



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)

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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

Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent *Laudete* Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way *Gaudete* Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel John the Baptist is the model of humility,

opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied,

waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did.

In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

/Cont'd...

- Third Sunday of Advent -

(Year B/2 - December 17, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
2nd Reading: Rom 16:25-27
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38



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:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Saturday

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... 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:

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: Mary Clohesy

ANNIVERSARIES: Jim Vivian, John & Irene O'Neill, Ann Whitney, Sofia Selthafner, Almor Mairos, Josè Medeiros, Madalena Ferraz, Ljubica Mikin, Boris, Eva & Andrew Uruda, Manual Ramos & Maria Jesus

BAPTISMS: Harriet Doak

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 24, 2017

(4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators

F O'Neill

Lectors

L Kelly

Special Ministers

L Sells, E Kelly

Welcomers

L&E Kelly

Projectionist

R Allum

HOLY SPIRIT:

6.00PM

Commentators

M Carson

Lectors

Sr J McGonigal

Special Ministers

C McShanag, R Stanley, D Yeatman

Welcomers

M Brown

Projectionist

T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

5.00PM

Commentators

A Henderson

Lectors

G Tolan

Special Ministers

A Henderson, G Tolan

Welcomers

J Cowell

Projectionist

B Middleton

Co-Ordinator

M Gifford, 5229 1656

St Michael's News:

CHANGE TO WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE

2018 will be a new beginning for the Parish of St Michael's.

Over the years one of the objectives has been to implement processes and rationalisation of services so that the parish could be led and administered by one Parish Priest alone. This objective has largely been achieved with one notable exception - the number of weekend Masses.

My hope was that an Assistant Priest or a retired Priest would be appointed to St Michael's, so that we could continue to provide the weekend Mass timetable to which you have become accustomed. The realisation of this hope is unlikely.

Since Fr Rolyn has been appointed elsewhere, I have maintained the five Masses but this is not realistic, sustainable and, in fact, is contrary to Canon Law which only allows a Priest to say five Masses on a weekend with the Archbishop's permission and in exceptional circumstances.

St Michael's, being a one Priest parish, is no longer exceptional but will become the new normal, hence there is a need to rationalise the weekend Masses.

After consultation with the Parish Leadership Team, the Weekend Mass Timetable will be as follows:

Saturday Evening 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West
Sunday morning 8am Holy Family, Bell Park
9.30am Holy Family, Bell Park
11am Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts

This new timetable will take effect from the weekend of **30th/31st December, 2017.**

Many thanks in anticipation of your understanding - Fr Gerard



Liturgy at St Michael's:

Dec 20... End of Year Mass - for all staff at the three Parish Primary Schools, 2.30pm at Holy Family Church

Dec 22... No Divine Mercy Chaplet due to a wedding at Holy Spirit Church

MASS TIMETABLE:

Sat Dec 23... 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's
6pm Holy Spirit

Sun Dec 24... 8am Holy Family

NB: There will be NO 9.30am Mass at Holy Family or 11am Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's

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 (Christmas Carols from 9.15am) |

Second Rite Reconciliation:

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

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



NEW YEARS DAY MASS:

Mon Jan 1... 10am Mass at Holy Spirit

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO weekday Masses on Tuesday Jan 2, Wed Jan 3, Thurs Jan 4, Fri Jan 5 and Sat Jan 6.



- ◆ **BULLETIN:** The Bulletin will be having a holiday from Dec 31 through until January 21 2018. **Please note - for Anniversaries during this time please advise the Office before Christmas and those names will be incorporated into our Prayers of the Faithful.**
- ◆ **HOME PRODUCE MARKET:** To be held after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family this Sunday.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** The recent Christmas Appeal for the Holy Spirit, Manifold Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society raised \$1,420.80. The Catholic Women's League donated \$250 and Holy Spirit School was also very active in donating a substantial amount of food and a sum of \$320.80. The collection on 2nd/3rd December raised \$851. Thankyou, one and all.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CELEBRATION PARTY - Dec 28:** 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.



CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS 2017



HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Projectionist

5.00pm

L Kelly

E Kelly, L Sells, P Ruggeri,
D Horoba, ****

C Resciniti

9.30AM

P Gizycki

C Taylor, T McMahon

C Taylor, M Horoba, D Horoba,

P Carmody

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Projectionist

8.00PM

T McShanag

M Kroger

D Dougherty, C McShanag,
V Trinder, M Kroger

D Brown

9.00AM

F Kearney

J O'Neill

R O'Neill, F Kearney, ****

L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S: 5.00PM

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Projectionist

A Henderson

K Maddalena

P McGlinchey, A Henderson,
K Maddalena, N Neeld

B Middleton

7.00PM

C O'Brien

M Gifford

C O'Brien, M Gifford, R Allum,

J Lynch



**** Please contact the Office if you can help.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Third Sunday of Advent

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1Thess 5:16-18)*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; he will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

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.