



# 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 Prakash Cutinha

## Web Page Address:

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## OFFICE:

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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](mailto: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

**H**ave you ever noticed that Jesus begins and ends his public ministry in the wilderness? These deserts are the geographical bookends of the greatest story ever told. In today's Gospel we have Jesus in the desert for forty days. Much later, when condemned to death, Jesus is led out of the city and crucified at Golgotha, another dry and desolate location. In both places Jesus is tempted. In Mark we are never told what Satan's temptations in the desert were about. Luke and Matthew fill in those details. On the cross, however, Mark tells us that the crowd tempts Jesus to work a miracle, come down from the cross and save himself. In the first desert Jesus is ministered to by the angels and emerges to proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand. In the later desert Jesus is ministered to by his women disciples and is put to death as a consequence for the way he lived out the Kingdom he proclaimed.

It's clear from all the Gospels that the desert and the temptations stayed with Jesus throughout his life. What a comfort this is to us. Many of us do not need to go out and find a physical desert to know its claim on our lives. Temptations do not know geographical limitations. Indeed, the greater the number of options, the more temptations we have to take a destructive path.

When we look at how the desert is used in the Bible, mythology, art, literature and the cinema two competing images emerge. The first is that the desert can be a place of loss and ruin where some great heroes have gone and not returned. In another equally venerable tradition journeys to the desert, while filled with a mixture of pleasure and pain, are abundant with revelation, transformation and recreation.

These two descriptions do not have to be contradictory. As we find in Jesus' example, we do not have to give in to the temptation that the desert is only about loss, but we

need to find a path there to negotiate a way out of it so that we can emerge recreated, the richer for the experience.

It's important to remember in our own particular deserts that temptation is not sin. To be tempted by something is not the same as doing it. Temptations are the allures that make destructive choices look good. In one sense, the bad news is that we know from the lives of the saints that the closer we get to God, the more temptations increase. The good news is that we can learn how to deal with them.

Usually, temptations have a context and a history. They can come when we are feeling most deserted and vulnerable and they normally strike us at the most susceptible points in our character. To deal with them we need to be aware of their pattern, the way they con us into believing that the destructive behaviour is 'not that bad', will be 'just this once', or 'for the last time'. /Cont'd P4...

## - First Sunday of Lent -

(Year B/2 - February 18, 2018)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

#### 2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18  
2nd Reading: Rom 8:31-34  
Gospel: Mk 9:2-10



### 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 Tuesday, (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 12.30pm 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:

**Feb 12-26...** Duggan family, 1/8 Elsie St.

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:** Nina Croce and Thomas "David" Grant

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Domenico Mileto, Rosa, Antoinetta & Valentina Salvatore, Elsie Gillett, John Vanstan, Robert Neeld

**BAPTISMS:** Ryan Devlan, Lenny Pausak, Sadie Selwood and Morrison Stanfield

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Aaron Lyall, Marita Mason, Anita Capicchiano, 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 Next Sunday

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### 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

### HOLY FAMILY

#### 8.00AM

Commentators

F O'Neill

Lectors

L Kelly

Special Ministers

L Sells, E Kelly

Welcomers

L&E Kelly

Projectionist

R Allum

#### 9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Baird, P Gizycki

D Lunn, P McBride, C Simpson, V Resciniti

A Sare, A/I Dugandzic

C Resciniti

### HOLY SPIRIT:

#### 11AM

Commentators

M Burn

Lectors

J Fraatz

Special Ministers

D Dougherty, L Fossey

Welcomers

D Dougherty

Projectionist

A Zarb

## Australia might be losing its religion but the world isn't

**W**ithin the last 50 years, the share of Australians without a religious affiliation has gone from one in 100 to about one in three. That's a momentous social change. The spike in people opting for 'no religion' was one of the big stories to come out of the 2016 census results. More than 7 million Australians said they have no religious affiliation, a 46 per cent increase on the previous census in 2011.

Given that trend, you might expect the share of the world's population with no religion is also on the rise. But the experience of Western, Christian-majority countries is not necessarily the global experience.

Most Americans believe the share of people with no religion will increase between now and 2050 (62% according to one poll). My guess is the share in Australians making that assumption would be even higher. But Pew Research shows the long term global reality is quite different to what's going on in Australia and other Western nations. In the 1960s researchers believed that religion might be on its way to extinction. But that hasn't happened.

Pew's report says about one in six of the world's people now have no religious affiliation. But that's forecast to shrink to just one in eight of the global population by 2060. Why? Because those who opt for 'no religion' on their census forms are heavily concentrated in places with aging populations and low fertility, such as China, Japan, Europe, North America and Australia. The majority of the World's 'religiously unaffiliated' are in China (61 per cent) and Japan.

By contrast, populations in places with many religious adherents – mostly developing countries where birth rates are high and infant mortality rates have been falling – are likely to grow strongly. Between 2015 and 2020, the total fertility rate for women with no religion is projected to be 1.6 children per woman while the rate among women with a religious affiliation is forecast to be 2.5 children per women. Much of the worldwide growth of Islam and Christianity, for example, is expected to take place in sub-Saharan Africa.

The trend for people to switch to 'no religion' in Western nations like Australia is likely to continue, mostly at the expense of traditional Christian denominations. But that won't be nearly enough to offset population growth in places where people are still happy to be affiliated with a religious faith. Pew estimates the world's **no religion** ranks will grow by a paltry 3 per cent between now and 2060. That compares with projected growth of 70 per cent for Muslims, 34 per cent for Christians and 27 per cent for Hindus (the global population is forecast to grow by 32 per cent in that period). As a result, the share of the world's population identifying with a religion is predicted to rise from 84 per cent to 87 per cent between now and 2060.

