



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:**
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Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.

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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

During World War II, Mary was one of hundreds of Australian women who fell in love with an American soldier. She married her Episcopalian Army Major at the side altar in a Catholic Church in 1945. He was dashing and handsome and by the time it came for him to return to Philadelphia in 1946, they were expecting their first child.

Upon arrival at her new home Mary found that her brave soldier was not as fearless as she thought. He was completely dominated by his aristocratic, wealthy mother who made it clear from the beginning that she opposed the marriage. Mary's life in the family home was a nightmare. The tensions boiled over when Brendan was born. Regardless of the promises his father had made in Australia to have their children baptised Catholics, the soldier waged no war against his mother who declared that if any grandchild of hers was baptised a 'papist' she would disinherit the three of them. The Major buckled under the maternal pressure and demanded that Brendan be baptised an

Episcopalian. Mary was devastated. She gathered her few possessions together, had her son baptised a Catholic and fled home.

In 1950, by now a divorcee, she met Maurice, a wonderful man who wanted to marry her and be a father to Brendan. When they went to see the local parish priest, he told them they could not be married in the Church and if they contracted a civil marriage they ran the risk of going to hell for eternity. They were tough days. Catholicism was one of the reasons Mary left the USA. In turn, the very Church she defended shut her out.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly about marriage and divorce. In Jesus' day only a few women had rights before the law. These were wealthy women from the priestly families. They could divorce their husbands. The vast majority of women, however, were seen as possessions of their father, husband or son. A husband could draw up a divorce writ for any reason he wished and so force his wife out of their home into destitution or humiliate her by sending her back to her own family. No wonder

Jesus lays down the law so strongly about fidelity and commitment. His new interpretation of the Law of Moses defended women's rights to dignity and security.

Every Catholic parish today has parishioners who are divorced and remarried; no doubt some are here at this Mass. In the face of the negative messages you hear, I want you to know how much we admire your often heroic faith, how much God loves you and how grateful we are that you hang in here with us. The problem for the Church is that, on the one hand, we want to keep affirming the permanence of married love, and yet, on the other hand, we have an increasing number of Catholics who are divorcing. We are caught between the fine ideal Jesus teaches and the frail human condition we all carry in different ways. We have not got the balance right yet.

The Church's remedy to marriage breakdown is an annulment. An annulment is not a Catholic divorce. A civil divorce says the parties that were married are not now.

*/Cont'd P4...***- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time -***(Year B/2 - October 7, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Wis 7:7-11

2nd Reading: Heb 4:12-13

Gospel: Mk 10:17-30

**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:

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:

Monica Dolder, Ivan Miletic, Patricia Jeffreys and Marjan Kontelj

ANNIVERSARIES:

Hal Hancock and Vlado Zanic

BAPTISMS:

Vince O'Donnell, Max Verco and Luka Opacak

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Tony Doyle, Peter Daniels, Val Howard, Joe Vanjek, Frank Mason, Val Howard, Kylie Kosic, Anita Capicchiano



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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them." (Gen 2:19)

The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the Start God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind; it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

Roster for Next Sunday

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators M Carson
Lectors P Power
Special Ministers P McGlinchey
Welcomers D Dougherty
Projectionist B Middleton
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

E Strzelecki
M Martin
V Trinder

R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators M Howard
Lectors F O'Neill
Special Ministers R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
Welcomers C Marcantonio, L Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdrik, M Baird, E Glynn
V Resciniti, E Glynn
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
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

Being poor and being made to jump through useless hoops

It just seems like simple common sense to expect the unemployed to do something to help themselves if they want government support. One of our greatest writers (George Orwell) experienced poverty and wrote about it in *Down and Out in Paris and London*. He said being poor is extremely complicated. Mostly it's not terrible. It's merely squalid and boring. Orwell remembers spending entire days lying in bed because there was nothing worth getting up for. "The crux of poverty is that it annihilates the future." All that remains is surviving in the here and now. He was also outraged that "people take it for granted that they have a right to preach at you and pray over you as soon as your income falls below a certain level."

In recent decades the Western World's welfare states have been using Big Brother tactics to ensure taxpayers money is not being wasted on bludgers. These states have embraced *job getting* schemes for the unemployed: job application workshops; picking up rubbish and cleaning up the environment stints; psychological counselling and computer training to access job advertisements. It doesn't seem to matter that there are ten applicants for every job.

The problem of the unemployed is that they haven't developed their employment skills or simply haven't given it their best shot. Ignore the fact that there are not enough jobs to go round. It is the fault of the unemployed that they haven't the drive or the skills to do productive work; not compared to the drive and skills of many advisors in the Finance Industry. The unemployed waste public money through their laziness and inadequacies. The Finance Industry squanders (and sometimes embezzles) private savings through their incompetence or greed. But at least they are not a burden on the public purse. Not, that is, until governments have to step in to prevent the collapse of individual financial institutions or (during the Global Financial Crisis) the entire financial system. Then it costs trillions. Much more than unemployment benefits.

Pope Francis has written: "Today it is said that many things cannot be done because there is no money. Yet "the money for weapons can be found, the money to make war, money for unscrupulous financial transactions." At the same time, he said, there seems to be no money "to create jobs, to invest in learning, in people's talents, to plan new welfare programs or to safeguard the environment."

A big question is: How to invest in and improve people's talents?

One of the most startling things about the industry that has grown up around providing job training is that often it doesn't work. Some return-to-work programs even prolong unemployment. And the caseworkers appointed to help dole claimants find a job often cost more than the unemployment benefits. And when you add the costs of the bureaucracy (i.e. the surveillance system) making sure people are not cheating the system, it's a huge drain on government finances.

