



# St Michael's Parish

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

<b>PARISH PRIEST:</b>	Fr Gerard Keith (email: <a href="mailto:gerard.keith@cam.org.au">gerard.keith@cam.org.au</a> ) Fr Rolyn Vics			<b>Web Page Address:</b> <a href="http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org">www.pastoralclustergeelong.org</a>
<b>OFFICE:</b>	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215 Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: <a href="mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au">bellpark@cam.org.au</a> (please note change)			
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
<b>PARISH SECRETARY:</b>	Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 (email: <a href="mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au">bellpark@cam.org.au</a> )			
<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:</b>	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 film *Forrest Gump* was once described as the 'battler's triumph'. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off. Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

Forrest answers straight away, 'Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T - Today and Tomorrow.' St Peter replies,

'That's not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?' 'I think the only answer can be twelve.' 'Twelve?' St Peter asks. 'Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .'

'Hold it', interrupts St Peter, 'I see where you're going with this. Let's go to the final question.' 'Sure', says Forrest, it's Andy!' 'Andy?' exclaims an exasperated St Peter. 'OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God's first name?' 'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all', Forrest replied. 'I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.' St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, 'Run Forrest, run!'

In today's Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn't reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal. We would cynically call the afternoon workers, 'Johnny-come-latelies' and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation we would be with the complainers.

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus' Kingdom as well. We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn't how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

*Cont'd P4...*

## - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - September 24, 2017)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is near  
to all who call him.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
**Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

#### 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezek 18:25-28  
2nd Reading: Phil 2:1-11  
Gospel: Mt 21:28-32



### 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:

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

Sr Imelda Gallagher RSM, Philip Mackie and Amy Hancock

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Nicanor Manalo, William Barclay, Harry Gazenbeek, Nobby DaCosta

### **BAPTISMS:**

Oliver Johns, Natalie & Vivienne Chung, Madeline Hassess, Annie Jarrott,  
Thomas & Philippa VanProoyen

### **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, October 1, 2017**

(1st Sunday of the Month)

### **HOLY FAMILY**

Commentators  
Lectors  
Special Ministers  
Welcomers  
Projectionist

### **8.00AM**

R Allum  
V Pavlovic  
J Bartolo, 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, 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**

C O'Brien  
Sr J McGonigal  
N Neeld, P McGlinchey  
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. <b>BYO casserole &amp; drink to share.</b>
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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)**

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLOSURE:** Please note that the Church will be closed from **Monday Sept 25 until Wednesday Sept 27th** due to some minor renovation. Note also that there will no Mass at Holy Family on **Tuesday Sept 26th**.
- ◆ **OFFICE CLOSURE:** The Office will be closed on **Friday Sept 29th** - public holiday.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **BEREAVEMENT TEAM MEETING:** Monday October 9th, 4.30pm with meal to follow
- ◆ **Ss PETER & PAUL'S TOILETS:** Plans have been drawn up to upgrade the toilets and hopefully the works will commence from the latter part of October.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: October Meeting 2nd October - Daylight Savings Time is 7pm!** We will be hosting a "Partylite Show", which is candles and accessories. Christmas is coming quicker than we think. Look forward to seeing you all there. Everyone welcome!

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

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

**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



## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: Social Justice Statement 2017-18

### *Everyone's Business - Developing an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy*

"This Statement is inspired by the teachings of Jesus and by the unwavering vision of Pope Francis: that the most vulnerable and excluded are the ones who need to take first place in our hearts and in our actions as individuals and as a society. As this Statement makes clear, our Pope draws on Christ's message of love and ministry to the poor. He also draws on the wisdom of his predecessors, Popes Benedict and John Paul II, and on a tradition that stretches back to Pope Leo XIII in the 19th century.

Another source of inspiration was the major research project that culminated 25 years ago in the 1992 Statement by Australia's Catholic Bishops, *Common Wealth for the Common Good*. In that Statement the Bishops warned of growing household poverty and employment insecurity. Most importantly, they stressed that the economy is something that exists not for its own sake but for the benefit of an entire society."

*Bishop Long for the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference*



## - 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.

## A TIME FOR LISTENING: LESSONS FROM THE ROYAL COMMISSION

*A Public Conversation with Francis Sullivan, CEO Truth, Justice and Healing Council*

The Truth, Justice and Healing Council is responsible for co-ordinating the Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

All of us have been impacted by the sexual abuse scandal and this conversation with Francis will provide the opportunity to:

- ◆ Better understand the crisis and the reality of what happened
- ◆ Gain insight into the findings of the Royal Commission, and
- ◆ Hear what this means for the Church and our Parishes.

**Time:** 7-9pm

**Date:** Thursday 19 October, 2017

**Place:** Pioneer Room, St Mary's Parish, 150 Yarra St Geelong

**THIS EVENT IS FREE!** For further information ph St Michael's Parish Office on 5278 1343.

## Community News:

Oct 17... **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC PRESENTS:** *Do I Love You More than a Day?* - Vox Angelica Geelong Chamber Choir. Directed by Tom Healey, music of Schumann, Vaughan-Williams, Minchin, Forem, Whitacre and others. 3pm in the Pioneer Room, St Mary's Parish, 150 Yarra St upstairs (lift available). Tickets \$30 adult & senior, \$25 Conc. School children free, afternoon tea. Tickets available at the door or save \$5/ticket when you buy a 3-concert package for this concert and our next two concerts at [trybooking.com/QOSS](http://trybooking.com/QOSS) \$80 full/senior, \$65 Concession. Details of concerts at [www.musicatthebasilica.org.au](http://www.musicatthebasilica.org.au)

Oct 22... **FOR THE JOY OF SINGING THE CLASSICS:** The Geelong Chorale and GAMA presents Johannes Brahms - A German Requiem, conducted by Manfred Pohlenz and accompanied by Selmo Carreira. No audition is required, just come along and sing! 3-hour session 2-5pm costs \$15 and includes all music and a'noon tea.

### 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/>.

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"So the last will be first and the first last." (Mt 20:16)*

You've heard the saying "it's not where you start, but how you finish". This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our gratitude and generosity helps us live "God-centred" lives and not "self-centred" lives.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That's why those people who have

decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, *Things You Get for Free* argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it's not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can

experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let's thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.