



St Michael's Parish

Incorporating the Churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

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Petrel St, Geelong West

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

I know very few people these days who work from 9.00am to 5.00pm. The eight-hour day seems to be a thing of the past. Where priests regularly encounter these new work patterns is when we see young people who are preparing for marriage in the Church. Sometimes to arrange a meeting we have to resort to a 6.30am or 10.00pm meeting. Some young people are working sixty hours a week. They take work home and work on the weekends. We know from surveys that they eat out most of the time, they party hard when they get the chance, and that Sunday is spent on the home front, going to the gym or sleeping. Then on Monday they start the process again.

Two things drive this obsessive work practice: competition in the job market, and the financial bonuses offered to the employees. The problem is that this practice cannot be a long-term strategy. At

the other end of the scale we all know people, only in their 30s and 40s, who are burnt out and feel used by a ruthless commercial market-place.

This culture of exhaustion is not confined to the young corporate raiders. Most people in our country have never worked as hard, with so many claims on our time and energies.

Excessive demands on one's time, no matter how great the needs and rewards, were issues for Jesus and the Apostles as well. The best translation of the Greek text for today's gospel says that after the apostles returned from their missionary journeys 'there were many coming and going and they had no leisure, even to eat'.

Jesus' call to 'come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while' is not just about good work

practises and ethical employment policy. It is about humanising our work, making sense of what we do and seeing our work as means to an end, not an end in itself.

The social teaching of the Church, especially in Pope John Paul's statements about labour and the rights of workers, repeatedly stresses three aspects to work:

- it gives us dignity. Governments and employers must not allow a work culture to develop where we lose our sense of personal importance, where we are treated like just another cog in the wheel;
- work enables us to improve the standard of living for us and our families;
- through working we develop our talents and gifts which builds up society as a whole. /Cont'd P4...

- 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time -*(Year B/2 - July 22, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: 2Kg :42-44

2nd Reading: Eph 4:1-6

Gospel: Jn 6:1-15

**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 23-Aug 8: Mileto family

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:

Rus Gallagher and Sophia Gall

ANNIVERSARIES:

Emily & Harry Callander, Angela Zuclich, Rocco Ciccone, Gabriella Cracco, Pat Doyle, 1 year anniversary of Dawn McFarlane and Domenico Ciccone and 1 month since death of Francesca Ciccone.

BAPTISMS:

Elijah Premjah, Zarli Landthaler and Ethan Learmont

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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



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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest awhile." (Mk 6:31)

Do you spend time every day alone and in silence, listening to how God is calling you? If not you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity to develop a more personal relationship with him. Unless we talk, and more importantly, listen to God every day, how else will we know how he is calling us? Consider making a retreat this year and spend some 'alone' time with God.

Roster for Next Sunday

(5th 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 McKenzie
L Fossey
D Dougherty
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators F O'Neill
Lectors L Kelly
Special Ministers L Sells, E Kelly
Welcomers E Kelly, L. Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L. Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

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

Original sin

The Good News is that God, in the person of the man Jesus, revealed himself to the world and offered to save all those who dedicate their lives to Him. The implication is that human beings need to be 'saved from something' and are not capable of saving themselves. That is not such good news and rather perplexing. And all this was a bit of a mystery for the original disciples. The gospel had a name for the problem: sin; but not a clear explanation of why this is so.

It was the theologian Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) who shone a bright light on the problem by putting it within the framework of a very powerful story: The expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Genesis tells a story about the first humans, Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God's command. As punishment they were expelled from Eden and were required to earn their food by the sweat of their brow, bring forth children in pain and, at the end of it all, die.

It's possible to interpret this story in a number of ways. That's what gives it its power. But Augustine chose a single interpretation that had very bad news indeed. Adam and Eve should have lived in blissful happiness in Eden forever, in unquestioning obedience to God. Whatever they did was so utterly sinful that God shattered this idyllic dream. (Surely it can't have been as a result of eating some fruit. That action must have been a symbol of something else). Augustine saw this eating of the fruit not as an admirable grasping for new knowledge or an exciting new experience; but damnable disobedience.

Under Augustine's interpretation the news gets worse. And here Augustine moved way beyond what the original story tells us. He stated that their action was driven by their very human nature and that this 'weakness' was inherited by every member of the human race coming after them. It is important at this point to realize that Augustine believed not only that Adam and Eve were the real biological parents of the human race but that sexual reproduction was the way the sin was passed on. So according to him we are all born damaged goods.

