



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)	
PARISH SECRETARY:	Bernadette Bilogrevic	Phone 5278 1343	(email: cluster@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 Richard Leonard SJ

The gospel story about doubting Thomas has to be one of the most misunderstood episodes in the New Testament.

If you're like me, for years we have been consoled by Thomas doubting that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Thomas' doubts were in Jesus, we have been led to believe. But let's read the story very carefully. It's not Jesus Thomas doubts, it's the disciples. In fact when Jesus appears to them seven days later, Thomas has the opportunity to share in the experience of the Risen Lord and like the others he immediately confesses Easter faith.

There are three elements in this story that should give us great comfort. The first is that Thomas doubts the early Church, and not just in regard to a minor issue of discipline or

procedure. He doubts the central Christian message: that God raised Jesus from the dead. Some of us, too, at various times in our lives, can have doubts about all sorts of things in our faith. There are very few Catholics who get through life without asking some serious questions of God, about Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. These questions are good in themselves. They are necessary for a mature, adult faith. What we need to ensure is that we sincerely want answers to the questions we ask and not just use them to justify our wandering away from our faith. Thomas is the patron saint of all of us who sometimes struggle to believe what everyone else in the church seems to accept. And he is also the patron saint of those of us who seek the courage and patience to wait for the answers.

The second consoling fact to this story concerns the earliest Church. Even though they were filled with the presence of the

Risen Lord and though Thomas refuses to believe their witness, they remain faithful to him in his doubts. We know this because he is still with them a week later. They didn't expel him from the group or excommunicate him, they held on to him in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself.

Sadly for us, today, there are some who argue that Catholics who struggle with their faith should 'shape up or ship out'. While every group has its boundaries and there are limits to what people can dissent from, we could take the earliest Church as our model and stay faithful to our doubters and help them come to see the transforming truth that has changed our lives.

The final element in this extraordinary story which can help us in our Easter faith concerns the significance of the time between the first and second appearances of Jesus. /Cont'd P4...

- 2nd Sunday of Easter -

(Year A/1 - April 23, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33

2nd Reading: 1Pet 1:17-21

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35



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:

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:

(Cav) Raoul Barbadoro

ANNIVERSARIES:

Rosa Rizzo, Rocco Menchise, Angela Zuclich, John Haines, Maria Ivelja and 1 year anniversary of Maria-Santa Lombardo

BAPTISMS:

Flynn Baulch, Roman Logiurato, Harriet Ruggles, Nash Wright, Emily Zivkovic

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Joanne Straughan, Anita Capicchiano, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Johann Angerbaure, Hilary Thornton, Joe Gwizdek

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, April 30, 2017

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

8.00AM

M Howard
F O'Neill
R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
C Marcantonio,
R Allum

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdnik, M Baird, J Sheahan, M Perera,
V Resciniti, E Glynn
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

J O'Neill
M Abbott, D Torpy, C Laffy
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

M Bohan
P Power
P McGlinchey
D Dougherty
B Middleton

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:

Office closure:

The Office will be closed on **Tuesday April 25** (Anzac Day)



FAREWELL AND THANKYOU TO TRISH STICKLAND:

After thirteen very productive years in the Pastoral Cluster, Trish has decided to retire. Trish has made an important and valuable contribution to the life of the Parish. She has been instrumental in the successful transition of the three parishes into one amalgamated parish. She has done this through her fine administrative prowess, the initiation and oversight of Fr Mick's Relay for Life Team, as well as having a key role in our Philippines Partnership Program. Over the last thirteen years there has been considerable renovation and restoration of Churches and it's been Trish's input and management that has brought these projects to a successful fruition. There have been many other endeavours that Trish has been involved in and for that both Fr Mick and I have been most grateful. On your behalf I extend heartfelt thanks to Trish for all that she has done for this community. (Fr Gerard)

Liturgy in the Cluster:

THANKYOU, THANKYOU, THANKYOU!

Fr Rolynd and I would like to offer thanks for the generous effort of so many in our Easter Celebrations. Holy Week is central to our Catholic Christian faith and again we have celebrated the various elements of this time very well - the Mass of Anointing with Luncheon afterwards; the Second Rite of Reconciliation; Holy Thursday; Stations of the Cross; the Good Friday Ceremony; the two Easter Vigils (including the newly introduced Vigil at 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's) and the Easter Sunday Masses, which were accompanied with Baptisms of babies and Primary School-aged children. To achieve such a prayer filled array of ceremonies involved the work of the generosity of effort and spirit of so many people. Thankyou for a job well done! (Fr Gerard & Fr Rolynd)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:



Date: Sunday 23rd April
Place: Holy Spirit Church
Program: 1pm Confessions; 2pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayers **and** 3pm Holy Mass and Veneration of St Faustina's 1st Class Relic
Main Celebrant: Fr David Willis OP

*"Remember this well, and we can say it all together:
There is no limit to Divine Mercy offered to all!" - Pope Francis 6/4/2014
**"Mercy, compassion and forgiveness are most Godly,
and is always an act of Divine Mercy"** - Vatican Radio 1/3/2016*

Enquiries - Please contact Chris 0407 522 055.

