



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: 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

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better computer programmer.

Eventually they agree to hold a contest with God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours; lines of code streaming up the screen. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes and takes out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, 'I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out.' 'Very well, then,' says God, 'let us see if Jesus fared any better.' Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an

angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, 'But how? I lost everything, how can Jesus' program be intact?' God chuckles and says, 'Ah - because Jesus saves.'

On this final Sunday of Advent the Church moves our gaze to the Annunciation. The whole scene hinges around one word: 'Yes.' Mary's fiat sets in motion the entire Christian drama. In his film *Jesus of Nazareth* Franco Zeffirelli pictures the Annunciation this way: Mary is asleep at night when a gust of wind opens a high window. Afraid at all the commotion Mary gets up and starts to pray. As she prays, we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window to the moonlit sky and simply says, 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.

In recent years successive popes have reminded us that the best devotion to Mary

is one that leads us to do what she did: say 'yes' to Jesus. Mary is not a stop on our journey of faith; she is a guidepost that always sends us on to Christ. Mary does not save us, for we believe she needed to be saved by Christ as well. That's why she could say yes in the first place. Mary recognised the gift and the giver and became the bearer of God for the world.

In this final week of Advent let's keep reminding ourselves of this simple but life-changing fact: Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from death. Jesus saves us from living lives devoid of purpose and meaning and Jesus saves us from ourselves.

We don't save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation by good works or prayers or penance. And, as difficult as it is to hear, we cannot save anyone else. That includes our children, spouse, grandchildren, parents or friends. /Cont'd...



Have a Holy, Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year



- Fourth Sunday of Advent -

(Year B/2 - December 24, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: Gen 15:1-6,21:1-3
2nd Reading: Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19
Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



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;

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:

Dec 11 to Jan 8: Moore family, 39 Willana Ave; **Jan 9-22:** Bird family, 171 Victoria St;

Jan 23-Feb 5: DeLuca family, 44 Fairy St.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Mary Moloney and Doreen Singm

ANNIVERSARIES: Ray Gurrie, Joseph, Catherine & Felix Capicchiano, Charles & Marjorie McShanag, Zlatko Velcek, Maria Pino, Max King, Peter Bahl, Gabrielle Shanahan and one year anniversary of Silvana Bruschi

BAPTISMS: -

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Elaine & Aaron Lyall, Marita Mason, Anita Capicchiano, Brian Hennessy, Frank Bohan, Eric Lynch

Please note: After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list. Please phone the office on 5278 1343.

Roster for December 30/31, 2017

(5th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

5.00PM

Commentators

E Strzelecki

Lectors

M Martin

Special Ministers

E Strzelecki, L Fossey

Welcomers

L Fossey

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators

M Howard

Lectors

F O'Neill

Special Ministers

R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio

Welcomers

C Marcantonio,

Projectionist

R Allum

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Baird, M Perera,

V Resciniti, E Glynn

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

11.00AM

Commentators

Lectors

G Brown, M Kroger

Special Ministers

L Fossey, L Stalio, L Sells

Welcomers

L Fossey

Projectionist

D Brown (even months)

Liturgy at St Michael's:

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



MASS TIMETABLE:

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



WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE FROM DECEMBER 26 UNTIL JANUARY 19 2018:

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

- ◆ **There will be NO weekday Masses on Tuesday Jan 2, Wed Jan 3, Thurs Jan 4, Fri Jan 5 and Sat Jan 6.**
- ◆ **From Monday Jan 8 through to Friday Jan 12 the weekday Masses are still to be organised. Notification of the timetable will be given at the prior weekend Masses.**
- ◆ **From January 15 through to January 20 2018, I will be away on Retreat and hence there will be NO weekday Masses during that week.**

The weekend of 20/21 January will be the last weekend Masses for Fr Gerard at St Michael's as Parish Priest.

THANKYOU!

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who were involved in my Farewell last weekend. Special thanks to Bernadette, David Lunn and Lane Kelly, and all the helpers who set up and cleaned up afterwards for the morning tea. The occasion was a great opportunity for so many people to share the gift of warm Geelong hospitality. Also special thanks to the combined choir, lectors etc who made the Eucharistic celebration such a memorable occasion. The gift of the framed photos of the three Churches will have a prominent place in my new office in Kings Park. Thanks to Phil Nitchie (photographer) and Paul Kelly who organised the present.

Fr Mick often said that we should make the most of such events because it is an opportunity for the community to come together. This certainly was one such occasion and I am most grateful and appreciative of the kindness and the generosity of so many in so many different ways.

(Fr Gerard)

PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP:

This year St Michael's Parish raised over \$25,000. The funds came from the three parish primary schools, the raffle, the profits from the concerts organised by Fr Rolyn and your donations to my farewell present. \$5,000 has been given to the Columbans to support the Malate Parish's Health Clinic and Social Welfare Outreach. \$20,000 will be given to Sr Kate for the Kuya Centre and she has recommended that the funds be used to establish a Scholarship for Kuya boys to go to University.

- ◆ **OFFICE HOURS:** Parish Office will be closed for the Public Holidays - Dec 25/26 and Jan 1 and opened intermittently from Dec 27 through to Jan 9 and opens for normal office hours from Wednesday 10th January 2018. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message on answering machine.
- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** St Vincent de Paul wish to thank the parishioners for their kind donation of goods for the Christmas hampers. We provided 86 hampers to people in need. Thanks to Fr Gerard and Bernadette for your continued support.
- ◆ **RELAY FOR LIFE RAFFLE:** The winners of this year's raffle - 1st Prize Colleen Nielson, 2nd Noella Duggan and 3rd Heather Gurrrie. Thanks for all the support. \$550 was raised.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **SAMARITAN HOUSE GEELONG:** The Salvation Army, in partnership with the Samaritan House Community Board, are seeking volunteers to SLEEP OVERNIGHT at the house on a 7-days per week monthly roster basis. Hours from 5.30pm to 7.30am in a comfortable safe room. Supervisor Manager Jeremy Hassett. SHC have been successful in providing a friendly family type of environment for men experiencing homelessness. Please contact Volunteer Manager Aubrey Anderson on 5223 9200 for more information or email aubrey.anderson@salvationarmy.org
- ◆ **LAZARUS COMMUNITY CENTRE:** The Salvation Army, in partnership with the Lazarus Community Centre, are seeking DAYTIME VOLUNTEERS on a roster basis at 202 Myers St, next to the Old Gaol. Hours 9am to 4.30pm or 9am to 1pm or 12pm to 4.30pm. Tasks may include cooking, cleaning or assisting volunteers to access facilities. Again, please contact Aubrey Anderson if you can help - see above notice for contact 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:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

5.00PM

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



Our prayers, good works and faith are the responses we make to the salvation of Christ we claim here and now. And how we live is the way by which those we love will find the gift of God's salvation for

themselves.

In the midst of this frantic final week before Christmas when so many other things can distract us from what this grace-filled feast is really all about, let's take a moment to join

Mary in accepting into our lives and hearts the greatest of all gifts – our undeserved salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord.