



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

When couples who are going to be married in the Church come to see me for the first time I get them to fill out a brief questionnaire. The last two questions on the form ask: 'What do you like best about your partner?' and 'What do you like best about yourself?'

The first question usually presents no problems, although it can hold a few surprises and sometimes a playful punch if the right answer is not forthcoming! The second question seems to present all sorts of difficulties, especially for prospective grooms. Some of us find it hard to name the God-given qualities we value most in our character. Some couples try to pass it off, 'That's for others to say' or, 'I don't want to blow my own trumpet.' Others try to dismiss the question as being new age or trendy.

But the question does, in fact, cut to the heart of both today's second reading and Gospel. 'You must love your neighbour as you love yourself.' We cannot say in the same breath, 'I hate myself, but I am a good Christian.' For St Paul, love of self was not indulgent, but the cornerstone of our mission to love as Jesus loves us. Paul knew the difference between self-love and self-adoration. Our love of God is expressed in the healthy and appropriate esteem we have for ourselves. Put another way, we cannot love anyone else if we don't love ourselves. If we have poor self-esteem then often we need others to fill up this gap in our self-love. Most relationships cannot sustain such a demand.

The Church has to take some responsibility for this state of affairs. We used to be taught that mortification and self-denial were good Christian virtues, and indeed they can be. When properly understood they are never opportunities

for self-hatred. The sanest spiritual writers in our tradition saw these virtues as paths of closeness with God and service of our neighbour.

One such writer was St Ignatius Loyola who in the Spiritual Exercises saw that it was precisely as sinners that God loves us. He saw that one of the greatest gifts the Lord can give us is when we see our sinfulness for what it is, but are not overwhelmed by it, and that we experience the power of God's love for us who calls us to walk as children of the light.

Jesus in today's Gospel attends to this destructive side of our human nature. Jesus teaches us that those who do not love their neighbour as they should are to be treated with dignity and respect and offered every opportunity to seek forgiveness until it is clear they can no longer be a part of the Christian family.

- 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - September 10, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sir 27:30-28:7
 2nd Reading: Rom 14:7-9
 Gospel: Mt 18:21-35



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**

McKellar Centre:

10.15am - 1st Tuesday

Multicultural Centre:

1.30pm - 1st Friday;

Eilstoft House (formerly 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:

Sept 5-Oct 1: Tissera family, 8 Crofton St; **Oct 2:** Sharry family, 23 Lily St

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: Domenico Chiefari and Elizabeth Bolger

ANNIVERSARIES: Teresa Valitutti, Walter Booth, Maurice Glynn, Ron Sells, Angelo Guardiano

BAPTISMS: Luca & Jonah Barbuto and Charlie Hudson

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Margaret Howard, Gina Ciuffetelli, Elaine & Aaron Lyall, Rosemary Richens, Marita Mason, Jeanette Sheahan

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, September 17, 2017

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

8.00AM

K Saunders
B Rainbow
A Vanjek, P Ruggeri, R Culo
L Allum, P Ruggeri, R Culo
R Allum

9.30AM

A Scaddan
H Verdnik, T McMahon
C&J Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj, T Herath
E Dalton
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

M Carson
J McKenzie
G Wright,
I Cleary, L Coles, S Norris, T Stefek
P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

11.00AM

G Brown, M Kroger
L Stalio, L Sells
D Brown (even months)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

5.00PM

L Middleton
K Maddalena, A Beachell
K Maddalena
T McNair
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 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:

- ♦ **FR ROLYN APPOINTMENT:** The Archbishop has appointed Fr Rolyn as the Administrator (a similar position to a Parish Priest) of the Parish of Alexandra and Yea, which will take effect from October 11th. The appointment will be for three months. At this stage there is no replacement for Fr Rolyn. Later on there will be an opportunity to acknowledge, thank and say farewell.
- ♦ **FR ROLYN'S PILGRIMAGE:** Fr Rolyn will be leading a Marian Pilgrimage to Fatima from Sept 9-26th. We wish him and the fellow pilgrims a restful and prayer filled time.
- ♦ **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Monday Sept 18th, 7pm at St Michael's Parish Centre
- ♦ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Tuesday Sept 19th, 7pm at St Michael's Parish Centre
- ♦ **BEREAVEMENT TEAM MEETING:** Monday October 9th, 4.30pm with meal to follow

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 - 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.