You are left wondering what Augustine's interpretation would have been had he known about evolution. As one of the great intellectuals of his time he is unlikely to have ignored that information.

But back to the story. This 'original sin' damage is so serious that there is nothing humans can do to put it right. All they can do is reject their own deepest instincts and desires, particularly sexual desires, and throw themselves on the mercy of the savior Jesus Christ.

Not everyone was prepared to go all the way with Augustine. In particular Eastern Christianity did not accept his belief in the total corruption of human beings. And in the west Thomas Aquinas believed that humans had enough natural virtue in their makeup to understand God's plan and play a significant role in their own salvation.

We can be forgiven for being skeptical about Augustine's scenario. First, because nothing even remotely like his interpretation was ever recorded as coming from Jesus' mouth; second because modern scientific knowledge (which is another way in which God's truth is revealed to us) makes the Adam and Eve story, as a factual account, implausible. So is there a better modern explanation of Original Sin?

The Church teaches that the first humans lost the original innocence they had received from God. They did this by a sin that not only lost 'holy' innocence for themselves but for all humans. They transmitted to their descendants a human nature wounded by that first sin ("original sin"). As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin. Could that have been an evolutionary process rather than a single dramatic incident over eating an apple?

The Church teaches that every human person born on this earth is made in the image of God. Within humans there exists both a powerful surge toward good because we are made in the image of God, and darker impulses that drag us toward evil. But the Church explicitly denies that we inherit *guilt* from anyone, maintaining that instead we inherit our fallen nature.

To be human is to be divine. But even the best human when it thirsts drinks from stagnant waters.

(Kevin Fell)

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:

OFFICE NEWS:

- Parish Leadership Meeting:**
Wednesday July 25, 7pm at the Parish Office.

- ♦ **EUCHARIST:** 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.
- ♦ **PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL:** At All Masses next weekend (July 28/29) there will be a special third collection taken up after Communion. All funds raised will help support the people of Myhanmar in the areas of education and quality schooling to build their nation for future generations. Donation envelopes are available at all Churches.
- ♦ **CWL:** The Manifold branch members are invited to attend lunch at the Leopold Sportsmans Club, 135 Kensington Rd Leopold, on Wed 25 July. Please meet at the Holy Spirit Hall 11am on the day so we can arrange transport. Further details please phone Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ♦ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** On Wednesday, **August 1st at 12noon** in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ♦ **ST MICHAEL'S CONVERSATION/CRAFT GROUP:** Ladies - are you interested in meeting new people? Do you want to experience informal conversation practice and improve your conversation? **We promote cultural inclusiveness and building strong St Michael's Community bonds.** Bring along your current craft project, hobby, or just come sit and chat and be part of the St Michael's Conversation Craft Group. Contact Debbie 0409 416 945. We meet at Holy Family Community Centre, 147 Separation Street, 2-5pm on 27 Jul, 10 Aug, 24 Aug, 7 Sep, 21 Sep, 5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov, 30 Nov.

Community News:

- July 28... FREE ONE DAY RETREAT:** Run by the Legion of Mary, at St Francis Xavier Church, Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio, with 9.30 Mass and finishing at 3pm. A light lunch will be served. For further enquiries please ph Adela Buaya on 0409 135 589.
- July 30... SING AUSTRALIA:** On stage Monday 1.30pm Belmont Seniors Concert Hall, 52 Thomson St. Geelong's very own professional singing group who will delight with a wide range of musical talent. Entry \$5 - tea/coffee after.
- Aug 14... LIFEBOAT GEELONG:** A Fundraiser will be held at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club from 5.30-7.30pm with guest speaker Brian Cook, CEO of the Geelong Football Club. Finger food is provided and tickets are \$60/person. Please purchase online at lifeboatgeelong.com.au



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Rest from work is a key factor in the success of all three aspects being achieved in any community. A culture of exhaustion militates against them. The bottom line in all this is appropriate boundaries.

Mark tells us today that though Jesus was moved to compassion by the

needs of the crowd, he also knew that their needs were not the only ones that had to be met. Jesus teaches his disciples and us that the balance between work and rest is an obligation of faith. This applies equally to work inside and outside the family home.

So this Sunday's Gospel carries a critical message for the modern world. Rest,

recreation and leisure are not indulgences about which we should feel guilty. They are rights defended by Christ and protect our human dignity.

I hope today you have a well-earned break.