



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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Holy Family

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Separation St, Bell Park

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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 Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas.

'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church.

He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has

not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God.

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it. /Cont'd P4...

- Third Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - December 16, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Cry out with joy and gladness;
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

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:****4th Sunday of Advent - Cycle C**

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4

2nd Reading: Heb 10:5-10

Gospel: Lk 1:39-44

**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:

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:

Mattia Saya and Salvatore Modica

ANNIVERSARIES:

Catherine Gibson, Leslie Cranbourne, Irene & John O'Neill, Jim Vivian, Manuel Ramos, Clem Lourey and 1 year anniversary of Maria Jesus

BAPTISMS:

Aylah Merchant

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues Dec 18... Hajer & Groher families

Wed Dec 19... Bond, Turner & Kelly family members

Thurs Dec 20... Fiorillo, DeLorenzo, Dellafonte, Auriemma & Orgiz families

Fri Dec 21... O'Brien, Byron, Morrissey & Wooster family members

Roster for Next Sunday

(4th 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 Fraatz
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

- *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

Christmas Masses in Lithuanian:

Dec 25...	9.30am	Ss Peter & Paul's
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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

Crib Scene at Ss Peter & Paul's



Christmas Eve / Christmas Day:

Holy Family 5.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve:

Children from Prep to Grade 6 are invited to play a special part as the Gospel is being read. Names of interested children can be left at the Parish Office as soon as possible.



Christmas Rosters 2018:

HOLY FAMILY

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

L Kelly
E Kelly, L Sells, P Ruggeri, J Genova, ****, ****
C Resciniti

9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY

P Gizycki
C Taylor, T McMahon
C Taylor, P Carmody, V Resciniti
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

8.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

T McShanag
M Kroger
M Kroger, C McShanag, V Trinder, D Dougherty

9.30PM CHRISTMAS EVE

D Lunn
M Martin (TBC)
D Lunn, M Martin (TBC), ****

Commentator

9.00AM CHRISTMAS DAY

Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

F Kearney
J O'Neill
R O'Neill, F Kearney, ****
(TBC)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

A Henderson
G Tolan
P McGlinchey, A Henderson, N Need, C O'Brien
B Middleton

7.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

R Allum
M Gifford
M Gifford, R Allum, ****, ****
J Lynch

**** **PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP.**

"SANTA REQUIRED":

We are looking for a person to be our Santa at the 5pm Mass at Holy Family Church on Christmas. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office.



St Michael's News:

◆ FAREWELL & THANKYOU TO FR GEORGE:

On **Sunday Dec 16** at the 9.30am Holy Family Mass, Fr George Slowinski will Concelebrate with Fr Prakash. This will be followed by a cup of tea/ coffee and cake in the Parish Community Centre. All welcome!

- ◆ **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.

FR MICK'S MATES:

Christmas Markets will be held on the following dates:
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.



Community News:

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA PRESENTS:

