



# 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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**Web Page Address:**[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

The visitation is one of the moving scenes in the Gospel. On a human level, here are two cousins, unexpectedly pregnant in the most extraordinary circumstances, meeting and offering each other greetings and support. We can see the scene and feel the bond.

In the Gospel of Luke this moment is pivotal. These women meet in the mountains where God has always been manifest to the Israelites. Elizabeth is the Old Covenant made to Israel and she carries John who will be the herald of the Messiah. Mary, literally, embodies the new, and final, covenant in Jesus.

Elizabeth recognises what is happening here and she embraces all that God is doing for the world. She has tasted the promise of God and now sees its fulfilment.

On a more mundane level, however, a meeting like this would have occasioned

much comment and speculation from those outside the inner circle. We only have to imagine it happening today in any small suburb or country town for us to appreciate the human scale of the unfolding drama.

The Iona Community has explored the unwritten history in their story of Mmes Matthew, Mark and Luke, 'The village gossips'.

Narrator: In any small village, news travels quickly. Therefore it is only to be expected that the strange changes in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth might have been food for other people's thought.

Mrs Matthew: Well, ladies, you know how I'm not one for gossip, but wait until you hear this. You know that old woman Elizabeth, with the man who has not spoken for nine months.

Mrs Mark: Yes, what about them?

Mrs Matthew: They say she's had a little boy.

Mrs Luke: At her age? She's 88 if she's a

day!

Mrs Matthew: Well, that's what I heard and it was on very good authority!

Mrs Luke: Are you sure you've got the right woman? You're not mixing her up with her cousin?

Mrs Mark: Who? Mary?

Mrs Luke: That's her! Now, I'm not one for talking about anybody but wait until I tell you this. She's pregnant!

Mrs Mark: Never! How do you know?

Mrs Luke: You can tell. You can just tell.

Mrs Matthew: Oh yes, you can tell all right. I heard her in the store last week asking for a dress eight sizes too big for her.

Mrs Luke: There you are. Draw your own conclusions. Now, I know that this will not go any further, but I hear that she and a certain young man are planning to leave the district.

Mrs Matthew: Who is the young man?

Mrs Luke: The joiner's boy, Joseph.

Mrs Mark: Never!

/Cont'd P4...

## - Fourth Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - December 23, 2018)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!****NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****Feast of the Holy Family - Cycle C**

1st Reading: 1Sam 1:20-22,24-28

2nd Reading: 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24

Gospel: Lk 2:41-52



4TH SUNDAY OF Advent

**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:

Marina Russo and Antonio Piva

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Eva, Boris & Andrew Uroda, Joseph, Catherine & Felix Capicchiano, Charles & Marjorie McShanag, Vytautas Bindokas, Silvana Bruschi, Ray Gurry, Elerita DiCristoforo, Zlatko Velcek, Peter Bahl, Maria, Antonetta & Lidia DeAngelis, Gabrielle Shanahan and one month since death of Lucia Cavallo



### BAPTISMS:

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### 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, Val Howard, Peter Brown



## PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

**Wed Dec 26...** Duggan and Killian families

**Thurs Dec 27...** Members of Mairos and DaRosa families

**Fri Dec 28...** Macarol, Biviano, Virgona, Santospirito families and other relatives and friends.

# Roster for Next Sunday

(5th 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 Verdnik, M Baird, E Glynn  
V Resciniti, E Glynn  
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  
B Bilogrevic

### 9.30PM CHRISTMAS EVE

D Lunn  
M Martin (TBC)  
D Lunn, M Martin, Sr Anne  
R Martin

### 9.00AM CHRISTMAS DAY

Commentator  
Lectors  
Special Ministers  
Projectionist

F Kearney  
J O'Neill  
R O'Neill, F Kearney, \*\*\*\*\*  
L Coles

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S

Commentator  
Lectors  
Special Ministers  
Projectionist

### 5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

A Henderson  
G Tolan  
P McGlinchey, A Henderson, N Neeld, 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 \*\*\*\*\*

## OFFICE HOURS:

**T**he Parish Office will be closed for the Public Holidays - December 25/26 and January 1 and opened intermittently from December 27 through to January 11. We open for normal hours from Monday January 14, 2019. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine.

## Once again the victims of child abuse have had their hopes dashed

Because a former archbishop has been acquitted of covering up child sexual abuse. Earlier this year Adelaide Archbishop Philip Wilson was sentenced to jail. His crime was that he failed to report to the police that he had information that a Fr. James Fletcher had abused two young boys in 1971. At that time Archbishop Wilson was an assistant parish priest. The prosecution case was that Fr. Wilson was told by one of the altar boys in 1976 that they'd been abused by paedophile priest James Fletcher but he did nothing about it.

At his trial it was said that in 1976 a 15-year-old altar boy, Peter Creigh, told the then Father Philip Wilson on two occasions four years earlier he had been abused by a fellow priest, James Fletcher. Mr Creigh said he did not hear anything about the matter again and he kept quiet about the abuse until 2009 when eventually he told his family.

