



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****OFFICE:**

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Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

Web Page Address:www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

If ever we needed convincing just how fickle a home town crowd can be, all we have to do is recall what happened around the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Only two weeks before she died, London papers sold out with headlines which read, 'Diana, say No to Dodi', or 'Soap-opera queen flees England to be with Muslim lover', and 'Diana: a national disgrace'. We were told that Diana was mentally ill, spoilt and a scheming temptress.

The death of a 36-year-old mother of two is always an immense tragedy. But who could have predicted that we could change our minds, literally over one Paris night, and come to see that Diana was in fact the 'queen of hearts' and a modern icon. How could we have missed that two weeks earlier? What happened to the memory of Diana is not far from

what happened to the memory of Jesus in the earliest Church. In today's wonderful reading from Mark's Gospel we would expect to find Jesus' home town accepting and welcoming him with open arms. Jesus' ability to teach so well, his wisdom, and deeds of power, however, cause so much offence that the hometown crowd turn on him because he claims too much for himself. Jesus, literally, gets the hell out of there.

The Gospel of Mark, written at the beginning of the persecution of the Christians, finds great consolation in these stories of Jesus' suffering and rejection. And is it any wonder? The first generation of Christians were being expelled from the synagogue and, no doubt, many of them were experiencing similar rejection from their families and friends. Maybe some of them had to leave town as well. In this context their fate was an

identification with that of Jesus. It gave meaning and direction to their plight. It gave them hope.

The experience of rejection, misunderstanding and frustration is also a reality in many of our lives. Even having Christian faith these days can see us derided as fools or pushed out of certain circles. In this context, we can draw on the same hope and courage that has always sustained the Christian community.

On a more worrying level, however, as a community we can run the risk of acting like the residents of Nazareth. No matter how much wisdom, authority or goodness some people demonstrate in our Christian community, it seems some people are told they are not acceptable, we take offence at them and drive them away. /Cont'd P4...

- 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time -*(Year B/2 - July 8, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Amos 7:12-15

2nd Reading: Eph 1:3-14

Gospel: Mk 6:7-13

**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:

July 2: Bourke family, 36 Pleasant 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:

Frank Bajc, Metodije Novta, Lia Burton, Ana Njokos and Shirley Ackland

ANNIVERSARIES:

Antoinetta DeNuzzo, Tindara Rao, Brian Lynch, Lucy Murphy, Vincenzo & Elisabetta Pitaro, Nikola Mikin, and 1 year anniversaries of Carmelo Montalto and Mick Vannata

BAPTISMS:

Arley, Aiden and Xavier Maher and Jackson Prendergast.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Aaron Lyall, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa

Please note: After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list. Please phone the office on 5278 1343.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you.'" (Ezek 2:2-3)

God asks each of us to do some special work for him. He gives us the resources we need to do his work. However, do we listen to God when he calls? Do we get up on our feet and use our talent to do the work he asks of us?

Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called.

Roster for Next Sunday

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

K Maddalena

K Maddalena

D Whelan

M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

8.00AM

K Saunders

P. Carvalho

Sr Concepta, P Ruggeri, R Culo

P Ruggeri, R Culo

R Allum

L. Kelly, 0409 291 138

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

M Kroger

J McKenzie

L Stalio

L Fossey

F Kearney

9.30AM

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C Taylor, M Fiorillo, M. Perera

E Dalton

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.pastoralclusterqeelonq.org

Resilience

How do some people survive the stresses and traumas that lie in wait in their lives? And why do other people go under? All too often the community sees the problem in simplistic terms.

The most common of these beliefs is that some people are psychologically strong and some are weak. People who struggle emotionally are labelled 'weak'; and the solution is often seen to lie in counselling to make them psychologically strong.

This 'strengthening' approach focuses on one aspect of resilience – coping. By making people stronger, they may be better able to cope with whatever stresses are thrown in their way. But this 'single focus' approach fails to take into account other complex forces that contribute to resilience.

The father of resilience research (psychologist Martin Seligman) describes four main contributors to resilience:

Emotional strength: having the ability to focus on positive emotions like peace, gratitude, hope, or love while managing bitterness, sadness, or anger. *Family dynamics:* having strong relationships within our family unit by experiencing trust and extending forgiveness when things go wrong. *Social skills:* having strong friendships and work relations by developing the art of seeing things from the other person's perspective and being empathetic. *Spiritual aspiration:* having a sense of purpose by serving something greater than ourselves.

This research simply mirrors what Jesus said will help us to be resilient amid the storms of life. "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on rock."

