



St Michael's Parish

Incorporating the Churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

PARISH PRIEST:

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Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Stephen Spielberg's film *A.I.* opens in the near future when couples are permitted only one child. Families also have robots, but the makers of these robots have not yet been able to get them to ape human feelings. Professor Hobby develops David, a robotic boy who 'is able to love'. Hobby's question is, 'Will human beings love him back?' Henry and Monica's only son is in danger of death. They are selected as David's first foster parents. They grow to love him until their son recovers and comes home. David is then abandoned, but he spends the rest of the film trying to regain the love he has known.

David is caught between being robotic and human because he develops a memory, at least he remembers what is like to be loved

by Monica. Spielberg seems to argue strongly in this film that memory is ensoulment. It makes us who we are. It gives us our spirit, our human compass. The film's insight is important. It might be set in the future, but it is a commentary on the present debates about DNA recreation and cloning. Spielberg is right in as much as *A.I.* argues that we can never have a clone or copy of someone because each person is made up of his or her memories.

Memory is powerful. It is often one of the last faculties to go in the human brain. It can be so strong that decades after an event people can recall an experience as though it were yesterday. This recollection can bring back strong feelings, which makes us laugh at the pleasure or weep over an unhealed hurt.

As insightful as Spielberg's theology of the human person in *A.I.* may be, it is inadequate for Christians. We all know people who have limited or no memory and some, tragically, who since birth are unable to communicate whatever they can remember. For Stephen Spielberg these people could be less human than we are. But for Christians it doesn't matter if we remember or not, our soul or spirit is that which is alive to God's memory. We are privileged to know that God remembers us.

In today's Gospel the good thief simply asks Jesus to 'remember me'. And Jesus tells him that being remembered by God is paradise. It's a wonderful way to understand the Kingship of Christ.

/Cont'd P4...

- Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe -

(Year C - November 24, 2019)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power forever and ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Is 2:1-5

2nd Reading: Rom 13:11-14

Gospel: Mt 24:37-44



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,
2nd & 4th Sundays 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 18-Dec 1: O'Neill family, 11 Derby Rd; **Dec 9 - Dec 30:** 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: Patti McDonald

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Craven, Julia Brady, Anton & Maria Fantella, Lucia Carvallo, Robert Andrews, Francesco Amata

BAPTISMS: Harry and Ruby Ryan, Luna Tabak and Cairo Chinyama

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Margaret Barry, Angelita Obaldo, Josica Markov, Joe Vanjek, Angelina Bove, Lucy Burville, Sandra Klinge, Barry McFarlane, Veronica Werzek, Ken Fusea, John McDonald



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues Nov 26... McFarlane, Welsh and other family members

Wed Nov 27... Rotiroti family members

Thurs Nov 28... Humphrey, Ruggles and other family members

Fri Nov 29... Millns and McGlinchey family members

Roster for Next Sunday

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators C O'Brien
Lectors Sr J McGonigal
Special Ministers N Needl, P McGlinchey
Welcomers
Projectionist D Whelan
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
G Wright,
L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators R Allum
Lectors V Pavlovic
Special Ministers J Bartolo, I Baulch, Peter McBride
Welcomers K McArthur, L. Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

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...	The Rosary is recited at 8.45am Tues and Thurs in Holy Family Church prior to the 9.15am Masses
Holy Family Luncheon...	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO casserole & drink to share.
St Michael's Luncheon...	First Sunday of each month at Louisa Fossey's house
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...	St Michael's Community Centre, 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.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

St Michael's News:

◆ THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND SENIOR PARISHIONERS LUNCHEON - HOLY FAMILY CHURCH:



A warm invitation is extended to all Senior Parishioners to attend the Mass and Luncheon on **Saturday Nov 30**, commencing with Mass at 11am and Luncheon at 12noon. If you wish to attend, please place your name on the signup board (white form) in the Narthex. **Catering for the Function:** Please place your name on the signup board (pink form) in the Narthex if you can assist with catering. Your assistance is welcomed and your support is valued.

- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS** will hold a Christmas Stall after the 8am and 9.30am Masses at Holy Family Church on Sunday December 1st. Lots of Christmas gifts and goodies to purchase!
- ◆ **VINNIES BUSHFIRE APPEAL:** Archbishop Comensoli would be grateful and encourages our parishioners to help support the communities in the north of our country devastated by the bushfires. Donations can be made via the website at www.vinnies.org.au, via Holy Family Bell Park Conference, or directly to St Vincent de Paul Society, Locked Bag 4800, Box Hill Vic 3128.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** The Summer edition of Australian Catholics is available for free today and includes articles on: *The Mystery of God - We explore what we can learn from the mystical tradition to help us better connect with God*, and much more interesting reading.
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** Are available to purchase for \$9 from the Sacristy in all three Churches until **December 22**.
- ◆ **LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the **2020 Break Open the Word** is now in the Sacristy where you are rostered. Please collect as soon as you can. Many thanks for your continued support.
- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for all contributors (including credit card etc) in the foyer today. They are in order, alphabetically by **STREET**. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start giving. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact Bernadette at the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or you can email bellpark@cam.org.au. Thankyou for al your continuing regular support.
- ◆ **PROJECTIONISTS REQUIRED:** Ss Peter & Paul's Church requires a couple of volunteers to help with the power point at the 5pm Mass on Saturday evenings. Please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343 if you are able to assist.
- ◆ **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 29 Nov and 13 Dec. For more information contact Debbie on 0409 416 945.

