



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)

Web Page Address:
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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

Nguyen Van Mah is one of eight sons. In 1978 his poor farming parents had to decide which one of their 12 children would be sent on a boat from Vietnam. They knew there was a great risk that they would be sending their son to his death on the South China Sea.

At 4.00 am a knock on the door of the family home came and Mah said his goodbyes. He has not seen his parents since. Mah was blindfolded and travelled in the back of a truck for eight hours. He was led through the jungle to a beach where the blindfold was removed. Mah told me that sometimes at this moment people are shot by evil traders who collect the money without any intention of dispatching a boat. That families never hear from their children is no surprise.

Mah told me, 'We were lucky, we made it off the beach.' There were 29 adults in a boat built for 10. Inadequately prepared for the two week trip, all the boat people were sick,

hungry and exposed. Thai pirates attacked their boat, executed three men and raped all the women on board. They were to bury another six people at sea who died from the effects of the journey.

On sighting land, the remaining 20 people in Mah's boat thought hope had arrived. But the Malaysian Navy, under orders to fire on all Vietnamese boats, forced it to return to international waters. Mah told me, 'At this point I almost lost my faith in God and human beings. I was going to die.'

The boat began to take water and was noticed by a Dutch trading ship which rescued them and deposited them in the Philippines. Mah migrated to Australia 12 months later and is now the local doctor in an outback community that could not get a doctor for two years.

Isaiah tells us today 'You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.' Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the love of God is fulfilled

precisely in as much as we love our neighbour.

No pressing issue in the Western World, it seems to me, invites such hysteria as does immigration. Until recently, most western countries have been good in offering hospitality to people who have chosen to leave, or have had to flee their country of birth. Given our comparative wealth this hospitality is entirely appropriate. And it is also appropriate for our countries to have a threshold number for the sake of the common good.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus does not promise us that the love of God and neighbour is going to cost us nothing. Jesus' law of love involves sacrifice for us individually and as a nation. Through the acceptance of this teaching we are committing ourselves to being our neighbour's keeper. In another part of the same Gospel, Jesus tells us that 'those to whom much has been given, much will be required.' /Cont'd P4...

- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - October 29, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10
2nd Reading: 1Thess 2:7-9,13
Gospel: Mt 23:1-12



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 (3rd & 5th Communion Service)

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:

Oct 30-Nov 1: Cudmore family, Elizabeth 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: Bernard Convery, Patti Murfitt, Terry Murphy, Don Mathieson and Fr Anthony Guelen

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria Tigani, Herman Hagebols, Francis Murphy, Ercole Iezzi

BAPTISMS: Alira Barbaro, Macie Smith, Thea Yates, Archie and Harry Wood

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Gina Ciuffetelli, Elaine & Aaron Lyall, Rosemary Richens, Marita Mason, Anita Capicchiano

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, November 5, 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
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

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting will be held on **Wed Nov 1** at 1.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** Wednesday November 15th at 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Melbourne Cup Eve - Monday 6th November... reminder Chicken and Champagne Dinner is 6.30pm with BYO drinks and prize for best dressed on the night.
- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES:** Small baskets are required for Christmas Hampers. If you can help, please leave at rear of Church in the next few weeks.

ST MICHAEL'S REFUGEE FRIENDSHIP GROUP:

St Michael's Craft and Conversation - Our next gathering is 3 Nov. Please help ensure this trial is successful as more dates can be added. Contact Debbie for further information on 0409 416 945.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ST MICHAEL'S PARISH:

Nov 25... The Anointing of the Sick and Senior Parishioners Luncheon



Liturgy at St Michael's:

BEREAVEMENT MASSES:

The weekend of November 4/5 at all Masses, the focus of our Mass will be **Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones**. As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled **"In Loving Memory Of"**, which will be placed at the foot of the Cross. These leaflets are now available if you would like to take one and fill it out in preparation for the November Masses. At the Remembrance Masses please do not put the notelets at the foot of the Cross until directed by the Priest.

LETTER FROM BISHOP MARK EDWARDS

Dear Fr Gerard and members of St Michael's Parish,

Over the last week I have been in St Michael's and have enjoyed being a part of its life.

I visited the primary schools, talked with the Bereavement Group, people involved with the Liturgy, the Legion of Mary, St Vincent de Paul, some Iraqi refugees, some PLT and Finance Committee members and met with Fr Gerard, visited some of the sick of the parish, met with the government school children preparing for confirmation, celebrated two weekday Masses and with four of the Sunday Mass communities as well as five Confirmation Masses.

I was both surprised by and pleased by the number of people involved in ministries in the Parish. St Michael's is an active parish and is making a powerful difference in the lives of people through these ministries as well as worshipping God beautifully.

