



# 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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Holy Spirit

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Phone 5229 8298

St Patrick's

John Grant

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

The Pope had just finished a tour of the USA and was taking a limousine to San Francisco. Having never driven a limo, he asked the chauffeur if he could drive for a while.

Well, the chauffeur didn't have much choice, so he climbs in the back and the Pope takes the wheel.

The Pope starts accelerating to see what the limo could do. He gets to 130 kph and suddenly sees the lights of the highway patrol in his rear vision mirror. He pulls over, but the policeman, seeing who it is, says, 'Just a minute your Holiness, I'm going to have to call in about this one'.

The trooper asks for the chief. He tells the chief he's got someone really important pulled over.

It's not Ted Kennedy again is it?

No Chief, it's more important.

Is it the Governor?

No sir, it's more important.

Good God man, you haven't pulled over the President?

No sir, even more important.

Who the heck is more important than the President of the USA?

I don't know sir, but he's got the Pope as his chauffeur.

What you see is often not what you get.

What we have just heard in Luke's Gospel falls into this category.

When we hear the phrase 'Blessed are you' it can sound rather patronising. It can seem that Jesus glosses over all sorts of tough human realities with, 'Well done, keep it up, be happy and we'll fix it all up in heaven'.

But reading the beatitudes in this light is a direct contradiction of what Jesus says in this text and certainly how he lived it out.

The Hebrew concept of a blessing isn't

about Divine pats on bowed human heads; it is about where the presence of God is to be found. In the Hebrew Scriptures, a blessing is the discovery that God is present and active in one's experience, right here and right now.

So the beatitudes are saying that we do not need to go past our own daily struggles to find the presence of God. Jesus tells us that when we see the poor, the compassionate, the mournful, those who campaign for a just society and suffer because of it, the gentle, the innocent, the peacemakers and the martyrs; we are encountering, in a special way, the presence of God.

Jesus teaches us that God is not impervious to our pain and happiness, or a great manipulator desiring terrible things to punish us or teach us something. No. The God of the beatitudes is a companion with us in every experience we go through either personally or as a community.

*/Cont'd P4...*

## - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - February 17, 2019)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of  
your name.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad;  
your reward is great in heaven.  
**Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****7th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: 1Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23

2nd Reading: 1Cor 15:45-49

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38

**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:

**Feb 4-18:** Trinder family, 20 Downie Place; **Feb 18 - Mar 4:** Martin family, 26 Honey Lane

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:

Elizabeth Pearson (McGarrigle), Nevenka Barta, Doug Sells and Carmel Gray

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Ivan Vanjek, Daniel Dempsey, Bill Jess, John Vanstan, Baden Featherstone, Fred & Marie Casey, Robert Neeld and 1 year anniversary of Michael Sharry

### BAPTISMS:

Hazel Condro and Callum Kearney

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Allan Ansell, Alexander, Peter Brown, Sandra Klinge, Greg Malishev, Wayne Gilbert, Amalia Zaino



After approx 5 weeks names will be taken off sick list. Please contact Office if you wish names to be reinserted.

## 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

## 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. <b>BYO casserole &amp; drink to share.</b>
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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)**

## Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS:** Unfortunately, due to a sudden increase in the influenza virus over the last few months, it has been decided that Communion under both kinds will not be offered at our weekend Masses just yet.
- ◆ **PLENARY COUNCIL:** An open meeting on February 12th was attended by a group of ten parishioners. They used this opportunity to express their ideas, opinions and suggestions on the topic of ***"What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?"***. If you are interested in knowing the points that came up at the meeting, please contact Bernadette at the parish office for a copy. If you wish to submit your own ideas, please email to [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) by **February 28th**.

