



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

If ever you get the chance to travel to Turkey make sure you go to the Roman ruins at Ephesus. The trip is instructive for all sorts of reasons, not least because two thousand years ago Ephesus was a seaport and now you have to drive inland for over an hour to get there. I wonder what our cities will look like in another two thousand years? But Ephesus is worth the trip. The Roman ruins there, especially the library, are extraordinary. For Christians, however, three other places there capture the imagination. It's the place to which the great letter in the New Testament was addressed. There are the ruins of the hall in which the important Council of Ephesus met, and there are ruins of a monastery built over what is claimed to be the final home of St John, the Beloved Disciple. There is also the much more dubious claim that Mary's final house, and the site of her Assumption, is on top of the mountain overlooking the ancient city.

There are good reasons to believe that the Gospel of John, from which we have just read, was written in Ephesus, 70 years after Jesus' death. I like to think about the context in which the Scriptures were written, not just because it helps me understand some things in the text, but also to appreciate that our Scriptures were inspired by the experience of a flesh and blood community.

Ephesus was a centre of learning, trade, government and religion in the ancient world. We also know that the early Christians were greatly persecuted and martyred there. The early church was filled with stories of betrayal, torture, death and heroic witness to the faith. The stakes for believing in Jesus were very high. And it was the heroic witness of these martyrs that eventually led to the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity. It should come as no surprise to us then that John's Gospel should have a special focus on

sharing in the sufferings of Jesus and the glory to come.

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel must have been very important to a community that was awash with the blood of their fellow believers. Our foremothers and forefathers in the faith counted themselves blessed to die as Jesus died, alive in the faith of God's love for the world. Just imagine how that community of martyrs first heard these words, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.'

By comparison we have it easy today, but martyrdom comes to all believers in different ways. In the broadest sense a martyr is one who is prepared to pay the price for holding true to Christ.

/Cont'd P4...

- Fifth Sunday of Lent -

(Year B/2 - March 18, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die forever.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**Palm Sunday Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Is 50:4-7
2nd Reading: Phil 2:6-11
Gospel: Mk 14:1-15:47

**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:

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: Joan Minisini, Sybil Chandler, Meryl Ryan and Leopold Steger

ANNIVERSARIES: George Rodrigues, Rosa & Natale Cucinotta, Johnny Kellett, Eugenia Buhisan, Judite DaRosa, Almor, Jose & Lues Mairos

BAPTISMS: Lana Wesolowski, Liam Halliday, Collins Harris, Samuel Klova, Lucy Jelicanin, Amelia Newton and Ruby Thomas

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 - 5th Sunday of Lent

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." (Jer 31:33)

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbours and the world, just as God cares for us.

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 SPIRIT - 11AM

M Burn
J Fraatz
D Dougherty, L Fossey
D Dougherty
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators F O'Neill
Lectors L Kelly
Special Ministers L Sells, E Kelly
Welcomers L&E Kelly
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator

9.30AM

M Lukesic
M Baird, P Gizycki
D Lunn, P McBride, C Simpson, V Resciniti
A Sare, A/I Dugandzic
C Resciniti
J Mann, 0488 784 802

Lent at St Michael's:

St Joseph's Feast day March 19th.

St. Joseph is a seriously overlooked person in the life of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. He played second fiddle to just about everyone.

He committed himself to caring for a child that is not even his, on the high-handed demand from an angel of the Lord. In fact the poor man seems to have been positively harassed by angels of the Lord telling him what to do. His peace was invaded by nosey shepherds, know-it-all wise men and choirs of angels.

Just at the time when he was trying to adjust to being a new father, another one of those blessed angels comes along and tells him he has to uproot and flee into a foreign country as a refugee. Because, guess what? A neurotic king wants to kill the child that is not even his. Can you imagine the confusion in the poor man's mind? Why would anyone want to kill a harmless little baby? Well! Because he was the Son of God is why.

Now what would a simple Jewish carpenter man make of the concept 'Son of God'? If he was anything like me or any normal father it would mean endless sleepless nights trying to figure out how he ended up step father to the Son of the Most High. A big responsibility keeping food on the table and shelter for this cuckoo in the nest. Not to mention trying to teach him a respectable trade (carpentry that is), which in the end he abandons in favour of the precarious life of an itinerant preacher, stirring up trouble for the Jewish leaders. That boy must have been a total puzzle to Joseph.

And what was his reward for all this angst and effort? His wife gets assumed body and soul into heaven as a reward for her spotless sanctity. He, Joseph, ends up six foot under like the rest of us.

His feast gives us the opportunity to redress the balance. We can thank Joseph for the almost invisible role he played in the Christian story.

I identify with that man. Lots of fathers feel somewhat overlooked. He was no complainer. But I wish I could sit down with him over a cup of tea or something stronger. I'd love to get the inside goss on the Holy Family (without the 'Holy' bit). Given the stoical patience of this man it would be most ungracious not to remember him on his feast day and acknowledge him and all fathers.

(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.



PROJECT COMPASSION Fifth Week of Lent



Ditosa in Mozambique went to live with her grandmother after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. She featured in Project Compassion during 2013, then aged 12. With support from the Caritas Australia supported Matuba Children's Centre, Ditosa has now graduated from school with plans for university.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa to grow up with an education, confidence and hope, providing them with 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.

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN ST MICHAEL'S:

St Michael's Luncheon...	First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.
Holy Family Luncheon..	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO casserole & drink to share.
Holy Family Women's Group...	First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 6.30pm (Winter), 7.00pm (D'light savings)
St Vincent de Paul...	Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre 7pm. Holy Spirit meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 5.00pm in Holy Spirit Hall
Legion of Mary...	Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre
Baptism Preps	4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
Holy Family Choir Practice...	Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm
Manifold CWL...	Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month
Italian Mass...	First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
Catholic Diners' Club...	2nd Tues of each month, 6.15pm at Capri Receptions. Dinner/Guest Speaker - ph 0431 959 584

If you wish to know more about these groups, as well as about our Sacramental Program for children in non-Catholic schools, our Baptism and Wedding procedures, our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines and so on, please visit our webpage:

www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

St Michael's News:

- ♦ **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 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!!! 

Community News:

- 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 19, 27, April 26, May 7 and 9.** Applications close on **Friday May 18, 2018.**
 - ♦ **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.
 - ♦ **ORCHESTRA GEELONG** is presenting three great concerts with the first being on March 18 at 3pm 'Cool Classics', the second is our 'Youth Concerto' on August 12 at 3pm and the third concert 'Orchestral Spirit' on November 25 at 3pm. For full details ph Andrew on 0431 627 291, email andrewfx51@gmail.com, web address www.orchestrageelong.com

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For us now this might mean making serious choices about the company we keep, the business ventures we enter into, the non-violent protests we mount, foregoing luxuries so that others in our world might have necessities, and even remaining faithful to the vows and promises we have made. Christian faith

sometimes bites hard, and when it does we know we are sharing in the martyr's lot.

And what should be our response when our faith in Christ costs us something big? Jesus models it for us in today's Gospel, '...hat should I say? "Father, save me from this hour." No, it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'

May this final week of Lent, then, see this flesh and blood community be like our forebears in Ephesus and actively seek out ways of sharing in the martyr's lot by letting go of what is not essential and focusing on the One who loved us to the end.