each settlement to advocate together to improve their living conditions. They work in committees on issues relating to health and hygiene; care of the elderly and of women who need empowerment; education needs; and unemployment. Semiti and other informal settlement residents tell how PCN helps them work together as neighbours, in solidarity. Through their participation in housing, savings and education programs, they have formed common bonds, and have grown in resilience and in dignity.



SLAVERY FREE CHOCOLATE FOR EASTER - Pope Francis said that "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral - and not simply an economic - act"

Are you buying and eating, or giving away Easter chocolates this year? It is estimated that up to 30 million people are trapped in slavery globally. The United Nations estimates that one in every three victims of human trafficking is a child. Much of the chocolate we consume in Australia is made with cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved.

Only look for chocolates which carry any of the following symbols on the wrapper:

FAIRTRADE, RAINFOREST ALLIANCE and UTZ.

/From P1...

This Gospel also contains a critical theological lesson: disability and illness do not come from personal sinfulness. It's surprising that we need to keep saying this, but too readily we hear otherwise intelligent and good Christians, for example, telling us that some illnesses have been 'sent' by God as punishment for sins or they wonder what their families have 'done' to deserve disabled children. It's true that God permits us to live in an

imperfect world where we are prone to illness and disability. But that same world gives us the freedom to be creative in the face of adversity, to be compassionate with those who are sick or disabled and free to believe that there is a purpose for each human life. God, the source of all love, does not actively send bad things to us, instead, he is our constant companion in dealing with them; giving us the courage and strength to cope with, and sometimes overcome, them.

The task of this joyful season is to bring our good humour and compassion to bear on the blind spots in our own lives and be on our guard for the times when we are too confident about who God is, how he works or what he can or cannot do. May it never be said of us that we were so consumed by our own religious vision that we missed God's woods for the trees