



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

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might even sit by the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had

perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are

about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news.

/Cont'd...

- First Sunday of Advent -

(Year B/2 - December 3, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Is 40:1-5,9-11
2nd Reading: 2Pet 3:8-14
Gospel: Mk 1:1-8



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;

Elstoft 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... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Tues... Meditation Group

5.30pm

Holy Family Community Centre

Wed... Prayer of the Church

Before 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Wed... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Thurs... Italian Prayer Group

10.00am

St Patrick's Chapel

Fri... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After 11am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Fri... Divine Mercy

3.00pm

Holy Spirit Church

Sat... Rosary

After 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

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:

Sr Genevieve Fitzpatrick RSM (Sister of Fr Mick), Stjepan Pausak, Barbara Kenny and Robert Andrews

ANNIVERSARIES:

Milan Stante, Joan Jess, Paul Han, Joze Matjasic

BAPTISMS:

Winter & Logan Johnston, Evie-Willow Ford, Zimi Daffy and Willow Fedke

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Elaine & Aaron Lyall, Marita Mason, Anita Capicchiano, Brian Hennessy, Frank Bohan

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 10, 2017

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

M Howard

F O'Neill

R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio

C Marcantonio,

R Allum

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Baird, M Perera,

V Resciniti, E Glynn

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

J Ryan

R O'Neill, E Ryan, L Vannata

J Lynch

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

5.00PM

M Bohan

P Power

P McGlinchey

D Dougherty

B Middleton

M Gifford, 5229 1656

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin

E Strzelecki, L Fossey

L Fossey

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 7pm. 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:

WELCOME FR PRAKASH:

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.

FR 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.

- ◆ **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 distribution. Again we call on you, if you can, to assist with this distribution. The invitations are in order alphabetically according to STREETS.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** To the organisers and helpers who set up, catered and cleaned up for the Anointing of the Sick and Seniors Luncheon at Holy Family on Nov 25th. This year it was again an enjoyable, friendly and hospitable occasion for all. A great outreach, especially for those who are housebound.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.



Community News:

HKUD LADO GEELONG: Please join HKUD Lado Geelong for our End of Year 2017 Functions to round out a lovely 45th Anniversary Year. Our first is **Nikolinska (St Nikolas Dance) Evening** - 6pm Saturday 2nd December at the Croatian Community Centre, and the second is the **10th Annual Christmas Concert** on Sunday 17th Dec at St Mary's Basilica Geelong. All welcome!

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 6.15pm on **Tuesday Dec 12** for only \$33/person at **Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St Geelong West**. Since Christmas is almost here we will be entertained by Paul Kerry, one-man jazz musician and a Christmas raffle. More information/reservations please phone or text **Michael Belleveille at 0431 959 584** by **Friday Dec 8**, the deadline for catering purposes.



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:

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.
Dec 13...	End of Year Mass and Graduation - Holy Family School 7pm at Holy Family Church
Dec 14...	End of Year Mass - St Patrick's School, 10.30am at Clonard College
"	Sacred Heart Staff Mass - Sacred Heart College, 2.30pm
Dec 15...	End of Year Mass - Holy Spirit School, 11am at Holy Spirit Church

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

MASSSES AFTER CHRISTMAS AND THROUGHOUT JANUARY:

Over post Christmas to the end of January there will be a rationalisation of the weekend and weekday Masses. The specific timetable will be outlined in the coming weeks. Given that St Michael's Parish is, for the foreseeable future, a one-priest parish, the number of Masses offered need to be reconsidered. (Fr Gerard)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - First Sunday of Advent

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." (Mk 13:33)

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend.

This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch out tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!