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## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

farmer named Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside ►except for a pet dog he doted on. The dog finally died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest, saying, 'Father, the dog is dead. Could you possibly be saying a mass for the poor creature?' Father Kelly refused point blank, 'No, we can't have services for an animal in the church, but I'll tell you what, there's a new denomination down the road, and there is no telling what they believe in, maybe they'll do something for the animal.' Muldoon said, 'I'll go right now. By the way, do you think 10,000 pounds is enough to donate for the service?' to which Father replied, 'Now why didn't you tell me the dog was a Catholic!'

A cheap jibe regularly levelled at the Church is that while we preach about justice and development for all people, we are one of the world's wealthiest multinationals. Sometimes Catholics are stung by this criticism. There is something healthy about that because there is always more we can, and should, do about our detachment from materialism. At the same time, however, our accusers should be reminded of a few facts that spoil their good story.

In commercial terms the Church is asset rich and cash poor. Many established churches through good planning and generosity have a large plant on decent real estate, but I don't know a diocese, religious order, parish or Church agency that does not need to carefully look at its cash flow. We rely on your goodness to keep going each year. Our real estate is often our only collateral for our borrowing; always done to improve the services we can render the People of God.

The greatest thing going for the Catholic Church, however, is you, Christ's faithful people who witness day in and day out to the power of

Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We are also asset rich in terms of the quality of the women and men – lay, professed and ordained – who selflessly serve the Church and the world.

When we are attacked for the land and buildings we have it's always good to remember some facts about our Catholic family's commitment to the poor: outside the United Nations and governments, Catholicism is the largest provider of education, health, welfare, personal assistance and Third World development in the world; we have the largest and lowest-paid charitable workforce of any international group; we have been trying to serve God, not money, for two thousand years; and from the earliest Christians to this very day, some Catholics have loved and served the poor so faithfully, that they die with them, and for them. /Cont'd P4...

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## - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - September 22, 2019)

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:				
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time				
1st Reading:	Amos 6:1,4-7			
2nd Reading:	1Tim 6:11-16			
Gospel:	Lk 16:19-31			



#### 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:

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West: 5.00pm Saturday

English...8am and 9.30am Sunday11anCroatian...11am SundaySlovenian..12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Will Color Final ScienceHoly Family:9.15am Tues (followed by Novena to St Anthony), 9.15am ThursHoly Spirit:9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat.Bolt Spirit:9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat.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, 2nd & 4th Sundays 2pm at Holy Family

#### COMMUNAL PRAYER:

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Mon	Holy Family Women's Prayer Group
Tues	Meditation Group
Wed	Prayer of the Church
Wed	Holy Family Women's Prayer Group
Thurs	Italian Prayer Group
Fri	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Fri	Divine Mercy
Sat	Rosary

10.00am 5.30pm Before 9am Mass 10.00am 10.00am After 11am Mass 3.00pm After 9am Mass Holy Family Community Centre Holy Family Community Centre Holy Spirit Church Holy Family Community Centre St Patrick's Chapel Holy Spirit Church Holy Spirit Church Holy Spirit Church

#### OUR LADY'S STATUE:

**Sept 16-30:** Johnson family, 63 Ruhamah Ave Bell Post Hill 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:**

ANNIVERSARIES:	Nobby DaCosta, Rosa Arrigo, Harry Gazenbeek, Ivan Lukesic, Alberto Romano and George Carmody	
BAPTISMS:	Olivia DiGirolamo, Ivy Keys, Akok Reech, Sienna Celi, Summer Hyland, Alby Jennings, Valli Glynn and Orlando Ruzzier	
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Colleen Laffy, Allan Ansell, Alexander, Sandra Klinge, Cheryl Lambert, Veronica Werzak, Cassi McColl, Margaret Barry, Angelita Obaldo	

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**

(5th Sunday of the Month)

#### Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist Co-Ordinator

#### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist Co-Ordinator C O'Brien Sr J McGonigal N Neeld, P McGlinchey

D Whelan M Gifford, 5229 1656

#### 8.00AM

R Allum V Pavlovic J Bartolo, I Baulch, Peter McBride K McArthur, L. Allum R Allum L Kelly, 0409 291 138

#### HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson B Middleton G Wright, I Cleary, L Fossey L Coles

<u>9.30AM</u>

J Siketa M Bird, M Scaddan P Carmody, B Kline, Horoba M&E Hoffman C Resciniti J Mann, 0488 784 802

## **Recurring Activities in St Michael's:**

Rosary...

St Michael's Luncheon... Holy Family Luncheon.. Holy Family Women's Group... St Vincent de Paul...

