



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

As Christians in the world we cannot help but be influenced by the developments that happen around us. Indeed, we believe that many of these advances are gifts from God, given to us to enjoy. But not all developments in thinking and practices are for the better.

One recent and alarming development is the false thinking that we cannot judge other people, or that we should not be judged. The wider community regularly maintains that no one is in a position to judge another's behaviour or statements. This approach holds that everyone's words and actions are of equal value. This position is many things, but it's certainly not Christian, but this hasn't stopped it from finding a home amongst us. We regularly hear statements from Christian men and women like, 'We're not in a

position to judge' or 'You can't judge them' and 'If it's fine for them, then it's fine'. This thinking has a name. It's called moral relativism and it tries to claim that the morality of behaviour is only determined by the person who does the act, or the context within which the action is taken.

Our Catholic tradition teaches us that a context is very important in trying to work out if someone is to blame for what they say and do, but that a person's particular circumstances never change the fact that the words or actions are in themselves wrong. We hold that while all human beings have equal value and dignity, we do not believe that everyone's opinion and actions are of equal worth. We believe that 'right judgment' is a gift of the Holy Spirit and that it's best exercised with humility and compassion.

When I hear people say I should not judge

others, I assume they are telling me that I should not condemn other people. There is a world of difference between judging and condemning. To judge is to make an assessment. To condemn is to damn.

As Christians we judge because we have to keep discerning how the things of the world can be reconciled with the things we hold to be true. Condemnation is the prerogative of God alone, who sees all, knows all and loves all. In today's Gospel, however, John tells us that even God has forfeited the right to condemn the world, but has sent Jesus to be the world's light, life, truth and saviour.

The Gospel reminds us that if we feel condemned for what we have done and said, then it's because we have condemned ourselves, not because God condemns us. /Cont'd P4...

- Fourth Sunday of Lent -

(Year B/2 - March 11, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son; that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**5th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Jer 31:31-34
2nd Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

**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;

Mar 12-25: McShanag family, 39 Sladen St;

Mar 26 to Apr 8: Hoare family, 22 Sycamore St

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Fr Joseph Micallef

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sr Gabrielle McDonald RSM, Joan Booth, Daniel & William Dempsey, Stanislaw Wawrzon, Domenica & Antonio Gatto, Francesco Eversace, David Dalton, Antonio Battaglia, Lucrezia Butera, Bridget Morris and 1 year anniv of Carl Trifiletti and Katharina Riedl

BAPTISMS:

Aurora Peckham

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.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 4th Sunday of Lent

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16)

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of his own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but he does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop them and return with increase.

Roster for Next Sunday

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators L Middleton
Lectors K Maddalena
Special Ministers K Maddalena
Welcomers T McNair
Projectionist D Whelan
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators K Saunders
Lectors B Rainbow
Special Ministers A Vanjek, P Ruggeri, R Culo
Welcomers L Allum, P Ruggeri, R Culo
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

M Kroger
J McKenzie
L Fossey, L Stalio
L Fossey
F Kearney

9.30AM

A Scaddan
H Verdnik, T McMahon
C Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj, T Herath
E Dalton
C Resciniti
J Mann, 0488 784 802

Lent at St Michael's:

Lenten reflection: The persecution of Christians is escalating.

Rome's Colosseum was lit up in red on the 24th February, an event aimed at highlighting the persecution of Christians which has been steadily on the rise in the Middle East, parts of Asia and Africa.

The amphitheatre of ancient Rome was the execution site for the early Christians and the event was designed to draw attention to the continuing persecution of Christians around the world more than 2,000 years later. Along with the Colosseum, prominent buildings in Christian persecution hotspots such as Mosul in Iraq and Aleppo in Syria were also bathed in red light. It was an act of solidarity with persecuted Christians, and in particular Asia Bibi, a woman condemned to death under Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

Before the event Pope Francis held a private audience with the husband and daughter of Asia Bibi, imprisoned for an alleged offence against the Prophet Mohammed. She has always denied the offence. This Catholic woman has been living on death row in Pakistan since 2009, when she was condemned for allegedly making derogatory remarks about Islam after fellow workers and her neighbours objected to her drinking water from their communal glass because she was not Muslim. She was impure because she was a Christian.

Amnesty International says the blasphemy law is increasingly exploited by religious extremists as well as ordinary Pakistanis to settle personal scores.

"The aim of the blasphemy laws is crush people who believe differently," Archbishop Nunzio Galantino, secretary-general of the Italian Bishops Conference, told the Colosseum gathering.

The law does not define blasphemy and evidence cannot be given in court for fear of committing another blasphemy by witnesses repeating the words. There are no penalties for false accusations. Asia Bibi's case drew international attention after the assassination of two Muslim politicians who tried to intervene on her behalf.