Liturgy at St Michael's:



Advent/Christmas Carols Service:

A warm welcome is extended to all parishioners, family and friends to our Annual Advent/Christmas Carols Service at Holy Family Church on **Tuesday December 10 commencing at 7pm.**

St Michael's Parish Social Events:

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



CHRISTMAS MARKETS - Proceeds to Fr Mick's Mates:

Sun Dec 8... Holy Spirit - 11am Mass
Sat Dec 14... Ss Peter & Paul's - 5pm Mass
Sun Dec 22... Holy Family - 8am and 9.30am Masses

If you wish to buy "Christmas Hampers", please call Margaret Brown 5229 1280.

Community News:

Nov 26... THANKSGIVING MASS: St Mary of the Angels Church, celebrant Rev Fr James Clarke - 7.30pm. SVDP members, volunteers, donors and friends of the Society are invited to attend to remember, honour and celebrate all those who have passed away during the last twelve months. A 'cuppa' will follow after Mass.

Nov 30... PAMPER DAY: Pastoral Healthcare Network Geelong invites you to a relaxing afternoon of pampering and pastoral healthcare including hand, shoulder and foot massages, Bowen therapy, blood pressure testing, meditation and afternoon tea. St Bernard's Church Foyer, Fryers Rd Belmont. Cost - donation appreciated. For bookings/enquiries ph Jacque on 0488 527 656 by **Wed Nov 27**.

Dec 1... RICE VILLAGE - CHRISTMAS MARKET FAIR: 11am-3pm at Rice Village. All are welcome to enjoy lots of fun, delicious food, to search goodies for yourself or for gifts, and to try your luck. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of a wheel chair accessible bus for residents to enjoy outings. Mercy Place Rice Village - Marshalltown Road, Marshall.

Dec 7... FRIAR ALESSANDRO AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: You are invited to an evening of Christmas music and readings with internationally acclaimed Franciscan singer, Friar Alessandro. Entry free or by donation with all donations supporting the Vinnies Christmas Appeal - **bookings essential** via www.voicefrommassisi.org.au

Dec 15... CELEBRATION OF ST LUCY MARTYR: 2.30pm Rosary and Mass at the Church of St Brendan, 103 Wellington St Flemington, followed by Procession with the Statue and Eucharistic Benediction. Refreshments to follow - all welcome! Further information ph Vince Ricevuto 9350 1142.

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA - November and December

Dec 8... CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE BASILICA: 6.30pm (after 5.30pm Mass) arrival for a 7pm start, hosted by our very own 'Santa' - MC Graham Rawlins and featuring talent from within our parish - St Mary's Basilica Choir, The Mixtures, St Mary's Junior Choir & Lumiere, Caterina & Giulia Monea and more... In the Basilica Grounds (in front of Anam Cara House), cnr Yarra & Lt Myers St - BBQ \$2 sausage sizzle, free face painting PietyStall Gift Shop, Zooper Dooper ice sticks for sale \$1 each, coffee van. All welcome!



FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS: All recitals at St Mary's Basilica at 12.30-1.15pm Mondays 2,9,16 and 23 December.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The Power of Remembering

If you memorise a tune or your 'times tables', you are said to 'know it by heart'. The sort of person who will always remember me is someone who 'knows me by heart'.

Here, a tortured criminal starts his plea: 'Jesus . . .'. This is one of only two instances where Jesus is addressed by his name which means 'The Lord saves'. The good thief went on: 'remember me when you come into Your Kingdom'. Jesus 'knows him by heart' and promises that He will re-member him in Paradise.

This is an exercise of sovereignty which befits 'Christ the King'. This is all the Kingly power which you or I will ever need, but to confidently invoke it we need to position ourselves alongside Jesus, like the 'good thief'. We do this by our practical concern for the poor and by coming to Mass which re-members the Body of Christ.

We could pause for a moment to pray: 'Jesus, remember me, know me by heart, for when you do I will be in Paradise.'

/Cont'd from P1...

We know that Christ our King is not about earthly power, land, buildings, riches or might. We know Jesus' Kingship is not about lording it over us, or making us frightened of his compassionate judgment. The power of Christ the

King is seen in his memory, holding every person in this world close; calling each one of us by name.

What a feastday! The final day of the church's year is when we remember the saving memory of God!

So in this Eucharist let's join our voice with all those who long for paradise and say, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.'