Finally Mr. Creigh told the Bishop of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese (Michael Mallone) about the abuse in 2010 before taking the matter to police in 2013. By that time the offending priest, Fletcher, had been charged in 2004 with other child sex abuse crimes and was convicted before dying in jail in 2006.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in N.S.W. decided Bishop Wilson had a case to answer. As a result, he (by then Archbishop of Adelaide) was charged with failing to take Mr Creigh's allegation to police, not in 1976, but when Fletcher was charged in 2004. A trial was held before a magistrate and in May this year Archbishop Wilson was found guilty of not disclosing to police abuse by another priest. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison (ordered to serve a minimum of six months). He is the most senior Catholic cleric in the world to be convicted of anything to do with the child abuse scandals. He immediately appealed against the conviction.

One of the issues raised in the appeal was the problem of memory. It is 47 years after the actual abuse and 42 years after it is claimed Fr. Wilson (as he was then) was first told about the abuser. A key question became would Archbishop Wilson be likely to remember the allegations made to him in 1976 when Fletcher was charged in 2004, 28 years after the telling. (Remember the charge was that Wilson failed to report the abuse in 2004).

A second trial has just concluded in which a District Court Judge has quashed Archbishop Wilson's conviction for covering up child sexual abuse by the paedophile priest.

### To sum up this convoluted trial.

The magistrate who presided over the first trial believed all the witnesses other than Archbishop Wilson were credible and truthful. When convicting Archbishop Wilson, the Magistrate described his answers as evasive, likening him to a cat on a hot tin roof under questioning. In contrast to the magistrate's opinion, the second trial Judge Ellis described Archbishop Wilson as a "very honest and forthright" witness. He said he appreciated that the Archbishop could not be absolutely definitive about what he was told four decades before, saying it "is the appropriate response from any intelligent, reasonable and thoughtful individual". The magistrate's decision was riddled with errors.

But the main problem is the legal statute under which the Archbishop was charged. He was charged under a provision of the New South Wales Crimes Act, section 316, which has hardly ever been used. Introduced in 1990, it was reviewed by the New South Wales Law Reform Commission in 1999 which said: "It must be accepted that the present provision is seriously flawed; to be brutal about it, it is in several crucial respects virtually meaningless. In our view, the essential problem is not that the section's underlying philosophy is mistaken but that it breaches the fundamental rule that the criminal law be unambiguous."

No wonder the magistrate in the first trial messed up the law. It is a cumbersome, unworkable statute. He did not even consider some of the key legal questions necessary to secure a conviction. His 59-page judgment failed to apply the cumbersome section 316 appropriately. But it's hard to blame him too much because the provision is so badly drafted that even a bench of Supreme Court judges would have trouble making sense of it.

One thing is sure victims of sexual abuse are devastated by the decision. They were looking for some senior person in the Church to be held accountable for what happened to them. They feel let down by the acquittal. And their original hurt has been compounded. They are not interested in *justice* as defined by the niceties of the Law. One of the victims was in tears after the judge's decision and was too upset to comment outside court. As the judge left the room someone in the crowd called out: "Bullshit – that's a disgrace."

However Judge Ellis said Bishop Wilson should not be convicted on the "direction of public opinion" or on the sins of the Catholic Church as an institution, but rather on the rule of law. "In practice, complying with the legal principles may well result in a verdict that is perhaps inconsistent with media or community expectations, given more recent trends in public and media opinion. But if the verdict is a true representation of justice ... then it is community or media expectations that must be dashed, not the hopes of an individual that he or she will receive a fair trial."

We need to be suspicious of populist demands to go to trial to seek retribution. They have the potential to blow up in the faces of the victims themselves and increase their disillusionment and depression. Show trials based on flimsy evidence can backfire badly on victims of child sexual abuse who are given false hope that the law is being correctly applied to their cases. *(Kevin Fell)*

/Cont'd from P1...

Mrs Luke: Well, that's what they say and I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Mark: So, have you heard what they're saying about the so-called census?

Mrs Matthew: No. Tell us.

Mrs Mark: Well, I happened to hear that the reason the Romans want our names is not to send us birthday cards.

Mrs Luke: Well, why are they having a census?

Mrs Mark: To register us for a 'poll tax'.

Mrs Matthew: I heard it was a 'community charge'.

Mrs Mark: 'A rose by any other name.'

Mrs Luke: They wouldn't do that, would they?

Mrs Mark: Well I'm just warning you. Mind, I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Luke: Nor me.

Mrs Matthew: Nor me.

The story of the visitation keeps the rumour

going that just when we think we can figure God out, predict how God will enter our lives and our world, he does something none of us can imagine. And the best thing about this rumour is – it's true.

As we wait for Christmas to come again into our lives, let's make room for Jesus Christ who turns our expectations upside down and always gives the gossips plenty to talk about.