Pope Francis says Asia Bibi is a martyr and a model for our society that today is afraid of pain. **This Lent we should direct our prayers and energies to supporting our sisters and brothers suffering for their belief in the good news of Jesus Christ and especially those with commitment to the Catholic Faith. Wherever they are, they are in our hearts.**

(Kevin Fell)

DISTRIBUTION OF EASTER INVITATIONS: *Calling all St Michael's Parish Posties!!*

We require your assistance once again to deliver the Easter Invitations that have been left over in the Churches. Please collect from the Parish Office, 147 Separation St Bell Park. Many thanks!



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



PROJECT COMPASSION Fourth Week of Lent



Evangeline featured in Project Compassion during 2016. With the support of Caritas Australia, she has risen to the role of Senior Artsworkeer at Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, now a multi-level contemporary arts centre and major employer for young people in her remote Northern Territory community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future.

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.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Office will be closed this Monday due to the Labour Day weekend.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** Catherine Taylor and family would like to most sincerely thank all our friends and the parishioners who attended the celebration Mass for our beloved JOE who passed away so suddenly. Also Fr Gerard Keith who so beautifully concelebrated the Mass with some of Joe's Priest friends. Your presence reflected the love and respect you all had for him and in turn were all much loved by him. Our thanks also go to those who sent the beautiful cards and flowers and the support the family received at this difficult time. Special thanks go to our dear friend Vera Klova who organised the refreshments, together with Holy Family Women's Group and Holy Spirit Catering Group who all did such a beautiful job. Our grateful thanks to you all.
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S CONVERSATION, FRIENDSHIP CRAFT GROUP:** We are a culturally diverse group of like minded people seeking friendship, peace and harmony. We meet at the St Michael's Parish Community Centre fortnightly on Friday (excluding public and school holidays) from 2-5pm - March 9/23, April 20, May 4/18, June 1/15/29. Further details ph Debbie on 0409 416 945. Additional dates will be added based on attendance.
- ◆ **ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL: Sunday March 18** - Come join us for children's entertainment, rides, food stalls, prizes etc at St Patrick's School, Britannia St Geelong West from 11am until 4pm. Everyone welcome!!! 
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** Booklets available this weekend at the back of all Churches. Pick up a copy for some great reading!

Community News:

- Mar 14...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Monthly meeting next Wednesday 7.30pm Clairvaux Meeting Rooms Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- 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 17...** **ST PATRICK'S DAY - CELEBRATE AT THE RACES:** Held at Geelong Race Course with free entry and entertainment for children (17 and under). Dining packages, Marquee and Umbrella packages available. Ph 0409 007 913 for further information or book online at country.racing.com/geelong-stpats
- 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 24...** **PAMPER DAY:** If you need time to de-stress and relax, Pastoral Healthcare Network Geelong and Geelong Natural Therapies invites you to a relaxing afternoon of pampering and pastoral healthcare. Includes hand, shoulder and foot massage, Bowen and Myotherapy, blood pressure testing, meditation and a'noon tea. 1pm until 3.30pm with ten minute meditation at 2.30pm, at Geelong Natural Therapies, 36 Shannon Ave Geelong West. Cost \$10, enquiries and bookings phone Carmel on 5229 7954. **Please RSVP by Wednesday 21st March for catering purposes.**
- 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 8, 15, 19, 27, April 26, May 7 and 9**. Applications close on **Friday May 18, 2018**.
 - ◆ **CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** Come join us for a 2-course evening meal, an interesting guest speaker and the opportunity to meet new friends. Appetizers begin at 6.15pm on **Tuesday March 13** followed by the meal for only \$33/person. We meet at Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St Geelong West. Guest speaker this month is Danny Lannen, former Geelong Advertiser senior Editor. More information/reservations ph or text **Michael Belleville at 0431 959 584** by **Friday March 9**, the deadline for catering purposes.
 - ◆ **2018 NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE - IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MacKILLOP:** The Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join the National Pilgrimage, giving you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by Sr Mary MacKillop. Commence in Melbourne 23 Oct, travel through Vic and SA, conclude in Sydney 3 Nov 2018. Cost \$3,200 (all incl: airfares, accom, coach travel, admission fees and meals). Single supplement \$700. Ph Sr Therese Leydon 0417 683 123 or email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au for further information.

John tells us that even when we find ourselves lost in the darkness of our most destructive behaviour, the saving love of Christ is always available to us, inviting us to come out of the darkness into his light.

What a great metaphor the light and dark is for making the best judgments in our

own lives. Alarm bells should always ring when we find ourselves not wanting anyone else to know what we have said or done. Secrecy is often the ally of sin and the more open and transparent we are, the more confident we can be that we are walking as children of the light.

May this Lenten Eucharist enable us to let go of the desire to condemn others and ourselves, and to receive again the compassionate, just and humble gift of right judgment that helps us to see the darkness for what it is, and keeps us walking in the light of Christ.