Legion of Mary... Baptism Preps Holy Family Choir Practice... Manifold CWL... Italian Mass... Catholic Diners' Club... The Rosary is recited at 8.45am Tues and Thurs in Holy Family Church prior to the 9.15am Masses First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share. Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. **BYO casserole & drink to share**. First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 6.30pm 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 Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre 4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm St Michael's Community Centre, 1st Wednesdays in the month First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel 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.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

# St Michael's News:

- CATHOLICCARE SUNDAY APPEAL: This weekend at all our Masses there will be a special third collection takenup after Communion for the CatholicCare Appeal. Donations from the parish community will help CatholicCare to support the most vulnerable people in our community. If you have forgotten to bring your donation today, please take an envelope home and return it directly to CatholicCare.
- PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP FUNDRAISING MEETING: 7pm Tuesday September 24
  in the Parish Community Centre
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday Sept 27**, due to the Public Holiday.
- Next Sunday, Sept 29, is our Parish Feast Day the Feast of St Michael the Archangel. We will acknowledge this at each Mass in the Parish.
- SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: Wednesday October 9, 12noon in St Michael's Parish Community Centre. Cost \$10 all welcome!
- ST MICHAEL'S CRAFT, CUPPA & CHAT: Are you looking for something to do every second Friday? Come along for a cuppa, chat, bring your craft project and make new friends. We meet at St Michael's Community Centre, Separation St from 2pm - 4.30pm on 4 Oct, 18 Oct, 1 Nov, 15 Nov, 29 Nov and 13 Dec. For more information contact Debbie on 0409 416 945.

## HARMONICO FILIPINO

Holy Family Church, 143-147 Separation St Bell Park

Saturday October 19 - 2pm to 3.30pm with Afternoon Tea to follow

Join us for an afternoon of entertainment with "The Quinals Youth Band" and the Filipino Choir

Tickets: Adults \$20, Students \$10, Children u/16 Free when accompanied by an adult



FOR TICKETS

St Michael's Parish Office Holy Family 8am Mass Holy Family 9.30am Mass Holy Spirit 11am Mass Ss Peter & Paul's 5pm Mass Bernadette Alex Risk David Lunn Sr Anne Noreen Neeld 5278 1343 5221 7302 0408 378 982 0452 161 937 0447 656 968

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP WHICH SUPPORTS THE KUYA CENTRE FOR STREET CHILDREN IN MANILA

To assist with catering please book early.

# St Michael's Parish Social Events:

Oct 19... HARMONICO FILIPINO with the Quinals Youth Band: 2pm at Holy Family Church, followed by Afternoon Tea. All proceeds go to Kuya Centre for Street Children.

**Nov 5... MELBOURNE CUP DAY Chicken and Bubbly Luncheon:** Midday at St Patrick's School, Petrel St Geelong West with all proceeds to Fr Mick's Mates, Cancer Council Victoria.

- Dec ???... CHRISTMAS PRODUCE MARKETS: Dates to be advised, with all proceeds to Fr Mick's Mates, Cancer Council Victoria
- Early 2020... FILM NIGHT AND SUPPER: Date to be advised, at Lifestyle Village Bell Park with all proceeds to Fr Mick's Mates, Cancer Council Victoria

## Community News:

Oct 6... THE GEELONG CHORALE: For the joy of singing the Classics 2019 - Mass of the Children with Conductor Stephen Brockman and accompanist Alan Grinton 2-5pm St Luke's Uniting Church, cnr Barrabool & Scenic Rds Highton. \$15 - music and a'noon tea included, \$5 for a listener. Bookings essential with Anne Pilgrim: pandapilgrim@gmail.com (0412 524 316)

#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH CATHOLICCARE AND NORTHERN BAY COLLEGE, CORIO: Homework Tutoring Group ongoing for Terms 3 and 4, 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 2nd Semester in 2019. Students are from Refugee Non English speaking backgrounds. Tutors will assist students to engage in group games, language learning and homework activities which provides a rewarding volunteer experience within the Refugee settlement and Education environments. If you can help contact Matthew.Walton@ccam.org.au or ph 9926 5699.

## **Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

### **Reversal of Fortunes**

Jesus, surprisingly, found something appealing about this steward who was in the rapacious lending business. What was it? Faced with the news that he was about to lose his position, his catastrophic reversal of fortune, he cut a deal with his debtors to help secure his future. Jesus gave him full marks for being astute and shrewd.

Jesus laments the fact that many of his followers, 'children of the light,' are not as smart in the face of the Great Reversal – which He is inaugurating in which 'the hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent empty away' (Mary's Magnificat).

We should be using our money ('mammon') to alleviate the myriad hungers of the world, not to buy our way into Heaven, but so that we become the sort of person who will be able to enjoy the heavenly companionship of those who hungered.

We could take a moment to pause and take stock of the use of our resources which are passing, so that we may be received into the eternal habitation.

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Where all of this is concerned, we are our own worst enemies. False humility has meant we have not sufficiently celebrated what Grace has done in and through us in regards to poverty and the world's poor.

None of this excuses us from the direct challenges in today's Gospel. We all know how seductive money is and how quickly greed can throw our moral and spiritual

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compasses off course. In moral theology, however, intention is critical and even money, seductive as it is, can be, and is, put to good service in Christ's kingdom. It's always a question of where the heart is.

By not publicly acknowledging the service done in our name and with our assistance, we do the Church and ourselves an injustice. When we fail to explain the number of times and places Christians clearly put Jesus ahead of money we allow the Church's critics to have the last word, as though it was the only word on the subject.

May this Eucharist, this meal of Christ's poor, assist us to be detached from anything that masters our deepest desires away from Christ and keeps us from serving his kingdom of justice, development and peace for all people everywhere.