



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

The earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ, now raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds.

We know the community of Ephesus, for which this Gospel is written, was experiencing great persecution. Is it any wonder, one generation after the earliest disciples, that the sign of Christ's Risen

presence are his marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Over recent years films like *Stigmata*, *Dogma*, *Agnes of God* and even the appalling *Daredevil* give a hysterical and cynical prominence to the stigmata. There are regular 'believe it or not' documentaries that usually follow suit. Even some pilgrims flocked to Padre Pio's monastery in the south of Italy to see if his hands really bled, or if his wounds really wept. This desire to see outward signs of inner faith is a long way short of Jesus telling us today, 'Happy are those who believe without seeing.'

Our day-to-day lives should be the clearest manifestation of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

It seems, however, that words and wounds still make a claim on us today. You and I know that we don't have to go to

a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life, that our doubts in the presence of God can be greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this, or pretend it doesn't happen. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake and with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven.

Years ago I remember struggling with some personal issues during a retreat. One day, when I felt lowest about myself, the retreat director, adapting today's psalm, 117, said to me, 'you realise that the stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone'.

/Cont'd P4...

- 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) -

(Year B/2 - April 8, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

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

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

2nd Reading: 1Jn 2:1-5

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48

**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 26 to Apr 8: Hoare family, 22 Sycamore 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:

Eric Lynch, Elizabeth Rosani, Maria Cafaro (in Italy)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Benedetto & Anna Belich, Maria-Grazia Leone, Elizabeth Jovic, Francesco & Caterina Iannuzzi, Alojz Akmacic & all Akmacic & Dzida Family, Romulo "Ome" Resultay, Pauline McDonald, Fr Shaun O'Keith

BAPTISMS:

Charlotte Guy, Winston & Maelynn Oliver

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Aaron Lyall, Marita Mason, Anita Capicchiano, Eric Lynch



STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 2nd Sunday of Easter

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own." (Acts 4:32)

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your talents, your abilities and your money - these are all gifts from God!

We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with.

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 SPIRIT - 11AM

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

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

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



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - APRIL 8, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Church, Manifold Hts beginning with Confession at 1.30pm; and followed by Exposition, Rosary, Chaplet, Prayers and Benediction at 2pm. Holy Mass and Veneration of the Image completes the Ceremony at 3pm. Enquiries ph Chris 0407 522 022.

What the hell has cricket got to do with it?

A friend of mine from overseas is dumbfounded by the brouhaha over the cheating by the Australian cricket team. "Have you people no sense of proportion? It's only a game. Your media has gone crazy. There are more important issues to focus on." In defence of the poor man, he is American and doesn't understand cricket.

He doesn't realise that this story is an Australian parable, understood by most Australians to be a commentary on fairness and decency. Jesus would have told such a story. Just as he drew on his observations of rural life and the hard working labourers who tended the fields, the vineyards and the animals; just as he illustrated his stories about big moral issues with tales of humble folk going about their daily business, Jesus would have exploited the potential of ball tampering to illustrate a larger truth.

At the start of the 20th Century Australia could boast a raft of social policies that put us ahead of the pack. Before other nations we had the 40 hour week, the vote for women, dole for the unemployed, conciliation and arbitration to determine a living wage for workers. That was our heroic achievement. That was what we celebrated. Not victory in war; not violent revolution; not cultural dominance. We worked towards the quieter satisfaction of proclaiming 'fairness' as one of our defining national characteristics.

What happened on the cricket field in South Africa points to a wider corruption in our culture. Greedy franchises use business models that make it impossible for franchisees to make a living or pay their workers decent wages. Financial advisors give their vulnerable clients crap advice for personal gain. Banks cheat. Politicians look after number one. Global companies engineer their affairs to avoid tax and would have us believe that their main business office is located on a Pacific atoll measuring one square kilometre.

We've become less God fearing, more individualistic, more materialistic and more self-centred. We've become less community-minded, less committed to 'solidarity' (where the strong happily pay their taxes to help the poor do better) and less sympathetic to the battlers (except when we kid ourselves that *we* are the battlers).

But don't imagine the greed is limited to businesses and institutions. Almost all of us aspire to paying as little tax as possible while demanding free public hospitals, subsidised pharmaceuticals, bulk-billed GP visits and much else. We've become a nation of whingers who can't recognize our own good fortune.

What do Harold Mitchell (wealthy Australian businessman), Warren Buffet (the planet's third richest man) and JK Rowling (author of Harry Potter) have in common apart from being mega rich? They all believe in paying their taxes. Mitchell wrote: "I believe in the Australian system that creates the sort of society that enabled me to build a successful business. Avoiding tax, even if it seems legal, is a very short sighted ambition." Rowling said:

"I pay a lot of tax, and I feel one of the reasons I stay and pay and why I'm not based in Monaco ... is I think my country helped me." All three believe it's not all 'just about me'.

Kevin Fell - with some words from Ross Gittins in The Age.

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:** 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 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) at St Michael's Parish Community Centre.
- ♦ **FAMILY FUN DAY - MIX & MINGLE: Sunday 8th April - Rippleside Park from 11.30am onward.** Bring the whole family for a fun get together. BYO picnic, chair/tables, etc. BBQ facilities available. Plus bring your footy, soccer ball, frisbee, bocce, cricket and get some exercise. There is also a playground for the kids. Hope you can join us for a wonderful day before winter commences. Further details call Debbie on 0409 416 945.

Community News:

- April 11... KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Monthly meeting next Wednesday 7.30pm at Clairvaux Meeting Rooms Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- April 27... ACIES 9.30AM** - During this ceremony we will consecrate ourselves to Mary. In this consecration we open our hearts to Mary, so that she may guide us and bless us through the year. (St Francis Xavier Church, Corio)
- May 24... CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES:** Featuring Daniel Wells, current Collingwood Champion. The venue is the CQ Club, 113-123 Queen St Melbourne, 7-9am. \$45/head, enquiries and bookings ph Michael Bohan on 0439 172 465 (michael.bohan@menalive.org.au) This Breakfast Series is an opportunity for men to gather and to be encouraged and inspired in their faith.
- May 27... MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS:** The Life, Marriage & Family Office invite all expectant mothers and their families to this special Mass which will be celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. Registrations ph 9287 5587 (lmf@cam.org.au) **Registrations close Friday 18 May.**
- ♦ **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE TOURS FOR 2018:** Tours for prospective families considering 2019 enrolments at SJC will depart at 9am on **April 26, May 7 and 9.** Applications close on **Friday May 18, 2018.**
 - ♦ **INVITATION:** St Michael's parishioners have received a warm invitation from the Muslim community in Geelong to visit their Mosque on Sunday 15th April anytime from 10am to 4pm. The Geelong Mosque (Islamic Society of Geelong) is located at 45-47 Bostock Ave Manifold Hts and has recently reopened after their tragic fire. This invitation is issued from Pax Christi Victoria, International Christian Peace Movement.

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By this he meant that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fears, doubts and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone

rejected within us, or among us, is the one which God wants to use as the cornerstone. When we see this happening, when we see God taking the part of us we consider most unlovable and using it for good, then we want to cry out with the psalmist, 'This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'