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

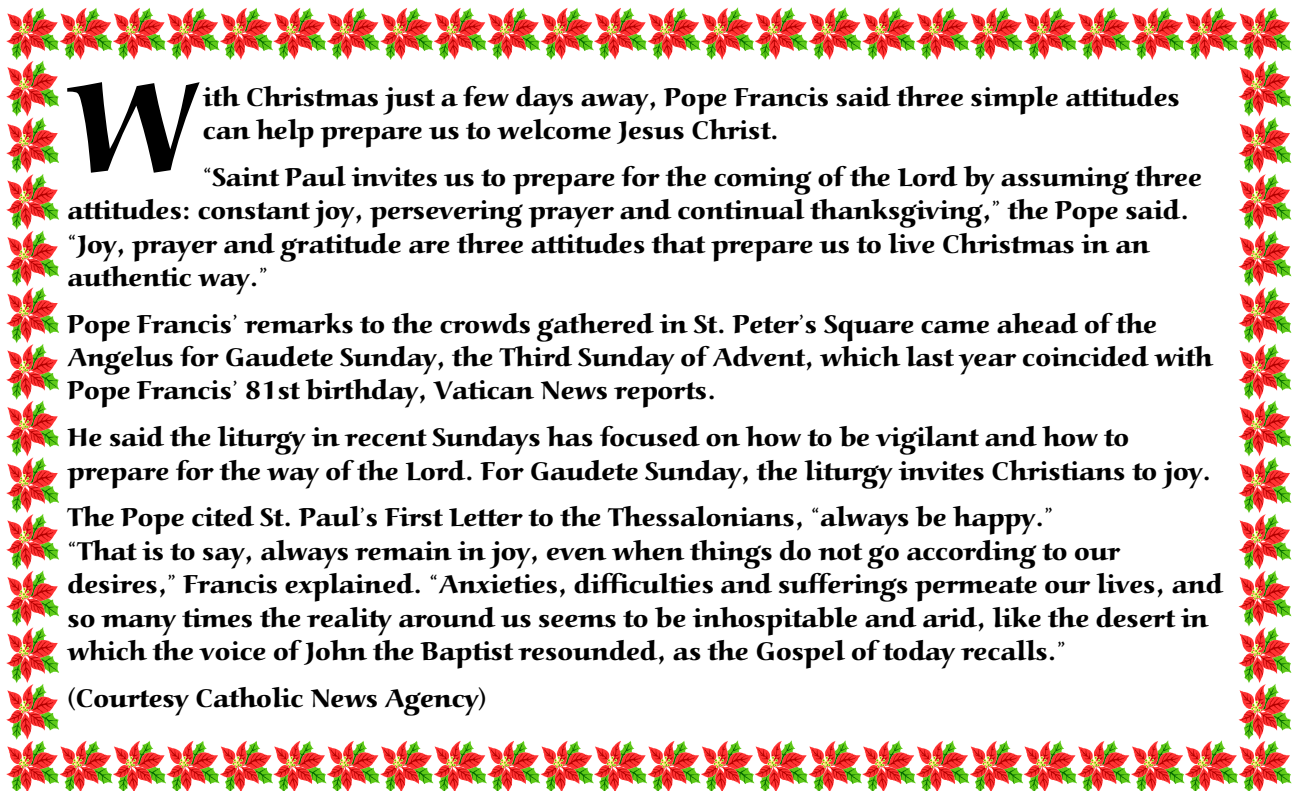
Mon Dec 17 - Colin Jenkins, Mon Dec 24 - Frank DeRosso

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

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED TO WORK WITH REFUGEE STUDENTS!

Northern Bay College - Homework Tutoring Group, commencing Term 1, 2019

Volunteer Tutors are needed to assist newly arrived refugee students (Year 9-10) at Northern Bay College in North Geelong, on Mondays 3.15-4.30pm, during first semester in 2019. You will need good interpersonal skills, able to assist newly arrived/Refugee high school students in social and language development and schooling. For more details contact Matt Walton (Volunteer Coordinator) - CatholicCare on 9926 5699, email Matthew.Walton@ccam.org.au.



With Christmas just a few days away, Pope Francis said three simple attitudes can help prepare us to welcome Jesus Christ.

"Saint Paul invites us to prepare for the coming of the Lord by assuming three attitudes: constant joy, persevering prayer and continual thanksgiving," the Pope said. "Joy, prayer and gratitude are three attitudes that prepare us to live Christmas in an authentic way."

Pope Francis' remarks to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square came ahead of the Angelus for Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, which last year coincided with Pope Francis' 81st birthday, Vatican News reports.

He said the liturgy in recent Sundays has focused on how to be vigilant and how to prepare for the way of the Lord. For Gaudete Sunday, the liturgy invites Christians to joy.

The Pope cited St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, "always be happy."

"That is to say, always remain in joy, even when things do not go according to our desires," Francis explained. "Anxieties, difficulties and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resounded, as the Gospel of today recalls."

(Courtesy Catholic News Agency)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 3rd Sunday of Advent

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Phil 4:6)

St Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts.

He promises to give us all that we need.

When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

/Cont'd from P1...

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a

God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a

benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.

