



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

PARISH SECRETARY:

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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

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

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out

with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were

surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another.

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- First Sunday of Advent -

*(Year C - December 2, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

To you I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****2nd Sunday of Advent - Cycle C**

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

2nd Reading: Phil 1:3-6,8-11

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

**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:

Nov 19-Dec 3: Cawthray family, 66 Drysdale Ave; **Dec 10-24:** Moore family, 39 Willana Ave

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:

Lucia Cavallo and Colin McKinnis

ANNIVERSARIES:

Milan Stante, Joan Jess, Gerard Gillett, Carlota Fernandes

BAPTISMS:

Xavier Betts, Eadie Jones and Ivy & Elsie Kelberg

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Joe Vanjek, Frank Mason, Val Howard, Kylie Kopic, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Allan Ansell, Marie Brown, Cheryl Lambert, Elizabeth Topic, Allan Ansell, Alexander



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues Dec 4... Luis Louro and Amelia Almeiro, Baldasso & Bisinella families

Wed Dec 5... Lipinski and Strzelecki families

Thurs Dec 6... Leo Consedine

Fri Dec 7... Cudmore, Neville, Parle, Kennedy, Nichols and Forsyth family members

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

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



Plenary Council 2020
'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...'

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have begun a process to prepare for the **Plenary Council** that will take place over two sessions, in October 2020 and May 2021. A Plenary Council (or Synod) is the highest formal gathering of all local Catholic churches in a country and can discuss and legislate on a wide range of issues, including matters of faith, morals and discipline. It has been over 80 years since such a Plenary has been held in Australia.

The first phase of the Plenary process, "A Year of Listening", has begun and will continue until Ash Wednesday 2019. All Catholics are invited to contribute, specifically by contemplating, discussing and feeding back to the Bishops their own response to the question **"What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?"**

Early in the New Year you will be invited to share your answers to this question. You are very welcome to email your ideas to St Michael's Parish or to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.



- St Michael's Parish Christmas Celebrations -

Christmas Masses:

Dec 24...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	5.00pm	Holy Family (focus on the children)
	7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	8.00pm	Holy Spirit
	9.30pm	Holy Spirit
Dec 25...	9.00am	Holy Spirit
	9.30am	Holy Family



Christmas Masses in Croatian:

Dec 24...	9.00pm	Holy Family
Dec 25...	11.30am	Holy Family



Advent/Christmas Carols Service:

Dec 11...	7.00pm	Holy Family
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Second Rite Reconciliation:

Tues Dec 18...	7.30pm	Holy Family
Wed Dec 19...	7.30pm	Holy Spirit



Advent/Christmas Carols Service:

A warm welcome is extended to all parishioners, family and friends to our Inaugural Advent/Christmas Carols Service at Holy Family Church on Tuesday December 11, commencing at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend supper afterwards in the Parish Community Centre - please bring a small plate of food to share.

Hope to see you all there!

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **Ss PETER & PAUL'S TOILETS:** We are very excited to announce that the revamp of the existing toilet block is now complete and the end result is amazing. Our thanks and appreciation must go to the team at Bisinella Developments who donated their time, expertise and costs of materials - especially Lino, Richard and Mick Bisinella. We extend our appreciation and thanks also to Peter Serra at Select Architects and Dean Bertuch at BSA Building Surveyors, who donated their expert advice and services. We also thank Peter McCormack who carried out the plumbing on our behalf. Last, but not least, thank you to Fr Gerard Keith and Dao Tran (Archdiocese of Melbourne) for their input at the early stages and getting this project off and running.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** To the organisers and helpers who set up, catered and cleaned up for the Anointing of the Sick and Seniors Luncheon at Holy Family on November 24th. Once again, the day was an enjoyable, friendly and hospitable occasion for all. A great outreach, especially for those who are housebound.
- ◆ **THANKYOU ALSO** to the Spina family for putting up the beautiful Crib in front of Ss Peter & Paul's Church.
- ◆ **The Holy Spirit Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society will have their Annual "Christmas Appeal" Collection at the 11am Mass on Sunday 2nd December. This Appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming Holy Season of Christmas. There will be a Special 3rd Collection taken up in support of this.**
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS:** Will be holding a Christmas Stall at Holy Family Church this Sunday, December 2nd.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER: Monday 3rd December** at the Fyansford Hotel. See you all there for an enjoyable evening of Christmas cheer!
- ◆ **CWL:** The Christmas Lunch of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held **Wednesday December 5** at Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club, Calvert St Hamlyn Hts at 12midday. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of \$10 for our Lucky Dip Kris Kringle. For transport please contact Bernadette 0417 514 598 or Tricia 0431 512 354.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** The Summer Edition of Australian Catholics is available for free today and includes articles on **Strands of Spirituality in the Catholic Church; Finding God in Community, and Breathing with God.** Pick one up today!
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** St Vincent de Paul Society are selling Columban Calendars for \$9 available to purchase from the Piety Stall in all three Churches until **December 16**. Also available are Christmas cards for \$7 a set of eight. Proceeds are used to assist those who are in need.
- ◆ **LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the new **Break Open the Word** is now in the Sacristy where you are rostered. Please collect it as soon as you can. Many thanks for your continued support.

FR MICK'S MATES:

Christmas Markets will be held on the following dates:

- Sat Dec 8...** Ss Peter & Paul's after the 5pm Mass
- Sun Dec 9...** Holy Spirit after the 11am Mass
- Sun Dec 16...** Holy Family after the 8am and 9.30am Masses

Reminder - Christmas Hampers will be made to order. If you want one please call Margaret Brown 5229 1280 or Betty Rice 5229 4530.

Thankyou for supporting Fr Mick's Mates.



Liturgy at St Michael's:

- Dec 3... **Communion Service and Anointing at Blakiston Lodge, McKellar Centre 10.30am**
- Dec 4... **Mass of Anointing at McKellar Centre 10.15am**
- Dec 6... **End of Year Mass - Years 7-10 at Clonard College, 9am**
- " **Mass of Healing at Multicultural Centre - 1.30pm (Thursday)**
- Dec 11... **Advent/Christmas Carols Service - Holy Family Church, 7pm**

Community News:

- Dec 2... **RICE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR:** 11am to 3pm with Stalls, BBQ, Spinning Wheel, etc. 2 Marshalltown Rd Marshall.
- Dec 9... **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** End of Year BBQ/Social 1pm at the home of Louise and Alan Fossey. Invitation to members, ladies and family. Cost \$10/head, incl BBQ & drinks. Just bring a salad or sweet please. Phone Joe Lambert 5229 8442 to confirm attendance.
- Dec 11... **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB:** Come join us for a 2-course evening meal and the opportunity to meet new friends - we are open to members of all faiths. Appetisers begin 6.15pm followed by a delicious Christmas meal and entertainment provided by Don Fisher for only \$35/person. Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St Geelong West. For more information/reservations phone or text **Michael Belleville at 0431 959 584 by Friday Dec 7.**

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA PRESENTS:

Free Lunchtime Organ Recitals for Advent from 12.30 - 1.15pm at St Mary's Basilica, 136 Yarra St.

Mon Dec 3 - Jodie Townsend, Mon Dec 10 - Beverley Phillips, Mon Dec 17 - Colin Jenkins, Mon Dec 24 - Frank DeRosso

Enquiries jan.lavelle@gmail.com or ph 0407 095 408

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It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me

to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come.

And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.