Imagine this: A welfare mother with two kids has her benefits cut because she hasn't sufficiently developed her job skills. (That might be because the course she was doing was run by shysters who were scamming for lucrative government subsidies while providing crap training). The government saves a couple of thousand dollars. But the hidden costs of children who will consequently grow up poor, eat poor food, do poorly at school and be more likely to have a run-in with the law, are many times greater.

In fact the conservative criticism of the nanny state hits the nail on the head. The current tangle of red tape keeps people trapped in poverty. It actually produces dependence. The rest of us hold down a job by demonstrating our strengths. Social services require claimants to demonstrate over and over again their shortcomings: illness, depression and uselessness for employment. What must that do to you psychologically over time?

Pope Francis admits he doesn't have the answer. He asks all Christians to look for a solution. "The real problem isn't money, but people. We cannot ask money to do what only people can do or create. Money alone will not create development; to promote development we need people who have the courage to take the initiative.....Taking the initiative means overcoming excessive dependence on aid. We need to find a different way of resolving these problems."

Pope Francis spoke about the father of a young man with Down syndrome who joined with other parents and people with Down syndrome to form a cooperative, and then found a for-profit company willing to sell what the cooperative made. "The dad," Francis said, "needed the support offered by the state and by private organizations, but he was not content until he found a way to help his son make a sustainable living. If the father had not taken the initiative he would have been stuck asking the state for everything. When Christians look for ways to create new jobs, new ways of organizing a labour force and new ideas for employee participation schemes they should put an important Gospel value into the mix: love." There's the problem. What's the solution?

- Kevin Fell channelling some ideas of Rutger Bregman and Pope Francis.

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **PARISH LITURGY MEETING:** Will be held **Tuesday October 9**, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **LIVING ICONS: Mothers, Fathers and the Gospel of the Family...** New video and print resources highlighting the role of both a mother and a father in family life have been produced by the Life, Marriage & Family Office. Print copies of the booklet are available at the back of each Church and the accompanying videos can be viewed online at www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily
- ◆ **GEELONG CEMETERIES TRUST** take great pride in hosting its Annual All Souls Day Mass at the Geelong Eastern Cemetery which will be led by Fr Prakash Cutinha. The Mass will be held in the Catholic Chapel at the Geelong Eastern Cemetery starting at 5.30pm on **Friday 2nd November**. Please enter via McKillop St Gate 2. Tea/coffee will be supplied - all are invited to attend.
- ◆ **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 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov.

Community News:

- Oct 10...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Monthly meeting next Wednesday 7.30pm Clairvaux Meeting Rooms Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- Oct 11...** **CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME:** A Climate Change and Sustainability Forum with the key question *"Individually and collectively: what can we do?"*. This Forum seeks to bring a Christian perspective to the crisis of climate change and to work with concerned like-minded people to develop environmentally sustainable and socially just ways to 'Care for our Common Home'. Geelong West Town Hall, 7-9.30pm. Free event! Further details socialjusticegeelong.org.au
- Oct 12...** **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE BOARDERS' REUNION:** Past boarding students are invited to join us at 11am. For enquiries and bookings please contact Julie Cole on 5226 8149 or email julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au
- Oct 13...** **MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** Assembles in the Treasury Gardens, cnr Spring St and Wellington Pde, 1pm, concluding with speeches in front of Parliament House commemorating the 100,000 Australian lives a year lost through abortion in our country.
- Nov 10...** **ST JOSEPH'S OLD COLLEGIAN'S ASSOCIATION REMEMBRANCE MASS:** Please join us for our annual Remembrance Mass, paying tribute to past students, staff and benefactors of the College. The Mass will be held in the College Chapel at 10am to be followed by light refreshments. Enquiries: Julie Cole 5226 8149 or julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au
- Dec 1...** **ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL EAST GEELONG CLASS OF 1968:** A 50 Year Reunion is to be held - for information call Frank 0414 949 570 or stmargarets1968.org Please let any family or friends know who might be interested.

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE: Is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary Schools across the Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approx half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an education setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Email: somml@bigpond.com or ph Mercy Connect Melbourne on 9326 1895.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY LUNCHEON

When: Tuesday November 6
Where: Holy Spirit Hall
Time: From Noon
Cost: \$20 per person
(All funds going to Fr Mick's Mates helping to fight Cancer)

Come along for a sociable afternoon, lunch and glass of 'bubbly' provided.

Sweeps, Raffles and a congenial afternoon guaranteed!

Book a table or come on your own.

Contact: David Lunn
0408 378 982
Margaret Haines
0413 690 625
Amie O'Brien
0427 866 891
Desma Dougherty
5244 5459
Parish Office
5278 1343

Melbourne Cup Day?

/Cont'd from P1...

An annulment says that there were factors, often unknown to the couple on the day, which meant that there was never a full and true Christian marriage in the first place. The sacrament is therefore null and void.

Some Catholics, and certainly people who are not Catholic, cannot face up to the long, complex and legal process involved in an annulment. It can be a traumatic experience. Others argue that the Church might step away from the more recent legal

approach to dealing with marriage and, like the Orthodox Churches, use the Sacrament of Penance to nullify the Sacrament of Marriage. Whatever of the process, Christian teaching on this issue must always be metered with compassion.

From 1951 until 1993 Mary and her second husband did not receive the Sacraments. At my encouragement, she instigated annulment proceedings in 1990. In 1993 they received communion for the first time in 42 years. God had never moved away from them, embracing

them in his arms, laying his hands on them every day and blessing them.

At that Nuptial Mass in 1994, Maurice's best man was Brendan, born in Philadelphia in 1946. Maurice had legally adopted Brendan the day after he married Mary. And as we all received communion, with tears streaming down our faces, we understood that it is to human, frail and open hearts that the Kingdom of God belongs.