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## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANKYOU!** I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who were part of the celebration of my 50th Birthday. The parish gift of \$1,620 is gratefully accepted and your generosity is quite overwhelming. From the bottom of my heart, I say thankyou! - *Fr Prakash*
- ◆ **WELCOME TO LYNNE HOWARD:** I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Lynne Howard to the Parish Team at St Michael's. Her expertise and assistance in the areas of administration will be an asset to the Parish Office.
- ◆ **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 skills? ***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, Separation St from 2-5pm on 22 Feb, 15 Mar, 22 Mar, 29 Mar, 26 Apr, 3 May, 10 May, 31 May. Further dates will be added later.
- ◆ **RAFFLE RESULTS** from raffle books distributed in Nov 2018 from Ballarat Rotary Club for Fr Mick's Mates Relay for Life team, drawn Sunday Feb 1, 2019. Winner 1st prize Mazda CX5, ticket No 011357 - A McKinnon Burrumbeet. 2nd prize Mazda 2 Max, ticket No 077506 F Lidgett (address withheld). Thankyou for your participation, you contributed \$2,450 to Cancer Council!

## Community News:

**Feb 17... MUSIC AT THE BASILICA** proudly presents acclaimed actor and soprano Wendy Grose with pianist Len Vorster in “**A Different Hat**”, at All Saints Church, 113 Noble St Geelong, 3pm. A tribute to Marjorie Lawrence who stated a lady must always travel with at least 50 hats to ensure one has the perfect hat for every occasion! Tickets \$35 Adult/Senior, \$30 Concession from [www.trybooking.com/BABCW](http://www.trybooking.com/BABCW) or at the door. Children and school students free.

**Feb 19... KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Members please note - all future meetings will now be held in St Bernard's Church foyer area on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, commencing 19 February. Please be aware of these changes.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be held on **Friday March 1** at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St Geelong at 11am. The theme of the service is “**Come - Everything is Ready!**” It has been prepared by the people of Slovenia. Everyone is welcome and there will be light refreshments after the service. Further information please ph Sue O'Donoghue on 0429 784 331.

**ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?** Do you have a heart for working with young people in a rural parish? Would you like to work in a five hour paid capacity per week to help connect young Catholics across a wide geographical area but centred on Bannockburn and also involved with the new St Mary MacKillop Primary School. Help and support is readily available. Please call Father Charles on 0417319556 to have a chat if you even have an inkling of an interest or email [parishofmeredith@bigpond.com](mailto:parishofmeredith@bigpond.com)

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## REFLECTING ON THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Blessed* are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes?

Jesus was not a ‘pie in the sky’ dreamer saying: ‘You are destitute, hungry now. Don’t worry, you will be okay in paradise in the long distant future.’ *That* would be a cruel celestial joke.

Rather, Jesus was setting about the task of creating a new sort of society, the Kingdom of God on earth, in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are *blessed* in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

The Divine imperative is that His followers break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, much to laugh about. They must enter into the harsh reality of other people’s destitute, starving, weeping lives. Woe to them if they do not.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that *other* world and recite the Beatitudes?

We might pause for a moment, recognise that Jesus’ credibility is on the line, and pray that His Father’s will be done on *earth* as it is in Heaven.

- Fr Michael Tate

### Corpus Christi College

Today our first year students commence their time of formation at our Seminary in Carlton, Corpus Christi College.

Let us pray for these men, and for all our Seminarians.

May the Lord strengthen and sustain them in this call, and many many more respond in faith and trust.

Our prayers for vocations do much more than we can imagine.

*Pray daily for vocations!*

/Cont'd from P1...

Luke goes on to give us the 'woes and warnings' and these are as important as the beatitudes. Luke highlights for us that every blessing carries with it a call, every gift contains a duty to share it, and every right houses within it a responsibility.

This is particularly true of our nation where the vast majority of our citizens are housed, educated, have clean drinking water, a long life span, a job and enjoy a stable democracy. This places us in the

top fifteen percent of the world's population. We should discover God's presence in the midst of these blessings, but we must face up to the responsibilities they give us.

It is not good enough to be simply appalled at the widening gap between rich and poor in our own country and around the world. Today's Gospel places at our feet the challenge to do something about it, in our prayer, in our careful use of resources, in

what we spend our money on and how we vote for governments which might affect international change.

The Beatitudes and warnings call us to become so transparently attentive to justice, development and peace for all people that what others see in the followers of Christ is precisely what they get.