April 23... 1st Eucharist Commitment Mass - Ss Peter & Paul's 11am
April 26... Sacramental Evening - St Patrick's 7pm
April 28... Class Mass - St Patrick's Chapel 9.15am
Class Mass - Holy Spirit Church 11am
April 30... 1st Eucharist Commitment Mass - Ss Peter & Paul's 11am.
NB: This is an extra Mass

Community News:

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- ◆ Manifold CWL will be holding a **Blumes Fashion Show** - 2pm in Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave, on **Friday 5th May, 2017**. Change room available. Pay and collect garments on day - \$5 entry includes afternoon tea and raffle ticket. For transport contact Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 or Noella Duggan 5278 2142.
- ◆ **Melbourne Diocesan 2017 Conference for Catholic Women's League** will be held at Mary Glowrey House, Nicholson St Fitzroy, on **Wednesday 3rd May** with morning tea at 9.30am. Cost \$15 includes lunch and raffle ticket. Guest speakers will be Rev Fr Rolyn Vics and Fiona Basile. Mass will be celebrated at the venue 12noon with day concluding at 3pm. For information contact President - Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 or Secretary - Colleen Neilson 0418 789 604.

- April 23...** **DIVINE MERCY:** St Thomas' Catholic Church, Peninsula Dve Drysdale. Confessions (3 Priests), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Prayers at 2.30pm; Blessing of Divine Mercy images at 3pm, Holy Mass and Benediction at 3.15pm. For further information please contact John Brown 5251 1884.
- April 30...** **TOM HEALEY PLAYS THE ORGANS OF GEELONG GRAMMAR:** 3pm Geelong Grammar School Corio (Chapel & Music School) Admission free - car park access from school rd. Enquiries ph 0352 739 275
- May 4...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Invitation to members, ladies and friends to a Social Day Out at Queenscliff. 10am Cottage By the Sea, Morning Tea, Video Presentation and Guided Tour. 12.30pm Lunch at Bowling Club "Rip View Bistro". Ring Frank Khan 5243 4926 with numbers attending by **April 27**. Shared transport available if required.
- May 10...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE - CIRCLE OF MERCY COMMUNITY EVENING:** Rev Dr Kevin Yelverton will present "Mercy: The Ecumenical Glue" 7-8.30pm in Celies Hospitality Centre, SHC. Supper is provided, all welcome. More details available on website shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au RSVP by **May 2** on 5222 0467 or rchiav@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au
- " **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** 12noon at the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave. Cost \$10 - all welcome!

THE EASTER CONCERT:

You are invited to an Easter Concert featuring The Quinal and Harmonico Filipino.

Date: Saturday 29th April
Time: 2.30 - 4.00pm
Place: Holy Family Church, Bell Park
Cost: \$10
Contact: Fr Rolyn Vics on 0423 944 796



The proceeds from the concert will go to support our Philippines Partnership Program for the Kuya Centre.

CAN YOU HELP:

Geelong's first Anzac Day Dawn Service for many years (perhaps ever) will be held at Eastern Beach at 6am on **Tuesday April 25**. Help is needed to oversee the stage and PA equipment on the site (near Garden St) from 5pm on April 24 until 5am Anzac Day. Three shifts of three men (5pm to 9pm, 9pm to 1am, 1am to 5am) are needed. Shelter and camp beds provided. If you think you might do this as a worthwhile Anzac Day commitment, contact Fr Kevin Dillon on 0421 777 360. If you can't volunteer yourself, perhaps you could volunteer your son, grandson or son-in-law!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 2nd Sunday of Easter

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (Jn 20:19)

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, a new neighbour, a new work colleague, a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home?

Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded.

A simple 'hello' and a smile goes a long way.

/From P1...

We're told it was seven days and the parallel to the story of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of John's Gospel. And even though the earliest disciples experience the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, they are still locked in their fears one week later. The creation of the early Church, the movement of its earliest leaders from timidity to boldness took time and having

a doubter in their midst ends up a great blessing for them all, for Christ is present at every step of the Church's creation and re-creation as well.

This story was written for people like us who do not have access to the historical Jesus. The birth of the Church is an ongoing act of God's creation in every generation. It takes time, and people will be at different stages at different moments. Our fidelity to one another

on the long journey of faith is only surpassed by our Crucified God who does not give up on us, no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt.

May this Eucharist give us confidence enough to hold on to each other in good times and bad so that we can all continue to experience his presence and have life in his name.