- Matt Wade, *The Age*, August 12<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**That means that Western intellectuals will need to be less dismissive of taking account of religion as a factor in formulating social policy and conducting international relations.**

## Liturgy at St Michael's:

### **BAPTISM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:**

An invitation is being extended to families who have primary school aged children and who are not yet baptised. The program is that there will be a parent/child session on **Wednesday March 14, 7pm at the Parish Office**. The child thereafter will be welcomed into the parish community with the baptism taking place later, perhaps at Easter. Please contact Bernadette at the Office on 5278 1343 or email [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

## Lent at St Michael's:

### **SURRENDER LENTEN PROGRAM 2018:**

This year there is an invitation to those who would like to be involved in small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. **The program will commence this Wednesday, February 21, 7pm in the Parish Community Centre.**



### **PROJECT COMPASSION First Week of Lent**



In Nepal, a Caritas Australia supported program has helped Janaki turn her life of poverty and disadvantage around. She is now running her own successful sewing business and has become a role model in her community.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and empower vulnerable young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.**

**A Just Future starts with your support!** You can donate through Project Compassion boxes/envelopes, visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phone 1800 024 413.

# St Michael's News:

## Movie Night

**When...** Wednesday March 7th  
**Sessions...** Two sessions, 4pm and 7pm with Finger food at 6.15pm  
**Where...** Lifestyle Village, Barton St Bell Park.  
**Cost...** \$20 per ticket, 28 seats available at each session.



Please book early by contacting: Margaret Haines 0413 690 625, Desma Dougherty 5244 5459, Amie O'Brian 0427 866 891.  
*All proceeds to Cancer Council through Fr Mick's Mates*

- ♦ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS:** Luncheon on **Wednesday March 7, 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall**, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ♦ **ST MICHAEL'S CRAFT CONVERSATION FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** You are all welcome to attend the Craft Conversation Friendship Group. There are no joining or fees involved, only your time and commitment to come along to talk, practice the gentle art of conversation and share your craft/hobby with the group. We are a group of like minded women who want friendship, peace and harmony. I do hope you can join us. Contact Debbie on 0409 416 945 for further details. Dates are Feb 23, Mar 9, Mar 23, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15 and June 29; further dates will be added based on attendance. Fortnightly on Fridays 2-4pm (excluding public holidays and school holiday periods) in the Parish Community Centre.

## Community News:

- Feb 25...** **SACRED HEART PARISH, YEA - ST PAT'S RACES:** Sacred Heart Parish Yea is one of the smallest parishes in the Diocese with the St Pat's Races their main fundraising activity. A day at the St Pat's Races in Yea offers a family friendly day at the picnic races in the country, with a wide range of catering options, entertainment and kids activities. The beautiful Yea Racecourse is set in the hills of Yea. For more information and bookings visit [country.racing.com/yea-st-pats](http://country.racing.com/yea-st-pats)
- Mar 2...** **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** To be held at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St Geelong at 11am. The theme is **All God's Creation is Very Good!** and has been prepared by the people of Suriname. Everyone very welcome and there will be light refreshments after the service. Further information please ph Sue O'Donoghue 0429 784 331
- Mar 8...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE - CIRCLE OF MERCY COMMUNITY EVENING:** Dr Sr Maeve Louise Heaney will present **"Merging Music and Theology"** from 7-8pm, Celies Hospitality Centre, SHC. Light refreshments provided afterwards, all welcome. RSVP by **Friday 2 March** to Rita Chiavarolie [rsvp@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rsvp@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au) or 5222 0467. (Save the date for Sarah Afshar Thursday 17 May, Fr Richard Leonard SJ Thursday 23 August and Naomi Wolfe Thursday 18 October.)
- Mar 16...** **CLONARD COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** Information sessions followed by tours 1pm and 4.30pm. Enrolments for Year 7 close on **Friday 18 May 2018**. Pre-register online [clonard.catholic.edu.au](http://clonard.catholic.edu.au).
- Mar 20...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE DISCOVERY DAY 4PM:** Discover life at SHC, explore the College from 5pm - gates close at 6.30pm. Please RSVP your attendance to [shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au](http://shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au)
- Mar 28...** **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: Windfire Chamber Choir and Strings** at St Mary's Basilica, 8pm. Tickets \$35/\$30, children and school students free from [www.trybooking.com/TNUY](http://www.trybooking.com/TNUY) or at the door.

**CHANEL COLLEGE 60TH ANIVERSARY REUNION:** For students of the Marist Fathers era 1958-1970. For details send your email address to [chanel.geelong@gmail.com](mailto:chanel.geelong@gmail.com) OR your postal details to PO Box 3069 Geelong West 3218.

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 1st Sunday of Lent

*"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God." (Mk 1:14)*

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfil his plan for us.

/Cont'd from P1...

As well, it helps if we are aware of the danger signs in our lives that can weaken our defences. Tiredness, boredom, anger, alcohol and drug use, lack of good communication and a poor self-esteem are common realities that can leave us

more exposed than usual.

This Lent, as we venture with Christ into our figurative deserts, let's do anything that helps our self-esteem, deal with our anger, attend to why we might work or drink too much, and ensure that we are less stressed. Contrary to

what we might think, these activities could be the most helpful ways we can make sure we emerge from our desert the better for having been there.