



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:
www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

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

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and

ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

/Cont'd...

- Second Sunday of Advent -

(Year B/2 - December 10, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading:	Is 61:1-2,10-11
2nd Reading:	1Thess 5:16-24
Gospel:	Jn 1:6-8,19-28



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...	<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:

Dec 11 to 8 January: Moore family, 39 Willana 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:

Hilary Thornton and Antonio Cafaro

ANNIVERSARIES:

Gerard Gillett, John Walsh, Chris (Max) Lunn and one month since death of Giovanna Ricciardi

BAPTISMS:

Evelyn Hall, Felix King, Zara Piera, Harry Sutton and Iggy VanDenHam

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 17, 2017

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

9.30AM

Fr Gerard's Farewell Mass

HOLY SPIRIT:

6.00PM

Commentators

M Carson

Lectors

Special Ministers

G Wright,

Welcomers

I Cleary, L Coles, S Norris, T Stefek

Projectionist

P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

5.00PM

Commentators

L Middleton

Lectors

K Maddalena, A Beachell

Special Ministers

K Maddalena

Welcomers

T McNair

Projectionist

D Whelan

Co-Ordinator

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 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.

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.

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL JESSE TREE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

Today we ask you to take a ticket out of our Basket Hand Out as we are looking for festive type foods to make Christmas Hampers (approx 75) for the less fortunate in the Community of Holy Family and Ashby parishes.

Community News:

- Dec 17...** **HKUD LADO GEELONG:** Please join HKUD Lado Geelong for **10th Annual Christmas Concert** on Sunday 17th Dec at St Mary's Basilica Geelong. All welcome!
- Dec 15...** **CHRISTMAS NOEL:** Windfire Choir and Orchestra with the Geelong Youth Choir and soloists Lee Abrahamsen, Timothy Reynolds and Manfred Pohlenz. 8pm at St Mary's Basilica, tickets \$35/\$30 from trybooking.com.QOSS or at the door. Children and school students free. More info ph 0447 238 432 or email music.basilica@bigpond.com
- Dec 28...** **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CELEBRATION PARTY:** Socio-Cultural Syriac Inc Association invites you to our fun-filled night of drinks, cultural dancing and laughter. 6.30pm-11pm at 1-9 Cox Rd Norlane. Ticket due Dec 23, adults \$35, 4-16 years \$20, 3 years and under free. Contact Mukhles 0457 686 322 or Milad 0499 173 060 for tickets/more details.



HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

All proceeds to Fr Micks Mates



To be held after the following Masses:

Saturday 9th Dec...	Ss Peter & Paul's 5pm
Sunday 10th Dec...	Ss Peter & Paul's 11am
Sunday 17th Dec...	Holy Family 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 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
 Dec 20... End of Year Mass - for all staff at the three Parish Primary Schools, 2.30pm at Holy Family Church

On Saturday Dec 23, there will be the 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's and 6pm Mass at Holy Spirit, and on Sunday December 24, there will be the 8am Mass. NB: There will be NO 9.30am Mass at Holy Family or 11am Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's.

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



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)

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO weekday Masses on Tues Dec 26 , Wed 27, Thurs 28 and Fri 29.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Mk 1:3)

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that - it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked

everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer.

It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.