Liturgy at St Michael's:

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

Sept 24... Baptisms of Primary School Aged Children - 9.30am Holy Family Church

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - September 24th.

In keeping with tradition, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference will be releasing a Social Justice Statement. The 2017/18 Statement is titled ***Everyone's Business - Developing an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy***. As is the custom, these weekend Masses will focus on the Social Justice effort.

The Official Launch of the ACBC's Statement in the Melbourne Archdiocese will take place:

Day/Time... Monday 18th September from 3pm

Venue... MacKillop Room, St Francis' Pastoral Centre, Cnr Elizabeth & Lonsdale Sts Melbourne

Guest Speaker... Susan Pascoe AM, Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits

RSVP... justice@cam.org.au or phone 9926 5727

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

The program involves five sessions of preparation.

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: *Compulsory attendance of all sessions is required*

- 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 now.

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:

Sept 14... ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES: Featuring Daniel Wells, current Collingwood and former North Melbourne star, discussing *Faith, Family and Football* with John Canavan. Venue - CQ Club, 113-123 Queen St Melbourne from 7-9am. Enquiries Michael Bohan 0439 172 465 michael.bohan@menalive.org.au

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)

SAME SEX MARRIAGE: To assist you in making a decision about the same sex marriage postal plebiscite, the Archbishop has written a Pastoral Letter which can be found online at <http://melbournecatholic.org.au/>.

ONE HEART AND ONE SOUL PILGRIMAGE: Marie Fonseca is organising her 6th Christian spiritual pilgrimage to India from February 19 to March 10, 2018. The highlight of this pilgrimage will be a 4-night meditation/yoga retreat with daily Mass led by Fr Joe Pereira (Mumbai), in Goa. The pilgrimage also includes attending a Mass at St Teresa of Kolkata's Tomb and visits to some of her homes. For further information contact Marie on 0293 440 523 or 0418 265 117.

Email info@spiceodyssey.net.au; website andre@traveltalk.com.au

WESLEY LIFEFORCE will be conducting a **Suicide Prevention Workshop** at Quality Hotel Bayside Geelong, 13-15 The Esplanade on **Thursday December 14** from 9am-4pm - there is no charge to attend the workshop. The program helps participants recognise when a person may be having thoughts of suicide and provides a simple strategy to intervene and assist them. If you are interested go to this link:

eventbrite.com.au/e/wesley-lifeforce-suicide-prevention-full-day-workshop-geelong-vic-tickets-37290873005.

The training is open to community members aged over 18 years - morning tea provided.

GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for a 2-course evening meal, an interesting guest speaker and the opportunity to meet new friends. Appetizers begin at 6.15pm on Tuesday Sept 12 for only \$33 per person. Fortunately, while we are changing our venue again, we are staying with the same great caterers, **Capri Receptions**. Their new location is **258 Pakington St Geelong West** (the location of the previous Berkeley Lodge). For more information and reservations, please phone or text **Michael Belleville** at 0431 959 584 by Friday, Sept 8.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel." (Ez 33:7)

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, how often is our generosity at the minimum level required? We do just enough or give just enough. Remember, the Lord calls us to be generous with all the gifts he has given us, to grow them and return them with increase.

The challenge and hallmark of the Christian life is the way in which we live out God's love and forgiveness. And, although the Christian community should be the last group to exclude anyone, even we have to have our boundaries. Sometimes this involves holding others to

account for what they say and do, especially if they claim to be a follower of Christ. The love and forgiveness of God does not mean that 'anything goes'. It is a love that calls for constant conversion. We can witness to it only to the degree that we have experienced it, from God, from others, and in the way we

love and forgive ourselves.

And we know when these qualities are taking deep root in us because answering a question like, 'What do you really like about yourself?' is a piece of cake!