



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:

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

At the end of *The Laws of Our Fathers*, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us.

'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ...the founder of the Western faiths ...He was a visionary, a prophet ...But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ...Abraham complied.'

'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping. He did not, so far as the

Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ...'

'...I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ...What kind of a starting point is this for ...all the Western faiths? ...Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

'...One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ...it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ...Isaac survived ...He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly, attempted no sacrifices of his own ...'

'So let us think of Isaac ...the first son of the Western faiths – and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned. For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?"

We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ...That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God. / Cont'd P4...



TO THE CHILDREN WHO ARE MAKING THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Second Sunday of Lent -

(Year B/2 - February 25, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**3rd Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Ex 20:1-17
2nd Reading: Jn 2:13-25
Gospel: Rom 5:1-2,5-8

**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.

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 26 to Mar 9... Trinder family, 20 Donnie Place

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 Collier, Herbert Pranson, Maria Urquhart and Michael Sharry

ANNIVERSARIES:

Josip Dubrovic, Ken Martin, Patrick Hogan, Heather Osborne and 1 year anniversary of Roland Kolotelo

BAPTISMS:

Harry Amos, Olivia Ciuffetelli and Evie Lee

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

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

5.00PM

Commentators C O'Brien
Lectors Sr J McGonigal
Special Ministers N Neeld, P McGlinchey
Welcomers
Projectionist D Whelan
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators R Allum
Lectors V Pavlovic
Special Ministers J Bartolo, I Baulch
Welcomers K McArthur
Projectionist R Allum

9.30AM

J Siketa
C Taylor, M Bird
P Carmody, B Kline, D&M Horoba
M&E Hoffman
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

11.00AM

Commentators C Neilson
Lectors B Middleton, M Wright
Special Ministers R Pugh, V Trinder
Welcomers I Cleary, L Fossey
Projectionist L Coles

Lent at St Michael's:

Works of Mercy in Lent

Pope Francis said: "The season of Lent is a good time to listen to God's word by practicing the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated."

[The early Christian mystic John Chrysostom](#) said: "No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

Lent is a good time for penance and self-denial. But [Francis reminds us that these activities must truly enrich others](#): "I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt."

So, if you're going to fast from anything this Lent he suggests that even more than sweets or alcohol, you need to fast from indifference towards others.

There's is no need to throw out the chocolate, booze, and carbs. "When we fast from indifference, we can begin to feast on love. In fact, Lent is the perfect time to learn how to love again. If you want to change your body, perhaps giving up alcohol and sugary treats is the way to go. But if you want to change your heart, a harder fast is needed. That narrow road is gritty, but it isn't sterile. It will make room in ourselves to experience a love that can make us whole and set us free."

During Lent it is good to refresh our memories about the works of Mercy.

The Physical Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry. To give drink to the thirsty. To clothe the naked. To visit and ransom prisoners. To shelter the homeless. To visit the sick. To bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

To instruct the ignorant. To counsel the doubtful. To admonish sinners. To comfort the sorrowful. To bear wrongs patiently. To forgive all injuries. To pray for the living and the dead.

What can we do that's practical?

We could look within our own families and in our parish to see where loneliness exists.

Pope Francis constantly brings up the lonely elderly who exist among us. He told this story. "I remember, when I was visiting a retirement home, I spoke with each person and I frequently heard this: "How are you? And your children? Well, well. How many do you have? Many. And do they come to visit you? Oh sure, yes, always, yes, they come. When was the last time they came?" I remember an elderly woman who said to me: "Mmm, for Christmas". It was August! Eight months without being visited by her children, abandoned for eight months! This is called mortal sin!"

"Once as a child, a grandmother told me the story of an old grandfather who got dirty while eating because he couldn't easily bring the spoonful of soup to his mouth. And his son decided to move him from the dinner table and set up a little table in the kitchen to eat alone, so he couldn't be seen. In this way he wouldn't make a bad impression when friends came over to lunch or dinner. A few days later, that son came home and found his youngest child playing with some wood and a hammer and nails, he was making something there. His father said: "What are you making? — I'm making a table, papa. — A table, why? — To have one for when you grow old, so that you can eat out there with grandpa". Children are more aware than we are!"

Pope Francis reminds us we will all be old one day.



EASTER MAILOUT: *Calling all St Michael's Parish Posties!!*

Your assistance is again required to help with the delivery of invitations to our Easter Ceremonies to all known Catholics within our Parish. The envelopes are available at the back of each Church this weekend and are organized alphabetically by street. If you can take your own street as well as those close by, your efforts would be much appreciated and we ask that they be hand delivered over the next two weeks. ***Special thanks to those who have helped prepare the invitations for mailout!***



Liturgy at St Michael's:

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

Fr Prakash has requested that Special Ministers proceed to the Altar after the Lord's Prayer. They can then share the Gift of Peace with each other and the Celebrant before washing their hands. Thankyou for your co- operation.

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

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 - 2 tickets left for 7pm and 11 tickets for 4pm.

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

There will be a Committee Meeting to arrange Catering on Wednesday February 28, 2pm at the Parish Office.



- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Monday March 5 at 6.30pm there will be a Games Evening held for all members. Come along and enjoy the fun! No meeting to be held in April owing to it being Easter Monday.
- ♦ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS:** Luncheon on Wednesday March 7, 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ♦ **CWL:** The 11am Mass at Holy Spirit on Friday March 9 will be offered for our deceased members, particularly those who have died in the past year - Pat Bourke, Patti Murfitt, Jeanette Sheahan and Mary Moloney. This will be followed by our regular monthly meeting (no meeting on Wed March 7). For transport please phone Tricia Joyce 0431 512 354 or Noella Duggan 5278 2142.

Community News:

- 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 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.
- Mar 18... **ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** 11am to 2pm with Information sessions 11am and 12.15pm. Tours of facilities, course information, presentations and exhibitions plus meet our staff and students. Enquiries registrar@ignatius.vic.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
- 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 or at the door.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE TOURS FOR 2018: Tours for prospective families considering 2019 enrolments at SJC will depart at 9am on March 2, 8, 15, 19, 27, April 26, May 7 and 9. Applications close on **Friday May 18, 2018**.



PROJECT COMPASSION Second Week of Lent



Rattanak in Cambodia contracted polio as a child and also became deaf. The Deaf Development Program, supported by Caritas Australia, helped him become a barber and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help deaf youth in Cambodia to build a just future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity.

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

/Cont'd from P1...

We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ...he was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to

his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to

sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else. Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.