



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

The Roman Emperor Constantine was baptised in 337. He put it off for years. In the early Church Christians could only confess their sins once in their lives, so Constantine remained a catechumen until he was nearing the end. When he thought his death was imminent, and that he could probably sin no more, he asked for baptism, received Holy Communion and later confessed his sins. It was a watershed moment for the Church.

In 313 Constantine declared that Christianity was to be the new state religion. No one could hold any other belief. It was meant to unify the Empire as trade, law, taxation and Roman culture had done. I think we should admit that this move has been a mixed blessing for the Church ever since.

On the positive side of the ledger it finally

sealed the end of the persecution of the earliest Christians. The blood of the martyrs had been so eloquent that their witness caused even a few emperors to ask what sort of love would see so many followers be prepared to die for their beliefs. It also saw the Church become a significant player in shaping the values of society, especially in the West. There is no question that Christianity moderated, cultivated and humanised some of the worst Roman excesses.

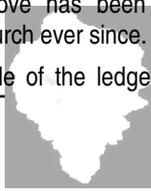
On the cost side, the Church became very powerful very quickly. Bishops started to wear the purple robes of the senators. Churches took on the shape of the Roman basilicas, while the government of the Church mirrored that of the Empire. Our liturgy imported all sorts of practices that were popular in the Roman temples. Tragically, for the next few hundred years,

conversions were demanded at the end of a sword. No religious dissent or pluralism was tolerated. It's in this context that Islam arises against Imperial Christianity in the 6th Century.

It cannot surprise us that after Constantine's conversion the image of Christ the King becomes one of the most popular ones used in religious art. Up to this time the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was the most represented. After 313, however, Jesus is dressed in royal robes, with a crown, sceptre and orb. Mary is often presented in similar dress and starts to be called the Queen of Heaven.

The problem with all this is not that imperial language was now being used in reference to Jesus. He described himself as a King.

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WE HAVE WHITE SMOKE!!!!

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe -

(Year A/1 - November 26, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power forever and ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Is 63:16-17,64:1,3-8
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:3-9
Gospel: Mk 13:33-37



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:

Nov 26: O'Neill family, 11 Derby Rd; **Nov 27-Dec 10:** Cawthray family, 66 Drysdale Ave.

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: Ray Fusea and Kevin Plunkett

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Bohan, Guiseppa Mileto, Francesca Genua, Giuseppe & Catrina Rotiroti

BAPTISMS: Tessa Kelson and John Mifsud

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Elaine & Aaron Lyall, Marita Mason, Anita Capicchiano, Brian Hennessey, Sr Genevieve Fitzpatrick

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, December 3, 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
Co-Ordinator

5.00PM

C O'Brien
Sr J McGonigal
N Neeld, P McGlinchey
D Whelan
M Gifford, 5229 1656

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:

WHITE SMOKE!!

The Archbishop has appointed Fr Prakash Cutinha as the Parish Priest of St Michael's. Bernadette and I have met him and our first impression is that he is a warm, open type of person who should fit in very well. I have spoken to a few people who know of his work as Parish Priest at Northcote and they speak very favourably of him. He will start on January 23rd, 2018.

I would envisage that his leadership style will be one of continuity rather than dramatic change and I know you will extend to him a very warm Geelong welcome.

FER GERARD'S FAREWELL MASS: December 17th, 9.30am at Holy Family Church
There will be a morning tea afterwards and sign up boards are available at the back of all Churches to assist with catering.

On that weekend there will be the normal 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's and 6pm at Holy Spirit, but there will be NO 8am Mass at Holy Family or 11am Mass at Holy Spirit.

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for all contributors (including credit card etc) in the foyer today. They are in order, alphabetically by **STREET**. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start giving. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact Bernadette at the Parish Office, or email: bellpark@cam.org.au Thankyou for all your continuing regular support.
- ◆ **DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS:** This week the invitations to all known Catholics to our Christmas Second Rite Reconciliation and Christmas Masses, will be available for collection. Again we call on you, if you can, to assist with this distribution. The invitations are in alphabetical order according to streets. Thanksgiving Envelopes have been integrated into this distribution.
- ◆ **LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the new **Break Open the Word** is now in the Sacristy where you are rostered. Please collect it as soon as you can. Many thanks for your continued support.
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** St Vincent de Paul Society are selling Columban Calendars for \$9 available to purchase from the Piety Stall in all three Churches until **December 17**. Also available are Christmas cards for \$7 a set of eight. Proceeds are used to assist those who are in need.
- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES:** Small baskets are required for Christmas Hampers. If you can help, please leave at rear of Church.
- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES ROTARY RAFFLE:** Thankyou for the 97 books returned. **53 required back by this Sunday, Nov 26th.**
- ◆ **CWL:** The Manifold branch Christmas break up lunch will be held **12noon Wednesday December 6** at Bell Park Bistro, Calvert St Hamlyn Hts. All the ladies who help with our funeral catering are invited to attend. Everyone attending is asked to bring a wrapped gift \$5 to \$7 in value for our Kris Kringle. For transport, please ph Tricia 0431 512 354 or Noella 5278 2142.
- ◆ **MANIFOLD CONFERENCE OF SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** The 2nd Collection during the Masses of **2/3 December** will go towards the annual Christmas Appeal which provides very important funds for those who are experiencing disadvantage and poverty in our local community. Your previous support has enabled us to provide generous and effective support for these people.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Reminder Christmas Dinner **Monday 4th December** at Great Western Hotel, 6.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** The Summer Edition of Australian Catholics is available for free today and include articles on **Freedom and Faith; Christmas in the Middle East; St Ignatius' Exercises** and **Combating Slavery**. Pick one up today!





HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

All proceeds to Fr Micks Mates



To be held after the following Masses:

Sunday 3rd Dec...	Holy Spirit 11am
Saturday 9th Dec...	Ss Peter & Paul's 5pm
Sunday 10th Dec...	Ss Peter & Paul's 11am
Sunday 17th Dec...	Holy Family 8am and 9.30am

If you wish to order a Christmas Hamper please ph Betty on 5229 4530 or Margaret on 5229 1280.

Liturgy at St Michael's:

Nov 30...	Mass at St John of God Hospital - 11.30am
Dec 1...	Mass of Healing at Multicultural Centre - 1.30pm
Dec 4...	Mass of Anointing at Blakiston Lodge, McKellar Centre - 9.30am
Dec 5...	Class Mass - Holy Family Gr 1/2 9.15am
"	End of Year Mass - Year 9 Campus, Mary's Chapel Westcourt St Joseph's College, 11.30am
Dec 6...	End of Year Mass - Years 7-10 Sacred Heart College, 11am
Dec 7...	End of Year Mass - Years 7-10 Clonard College, 9.15am - Please Note there will be NO normal Thursday morning Mass at Holy Family.

ADVANCE NOTICE - CHRISTMAS DATES

Dec 24...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	5.00pm	Holy Family (focus on the children)
	7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	8.00pm	Holy Spirit

Dec 25...	9.00am	Holy Spirit
	9.30am	Holy Family

Second Rite Reconciliation:

Dec 19...	5.00pm	Holy Spirit
Dec 20...	7.30pm	Holy Family

Christmas Masses in Croatian:

Dec 24...	9.00pm	Holy Family
Dec 25...	11.30am	Holy Family



Community News:

Nov 30...	CATHOLIC HIV/AIDS MINISTRY: We Remember people who have died from AIDS, We Celebrate advances in treatment of HIV, We Hope For zero discrimination, zero new infections, zero AIDS related deaths. VIGIL MASS at St Francis Church, Cnr Elizabeth and Lonsdale St Melbourne, 5.30pm.
Dec 1...	KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS: End of Year Breakup BBQ and Drinks - 6.30pm at the home of Alan and Louise Fossey, cost \$10/family - bring a salad or a sweet. Open invitation to members, family and friends. Ph Joe Lambert on 5229 8442 to confirm attendance.

Catholic Vocations:

During Mass this weekend and in our prayers this week, let us pray for those who are grieving the recent loss of a spouse. May the comfort of the Good Shepherd be with them and may the dead come to their eternal reward. Let us also pray for those preparing for marriage and for faithful and loving vocations to the married life from our parish.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"Whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

The problem comes in how Christianity starts to forget that Jesus also pointed out that his kingdom was 'not of this world' and that his courtiers could be recognised by how they feed the hungry, water the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit prisoners. Jesus' reign, and his courtiers,

are of an altogether different order to that usually prized in worldly kingdoms.

That's why today's feast is so important. On the last day of the Church's year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true allegiance to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but the

quiet revolutionary work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live.

To the degree that we do this we are co-heirs to the Kingdom Jesus lived, died and was raised for, and we are witnesses to the real meaning of Christ's reign in our lives.