



St Michael's Parish

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

PARISH PRIEST:

OFFICE:	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215			Web Page Address: www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
	Phone: 5278 1343	Fax: 5278 4618	Email: bellpark@cam.org.au	
OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
PARISH SECRETARY:	Bernadette Bilogrevic	Phone 5278 1343	Email: bellpark@cam.org.au	
PASTORAL WORKER:	Sr Anne Lourey	Phone 5278 1343	Email: anne.lourey@cam.org.au	
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	Holy Family	Peter Brunt	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
	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

Even in Church circles these days it is quite common to engage a management consultancy company to help find people for a particular diocesan job. This is a good idea and often these companies find excellent people for the task.

I recently saw a consultancy profile, however, for a diocese seeking a lay chancellor. We all know these people must be upright citizens, but I am convinced that Jesus himself may have been challenged to fill this job description! Apart from having degrees in civil and canon law, the desired applicant had to have 'outstanding Catholic faith, an exemplary moral character and have nothing in his or her background that could cause the Church embarrassment or scandal in the future.'

A couple of days later I came across a tongue-in-cheek summary of a management consultant's report on those who had applied to lead the earliest Christian Church:

'John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and picks fights in public with religious leaders.

'Peter: Has a bad temper, even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive. A loose cannon.

'Paul: Powerful, CEO type of leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

'Jesus: Has been popular at times, but once when his following grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and it dwindled

down to some faithful women and his best friend. Seldom stays in one place very long.

'Judas: His references are solid. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. Great possibilities here.'

In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much.

/Cont'd P4...



Welcome to Fr Minh Tran:

As from December 11th, Fr Minh Tran will be the Priest in Charge of St Michael's Parish. We welcome Fr Minh Tran to our Parish and trust that his time with us will be happy.

- Second Sunday of Advent -

(Year A - December 8, 2019)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will
make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths: all people shall see the
salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Advent:

1st Reading: Is 35:1-6,10
2nd Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



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:

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: Scott Muston and Mary 'Patti' Washington

ANNIVERSARIES: Mark Chrimes, Chris (Max) Lunn and Colin Lunn

BAPTISMS: Stevie Wilkinson

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, Brad Fowler, Angela Reed



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues Dec 10...

Daniele family members

Wed Dec 11...

Kavenagh family members

Thurs Dec 12...

Pietrapertosa, Rugger & Fama family members

Fri Dec 13...

Smith family members

Roster for Next Sunday

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

K Maddalena

K Maddalena

D Whelan

M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

8.00AM

M Howard

P. Carvalho

Sr Concepta, P Ruggeri, R Culo

P Ruggeri, R Culo

R Allum

L. Kelly, 0409 291 138

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

M Kroger

J McKenzie

L Stalio,

L Fossey

F Kearney

9.30AM

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

M Fiorillo, M. Perera

E Dalton

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

"We proclaim the Crucified Christ" (1Cor 1:23)

Dear Parishioners of St Michael's,

I would like to introduce myself - my name is Fr Minh Tran. Please just call me Minh. I come from Vinh Diocese in the North of Vietnam. I was trained to become a Priest in Melbourne and was ordained in 2014. I was appointed Assistant Priest at St Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds, then Administrator to St Joseph's Parish Northcote in January 2018.

On 20 November 2019, the Archbishop appointed me to St Michael's, Bell Park. I am happy to say "Yes" and serve God's people, as you are. As Mary said "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, she accepted to be the Mother of God's Son, Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. In addition, the Angel said to her: "Mary, do not be afraid. You have found favour with God" (Lk 1:30). Learning from Mary, our Mother, I am always ready to be sent by Christ to his people. I am no longer feeling worried or nervous because of this new appointment. For you as parishioners of St Michael's, are wonderful people of God; you are faithful to the Church and Community. I kindly ask for your daily prayers for my new journey with you, as I pray for each one of you and for our community.

I look forward to seeing you soon, to celebrate Eucharist with you, to sing with you and be with you.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary, Bless our Community.

Yours in Christ - Fr Minh Tran

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** Due to our upcoming Advent Reconciliation sessions on December 17 at Holy Family Church and December 18 at Holy Spirit Church, the normal Saturday morning Reconciliation on December 7 has been cancelled. Thankyou for your understanding.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** To the organisers and helpers who set up, catered and cleaned up for the Anointing of the Sick and Seniors Luncheon at Holy Family on November 30. Once again, the day was an enjoyable, friendly and hospitable occasion for all. A great outreach, especially for those who are housebound.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL JESSE TREE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Today we ask you to take a ticket out of our Basket Hand Out as we are looking for festive type foods to make approx 75 Christmas Hampers for the less fortunate in the Community of Holy Family and Ashby.
- ◆ **SVDP HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE** will hold their 2019 Christmas Appeal at the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church on this Sunday, December 8. There will be an extra 3rd Collection taken up and the funds raised will be used to directly assist those experiencing hardship and disadvantage in our community.
- ◆ **CWL:** The Christmas Lunch of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held Wednesday December 11 at Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club, Calvert St Hamlyn Hts, at midday. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of \$10 for our Lucky Dip Kris Kringle. Senior meals are approx \$12. St Michael's parishioners who wish to join us are most welcome. More details/bookings please ph Tricia 0431 512 354.
- ◆ **HKUD 'LADO' GEELONG:** Croatian Cultural Artistic Association presents their Christmas Concert on Sunday December 22, 6pm at Ss Peter & Paul's Church. Free entry, all welcome!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **MICK'S MESSENGER:** The first edition of our Parish Magazine, "Mick's Messenger", is now available at our Churches. Lots of great reading and articles! A big, big thankyou to Debbie Horoba for the many hours that she has poured into getting this up and ready, in time for Advent.

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**. As this was an initiative of Fr Prakash, your attendance would be a fitting way of honouring his wonderful ministry in our community. Anybody who would like to join the choir for this occasion, there will be a practice next Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm at Holy Family Church.

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:

Dec 10... GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for a lovely Christmas 3-course evening meal, the musical entertainment of Don Fisher and a fun Christmas Raffle. We are open to members of all faiths. Appetisers begin 6.15pm followed by a delicious Christmas meal for only \$35/person - Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St Geelong West. More information/reservations phone or text **Michael Belleville at 0431 959 584 by Friday December 6**, the deadline for catering purposes.

Dec 15... KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS: End of Year BBQ Social for members, ladies and family, at the home of Louise and Alan Fossey - 12.30pm. Meat and drinks supplied, just bring a salad or a sweet. Phone Joe Lambert on 5229 8442 to confirm attendance. **Cost \$10 per head.** Normal branch meetings will commence in February 2020.

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.

Dec 16... ADVENT DAWN MASS (Simbang Gabi): You are invited to attend this devotional 9-day Novena Mass in anticipation of Christmas and to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary - 5.30am at St Francis Xavier, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. Bishop Mark Edwards will celebrate the 9th Day Novena Mass Dec 24. Please bring along your family and friends - more info ph Arlean on 5275 4120.

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS:

Advent Sunday 2 - December 8...

"Prepare a Way for the Lord" - John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. How do we prepare the way for Jesus in the lives of our young people? Do we pray for them? Encourage and support them? Invite them to serve, and thank them? How can we be like John the Baptist to those people who do not know Jesus?

/Cont'd from P1...

Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility.

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.'

If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again.

May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'