



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:

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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)

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

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased

branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we

say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it.

/Cont'd P4...

- 5th Sunday of Easter -

(Year B/2 - April 29, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance,
alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says
the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**6th Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48
2nd Reading: 1Jn 4:7-10
Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

**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 (followed by Novena to St Anthony), 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:

April 24-May 14: Martin family, 26 Honey Lane, Batesford

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:

Antonio Zarli, Margaret Teague and Maria Began

ANNIVERSARIES:

Joe Gwizdek, Rosa Rizzo, Betty Murphy, Hannah Barr, Richard Tolkin, Angelina DePalma, Angelo Negro, John Haines and 1 year anniversary of Sabato Merola

BAPTISMS:

Danu & Dearn Lakey, Kya Lugg, Ruby Lynch, Chloe Napoli, Bethany O'Callaghan, Pia O'Connor, Evie, Margot & Winter Rooke, Ella, Chloe & Myah Wolfenden, Miah Hood

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Aaron Lyall, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Cheryl Lambert

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 Easter

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." (1Jn 3:18)

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you 'walk the talk?' Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

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

Co-Ordinator

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson

B Middleton

R Pugh, V Trinder, G Wright

I Cleary, L Fossey

L Coles

9.30AM

J Siketa

C Taylor, M Bird

P Carmody, B Kline, D&M Horoba

M&E Hoffman

C Resciniti

J Mann, 0488 784 802

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

Is this kind of immigration strategy Pope Francis could support?

After WWII the Labor government announced its post war immigration program. It faced a population mistrustful of non-European foreigners. Non-Europeans numbered about 2.5 per cent of the population at that time. After a war which saw Japan come close to invading the country, Arthur Calwell (Labor Immigration Minister) told Australians: "The war has shown we cannot continue to hold our island continent for ourselves and our descendants unless we greatly increase our numbers. Immigration is a matter of life or death for the nation."

But in order to reassure an anxious population he said the government had as a top priority increasing the birth rate. But he knew that by itself would not be enough. He also committed the government to keeping tight control of who came here.

He laid down the seven principles of the migration program. Its prime goal was to ensure national security and economic growth. Second, the rate of population growth would be steady. Third, while the change would be great, people need not fear, because the government would maintain firm control of the program. Fourth, it would carefully choose migrants, to ensure they were "sound in health", of good character, not "a charge on the community".....and WHITE. Fifth, if migrants worked hard and contributed to society, and were determined to become "good Australians", they were welcome. Sixth, Australians also had responsibilities: to welcome the newcomers, and to not ostracise them and then blame them for segregating themselves and forming foreign ghettos.

The seventh principle was the most important. "Any immigration plan can succeed only if it has behind it the support and the goodwill of the Australian people." Calwell's speech proposed a grand bargain between government, the native-born and the newcomers. Its principles and language, which all parties seamlessly adopted, shape Australia to this day.

Calwell was not entirely frank with the public, though. He promised that for every continental European 10 Britons would be chosen. But he knew even then that Britain alone could not furnish the numbers Australia needed. In a private note Calwell said he was determined to build "a heterogeneous society where ... an Italian background would be as acceptable as a Greek, a Dutch or any other".

It was Calwell who coined the term, 'New Australians'. That would be the name for migrants for the next 30 years. Modern sophisticates have come to mock it, yet across those decades in which Britain, France, Germany and Holland accepted large populations of foreigners but only as guest workers, not citizens, Calwell's term contained a promise: from day one, you are Australian.

A heavily edited article from James Button in The Monthly, Feb 2018. *Dutton's dark victory: The minister, Pezzullo and the demise of Immigration.*



VINNIES YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE:

The St Vincent de Paul Society is holding a Pizza Night Think Tank about building a Young Adult Conference in Geelong on **Wednesday 2 May 2018, 7.30pm - 9.00pm at 141 Fyans St, South Geelong**

Vinnies Conferences are a chance for young people aged 16-40 to come together for Social Events, Prayer and Reflection and Social Outreach. If you have been wanting to meet likeminded young people and even make a difference in your community, then you should come join this new amazing team! As part of SVDP, our gatherings are based on Catholic values. However, we encourage people to join us from all and no faith backgrounds. Come and find out more at our pizza evening and info session! For more details please ph Jacob on 0488 048 649 or email youth@svdp-vic.org.au You can follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/vinniesyouthvic RSVP not necessary but appreciated, via email.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **DIVINE MERCY:** Divine Mercy is held every Friday, 3pm at Holy Spirit Church. All are most welcome to attend.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS:** Luncheon on **Wednesday 2nd May at 12noon** in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held on **Wednesday May 2, 1.30pm** in Holy Spirit Hall. All St Michael's Parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Bernadette on 0417 514 598 or Noella 5278 2142.
- ◆ **FASHION PARADE:** The Manifold CWL are holding a Blumes Fashion Parade on **Wednesday May 9, 2pm** in Holy Spirit Hall - entry cost \$5. Come along and update your winter wardrobe at very reasonable prices. Members are asked to bring a plate. For transport please ph Noella 5278 2142 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL FLOWERS:** Special flowers will be available to purchase on **Sunday May 13** at the 8am and 9.30am Masses at Holy Family Church. Money raised will go to help the Missions in the Philippines and Kenya.
- ◆ **INVITATION - Columban Centenary Celebrations:** Frs Kevin and Peter O'Neill and the Columban Missionaries cordially invite the parishioners of St Michael's Parish to attend Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sunday June 24** at 11am. Refreshments to follow at the Cardinal Knox Centre next to the Cathedral. Refreshments RSVP by May 30 to Fr Peter O'Neill on 9375 9475 or email Poneill@columban.org.au
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S CONVERSATION, FRIENDSHIP CRAFT GROUP:** You are all welcome to attend the craft conversation friendship group. Contact Debbie on 0409 416 945 for further details. Dates are 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.
- ◆ **NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY:** A Novena to St Anthony will be said after the 9.15am Mass on Tuesday - all welcome to stay and join us in this prayerful celebration.

WOMAN ALIVE 3: *(Josephine and Tina kindly submitted this short note about this uplifting afternoon)*

We attended the Spiritual Retreat of **Woman Alive 3**. The testimonies were very uplifting, inspiring and amazing - how God has touched and guided these women. The healing service was very spiritual and we felt the hands of the Holy Spirit upon us. We were reminded that God's love for us is unconditional and he has a personal relationship with us and would like us to have the same with him. We just need to Trust, Stop and Listen. The hymns were very emotional and touched our hearts and the afternoon was complete after celebrating Holy Mass. Thankyou Fr Prakash for arranging this very rewarding afternoon.

Community News:

- May 17...** **CIRCLE OF MERCY:** We are holding our second Circle of Mercy Evening for this year from 7-8.30pm at the Celies Hospitality Centre, Sacred Heart College. Sarah Afshar will present **Baha'i Faith** - light refreshments provided afterwards. All welcome. RSVP by **Friday May 11** to Rita Chiavaroli rsvp@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au or ph 5222 0467. **Save the Date** for Fr Richard Leonard SJ Thursday 23 August and Naomi Wolfe Thursday 18 October.
- May 20...** **CASSEROLE LUNCH:** 12noon Belmont Seniors Centre, 52 Thomson St. Invitation to KSC members, family and friends, cost \$10/head. Drinks included, bring a casserole or a sweet. Ph Joe Lambert on 5229 8442 to confirm attendance. Proceeds to local and overseas charities.
- 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 **May 7 and 9**. Applications close on **Friday May 18, 2018**.

/Cont'd from P1...

But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love.

Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel

calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship

out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'