Focus on the gifts of God's creation; think positive thoughts. We are the blessed ones who are comforted in our mourning, cared for by our Father, and his words equip us to manage anger and worry. "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

We strengthen our relationships in the family and in our wider community by copying God's faithfulness, honesty, grace, and forgiveness. Jesus told us to pray: forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. "You have heard that it was said: Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Don't even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

We're strengthened spiritually by serving the One who gives us a mission to be a light to our world. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Life's challenges are very complex: The ups and downs of the economy and the labour market. Sickness. Difficult people in our lives with challenging behaviours. Even supposedly strong people crack under these pressures. Sometimes our 'coping strategies' fail. It's hard getting our heads around these complex problems when they crowd in on us. Resilience requires constant adaptation and strong interconnectedness. We need to stay socially connected. We need to pause to reflect on our own shortcomings and our strengths. We need to acknowledge our own vulnerability and that of others. Inner strength is not the only factor in resilience. Another important dimension is the capacity to adapt, i.e. to change in the face of stress. Jesus' messages give us the opportunity to pause, stand back, put life in perspective and change direction.

(Kevin Fell)

St Michael's News:

- ♦ **EUCCHARIST:** Starting in June and continuing through the colder months, a decision has been made to offer Eucharist of one type **only** at our Masses. This will be re-addressed in September.
- ♦ **PARISH EUCCHARIST PROGRAM:** This program is for Catholic children attending non-Catholic schools who wish to make their 1st Eucharist. **The program begins on Sunday July 22 and enrolments close Friday July 13.** For further details please phone Bernadette at the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au.
- ♦ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** On Wednesday, **August 1st at 12noon** in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave. Cost \$10 - all welcome!

Community News:

- July 11... KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Annual Branch and District Meeting next Wednesday, 7.30pm at Clairvaux Meeting Room, Belmont. Please make every effort to attend and bring a plate of supper.
- July 21... STAR OF THE SEA'S OPEN DAY IN TORQUAY:** Are you looking for the very best in aged care? Come along to Star of the Sea's open day in Torquay! 10am – 12pm at 1290 Horseshoe Bend Road, Torquay. Star of the Sea is a brand new residence offering personalised services, dementia care and tailored lifestyle programs. Affordable options available! For more information phone 8593 8444 or visit vmch.com.au
- Aug 12... FOR THE JOY OF SINGING THE CLASSICS:** No audition required, just come along and sing! The 3-hour session 2-5pm costs \$15 and includes all music and a'noon tea. *Please note rescheduled date and venue.* This session is held at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St and conducted by Anne Pilgrim. To register your attendance: 0412 524 316 or pandapilgrim@gmail.com
- ♦ **SAMARITAN HOUSE GEELONG:** An overnight crisis home for homeless men which rely on your generosity. Please consider making a donation to our Winter Appeal so we can continue to provide a place of warmth, sanctuary and hope. Donations are fully tax deductible and can be made directly through samaritanhousegeelong.com.au
 - ♦ **EUROPE PILGRIMAGE:** Fr Stephen from Highett Parish would like to invite you for a 17-day pilgrimage that he is leading departing on **7 October 2018**. This pilgrimage features Avila, Fatima, Santiago, Medjugorje, Lourdes, Milan, Padua, Assisi and Rome, for an all-inclusive price of \$7,200 which includes return airfares, local transfers, stay in 4-star Hotels and all breakfasts and dinners. For enquiries/bookings call 8513 0680 or 1300 721 561, email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au. *Last 2 seats available for 15 August group departure - call now!*

/Cont'd from P1...

Some Catholics have simply walked away from us because our community disbelieves that Christ's gifts can be manifest through them as well. Nazareth did not value what was in its midst because it thought it knew better.

Today's Gospel also has a practical impact in our homes, where we don't get away with very much, and affirmation can be sparingly given. This can be taken to unhealthy extremes when

parents and siblings speak highly of their spouse, children, brothers or sisters to everyone except to the person being praised. We are often so worried about a family member 'getting a big head' that they never hear from us the encouragement they deserve. As Christians we should look for opportunities to build up and praise those we know and love.

When Diana died it was a bit late for the world to decide she did worthwhile things. It was too late for

Nazareth after it rejected Jesus as well. In Mark's Gospel he never returns there. But it's not too late for us. May it never be said that we despised wise people who have something to teach us, and that we dragged down those whose gifts and talents reflected the power of God.

This Sunday Jesus reminds us that it's never too late to stop our disbelieving.