The three schools are doing much good in the community and are an important part of the parish. It is a powerful way in which the parish reaches out to the next generation and to the wider community. The teachers are dedicated, caring and devoted and show empathy and compassion. The Christian meditation in each of the schools is but one example of how they are working to open their students to possibilities of encountering Jesus. I can understand why enrolments are very healthy - they are good Catholic schools and are working on being even better. The Confirmation ceremonies were lovely: personal, meaningful and real.

It is important that all of us take responsibility for the life of our community and I encourage the school and wider parish to continue to offer opportunities for the families in the school to become more involved. Building community in our area is important. Let us continue to invite those who receive to give back.

During my visitation, Fr Gerard received the news that he will be in another parish next year. He will have been in the parish almost 16 years at that time and we are deeply grateful for his exceptional pastoral care and community building. He is warm, compassionate, committed, generous, hard-working, constant, cheerful, and faith-filled. I thank him for who he is and has been for us all. Do know that the Archbishop wants the parish to flourish and is looking for the best priest possible to succeed Fr Gerard.

I also thank the pastoral team, teachers, and parishioners I met for their love for the parish and commitment to its well-being. I enjoyed my visit very much and look forward to future visits.

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI DD PhD
Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne

- UPCOMING FR MICK'S MATES EVENTS -

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 from 12noon for an afternoon of enjoyment and possibly a prize in the sweeps or raffle.

\$20 per ticket.

Bookings: David Lunn 0408 378 982, Parish Office 5278 1343, Amie O'Brien 0427 866 891 or Margaret Haines 0413 690 625.



FR MICK'S MATES RAFFLE:

Raffle Books to be distributed at Parish Masses on Saturday/Sunday October 21/22

1st & 2nd Prizes - NEW CAR. 3rd Prize - TRAVEL VOUCHER

Community News:

- Nov 2...** **ALL SOULS MASS** will be celebrated by Fr Gerard Keith at the Catholic Chapel at Eastern Cemetery (enter via McKillop St) at 5pm. All invited with light refreshments available afterwards. Seating available inside and outside the Chapel with a marquee provided if inclement weather.
- Nov 8...** **2017 RERUM NOVARUM ORATION** to be delivered by Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO - **The Legacy of Justice Higgins - Seeking a True New Start for all Job Seekers and Workers.** 7pm light refreshments for 7.30pm start, concludes 9pm in the Lecture Theatre, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St East Melbourne. RSVP Nov 3 to justice@cam.org.au or ph 9926 5727.
- Nov 11...** **REMEMBRANCE MASS:** St Joseph's College Old Collegians Association invite you to join us for our annual Remembrance Mass, paying tribute to past students, staff and benefactors of the College in the College Chapel at 10am followed by light refreshments. For catering purposes RSVP trybooking.com/SPHT
- Nov 21...** **ADVENT AWAKENINGS:** To support all those working in Catholic parishes, schools and agencies in the Geelong area, the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation Melbourne, in collaboration with the Geelong Deanery, is offering a formation day featuring Liturgical Ministry Workshops; Personal Reflection and Formation and Advent Preparation. **11.30am - 8.00pm at St Mary's Basilica** with evening session at **Centra Hotel**. Enquiries ph Catherine Moon on 0409 007 913 deanexec@pipeline.com.au. **RSVP: Tuesday 14 Nov** - register online trybooking.com/RWUX Cost \$15pp or \$50 parish rate (5 people or more). Dinner is \$35pp and at participants' own cost.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED: A Volunteer homework club under the auspices of CatholicCare and Northern Bay College, is looking for volunteers to assist in Term 4. The time required is 1½ hours weekly on Mondays from 3.15-4.45pm at Northern Bay College, 3-25 Goldsworthy Rd Corio. If you can help ph Matt Walton on 9926 5699 (Mathew.Walton@cam.org.au)

HAVE YOUR SAY

Upper House MP, James Purcell, is taking a survey of the views of voters in his Region on the proposed Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia Bill before the Victorian Parliament. I encourage you to have your say -

www.jamespurcell.com.au/purcell-seeks-community-opinions-on-assist-dying/?utm_source=&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=

The Upper House is expected to begin debate on the Bill next Tuesday, 31 October. Although the Bill passed the Lower House last week the Upper House, as the House of Review, now has the opportunity to give considered attention to it.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." (Mt 22:37)

Do you put other 'gods' before God? Is your love of money, power, status or some personal possession greater than your love for God? Do you really recognize that everything you have and everything you are is a gift from God? The good news - it's not too late to put God first in your life in all things.

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/>.

Sadly, many of us want the good life for ourselves, while doing very little to help other countries become more liveable, and then we can reject people who want to share in the blessings we have worked for and inherited.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus being forced to flee Israel for Egypt as refugees. If the Holy Family were coming our way these days, they might be sent back to King Herod. May this Eucharist see in us a change of heart that enables our faith to act justly toward all

people everywhere. May our goodness and hospitality mirror on earth the welcome we hope to enjoy from Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the kingdom which is promised to all, irrespective of where any of us has been born.