



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
OFFICE:	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215 Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: bellpark@cam.org.au (please note change)			
OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
PARISH SECRETARY:	Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 (email: bellpark@cam.org.au)			
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

One bright Sunday morning, everyone in the town got up early and went to the local church. Before Mass started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking about their lives, their families.

Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the devil incarnate. Soon everyone was evacuated from the Church, except for one elderly lady who sat calmly in her pew, not moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Satan was in her presence.

Now this confused Satan a bit, so he walked

up to the older lady and said, 'Don't you know who I am?' The woman replied, 'I sure do.' Satan asked, 'Aren't you afraid of me?' 'No, certainly not' said the woman. Satan was a little perturbed at this and queried, 'Why aren't you afraid of me?' The woman calmly replied, 'Because I've been married to your brother for 48 years.'

Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus' day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God's vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still hear this line from some people today.

The Syro-Phoenician woman considers

herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn't for the woman's courage and persistence, she would never have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

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We welcome and congratulate the children who are making their First Eucharist this weekend.

- 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - August 20, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one. One day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O God,
let all the nations praise you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 22:19-23
2nd Reading: Rom 11:33-36
Gospel: Mt 16:13-20



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**

McKellar Centre:

10.15am - 1st Tuesday

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...	<i>Holy Family Women's Prayer Group</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
Tues...	<i>Meditation Group</i>	<i>5.30pm</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
Wed...	<i>Prayer of the Church</i>	<i>Before 9am Mass</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>
Wed...	<i>Holy Family Women's Prayer Group</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
Thurs...	<i>Italian Prayer Group</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>St Patrick's Chapel</i>
Fri...	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	<i>After 11am Mass</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>
Fri...	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>
Sat...	<i>Rosary</i>	<i>After 9am Mass</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

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:

Pat Walsh, Richard Spalwicz, Judith Cain, Harry Loft and Tadija Dujmic

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jose & Judite Mairos, Bruno Nesci, Charlie DiDomenico, Guerrino & Francesco Jerman, Jaison Keepen, Nataly Paoli, Francesco Abate, Michael DeGoldi, Fr William Durkin, Fred Fusea and 1 year anniversary of Almor Mairos

BAPTISMS:

Amelia DiLullo, Hunter Wojdylo, Amelie Darveniza, Isaac Fanning and Van Mitri

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Margaret Howard, Gina Ciuffetelli, Elaine & Aaron Lyall, Pat Walsh, Rosemary Richens, Eileen Pollard

Roster for Next Sunday, August 27, 2017

(4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

8.00AM

F O'Neill
L Kelly
L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane
L&E Kelly
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
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

M Carson
Sr J McGonigal
C McShanag, R Stanley, D Yeatman
M Brown
T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

5.00PM

A Henderson
G Tolan
A Henderson, G Tolan
J Cowell
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 6.30pm (Winter), 7.00pm (D'light savings)
St Vincent de Paul...	Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre 7.30pm. Holy Spirit meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 5.00pm 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

St Michael's News:

ST MICHAEL'S REFUGEE FRIENDSHIP GROUP:

- ♦ **St Michael's Craft and Conversation** - A new group is being formed in conjunction with the St Michael's Refugee Friendship Group. Do you enjoy sewing, embroidery, knitting or craft? Together we can teach each other our craft and practice the art of conversation through fellowship. Bring along any project you are working on, or one to share/donate from your craft box to inspire conversation. Our trial project will run fortnightly on a Friday, 2-4pm in the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St. Dates are as follows - 25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 6 Oct, 20 Oct and 3 Nov. Please help ensure this trial is successful as more dates can be added. Contact Debbie for further information on 0409 416 945.
- ♦ **Holy Family Women's Group** would like to invite all ladies from Iraq and Syria to join us for afternoon tea and friendship at the Community Centre on **Saturday 2nd September** from 2pm to 4pm. All members of the Women's Group attending please bring a plate.

HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: Activity for Sept 4th at 6.30pm is a Games Evening - board games, cards, Bingo, etc. A fun evening to be enjoyed by one and all. See you all there!

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS - SPRING 2017 EDITION: Next week the Australian Catholic magazine will be available for free. In this edition the focus is entitled **No One is an Island - Rebuilding our Connections with Each Other.**

Liturgy at St Michael's:

Aug 20...	First Eucharist for Children in Non Catholic Schools - 9.30am Holy Family Church
Aug 27...	First Eucharist for Children in Non Catholic Schools - 9.30am Holy Family Church
Aug 29...	Class Mass - Gr Prep 9.15am Holy Family Church
Sept 1...	Class Mass - Prep/1 10.15am St Patrick's Chapel
Sept 2...	Father's Day Mass - Holy Spirit School, 6pm Holy Spirit Church
Sept 3...	Father's Day Mass - Holy Family School, 9.30am Holy Family Church
Sept 5...	Class Mass - Gr 3/4, 9.15am Holy Family Church
Sept 8...	Class Mass - Gr 3/4, 11am Holy Spirit Church
Sept 10...	Confirmation Commitment Mass, St Patrick's School - 11am Ss Peter & Paul's
Sept 15...	Class Mass - Gr 1/2, 10.15am St Patrick's Chapel



CONFIRMATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN THE NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM:

Catholic children who are in Grade 6 or above and have already celebrated their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, are welcome to proceed to Confirmation. The program involves five sessions of preparation. The cost of the program is \$70/child. Enrolment forms can be obtained from Bernadette at the Parish Office. (Phone 5278 1343; email bellpark@cam.org.au)

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| Session 1: | Wed Sept 6 - 7pm at the Parish Community Centre; parent/child in attendance |
| Session 2: | Sun Sept 10 - 9.30am at Holy Family Church; Welcome and Commitment Mass for children followed by lesson at the Parish Community Centre. |
| Session 3: | Wed Sept 13 - 7pm at the Parish Community Centre; Family based presentation on the Sacrament of Confirmation with parent/child in attendance |
| Session 4: | Sun Sept 17 - 9.30am at Holy Family Church; lesson for children during the first part of the Mass. |
| Session 5: | Wed Oct 11 - 7pm-8.30pm at Holy Spirit Church with parent/child in attendance |
| Confirmation: | Saturday October 14, 2.30pm at Holy Spirit Church |
| Please Note: | <i>Compulsory attendance of all sessions is required.</i> |

- UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS -

Friday Oct 6...



Movie Night -

Come and see the hilarious comedy starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant in *Florence Foster Jenkins*. Two sessions - 4.00pm and 7.00pm, with Finger Food Supper in between. To be held at St Mary's Hibernian Theatre.

Bookings: David Lunn 0408 378 982, Cluster Office 5278 1343, Amie O'Brien 0427 866 891
\$20 per ticket on sale from Sunday 27th August.

Tuesday Nov 7...



Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon - Holy Spirit Hall

Chicken and Glass of Champagne Lunch, soft drink and punch provided; BYO other drinks welcome. Sweeps on the Cup, raffles and lucky seat prizes.

Don't sit home - come and join us for an afternoon of entertainment and possibly a prize in the sweeps.

\$20 per ticket.

Community News:

Aug 24... SACRED HEART COLLEGE: Circle of Mercy Community Evening Rev John Dupuche will present *From the stormy waves of birth, old age, sickness and death, may I free all beings* at 7pm in the Celies Hospitality Centre. All welcome/ supper provided. Please RSVP by **Friday 18 August** to email rchivav@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au or ph 5222 0467.

CONFESSION AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION: The following is a short press release by the Archbishop:

"Confession in the Catholic Church is a spiritual encounter with God through the priest. It is a fundamental part of the freedom of religion, and it is recognised in the Law of Australia and many other countries. It must remain so here in Australia. Outside of this all offences against children must be reported to the authorities, and we are absolutely committed to doing so." (Archbishop Hart)

AN OPEN LETTER FROM CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA REGARDING THE PROPOSED VICTORIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA BILL - Monday 31 July 2017

Dear Premier,

We, the undersigned leaders of faith communities in Victoria, commend much of the work of the recent Victorian End-of-Life Choices Inquiry, which identified the need to improve the quality and accessibility of palliative care for all Victorians. However we strongly reject the proposal to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia in Victoria.

Better care - not killing

Human dignity is honoured in living life, not in taking it. Even though an act of euthanasia or assisted suicide may be motivated by a sense of compassion, true compassion motivates us to remain with those who are dying, understanding and supporting them through their time of need, rather than simply acceding to a request to be killed. It is right to seek to eliminate pain, but never right to eliminate people. Euthanasia and assisted suicide represent the abandonment of those who are in greatest need of our care and support.

Mistakes and abuse are impossible to avoid

No 'safeguards' will ever guarantee that deaths under the proposed laws will be completely voluntary. There will always be a risk of error, fraud or coercion. Victoria abolished the death penalty because we recognised that in spite of our best efforts, our justice system could never guarantee that an innocent person would not be killed by mistake or by false evidence. The same is true of health care. Mistakes happen and the vulnerable are exploited. We ask you to consider especially the risks to those whose ability to speak up for themselves is limited by fear, disability, illness or old age.

Government endorsed suicide

Endorsing suicide as a solution to pain and suffering sends a confusing message to our society, particularly to the young and the vulnerable. Suicide is a tragedy that impacts not just the person whose life is lost, but also their family and community. It would be counter-productive to legally endorse any form of suicide when our governments and community groups are working so hard to persuade others that it is not a solution to take their own life.

Undermining trust in our doctors

Once the fundamental principle to do no harm and never to kill is removed from medical practice, the integrity of our health system is compromised. It will affect the confidence that seriously ill patients nearing the end of life can have in the treatment and the quality of care that they might otherwise have expected. When euthanasia or assisted suicide is an ever present – even if unspoken – option, how long will it be before the option becomes an expectation?

We ask you and your government to think again and reject this legislation.

Signed by the Bishops of the Greek Orthodox, Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Syro-Malabar, Ukrainian and Coptic Churches of Melbourne.

Again it is the woman's quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of

intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else's life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and

our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don't know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world's table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God's children to the places of honour which everyone deserves.