



# 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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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
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## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Some of us remember the provocative and frightening 1991 film *Silence of the Lambs*. The image in the title refers to a childhood memory of CIA agent, Clarice Starling. In her interviews with the psychopath Dr Lecter, he gets her to talk about how she still wakes at night hearing the cry of the lambs as they were led to slaughter on her uncle's farm. This is a pivotal moment in Thomas Harris' book and the film. It is the leverage Dr Lecter needs to unsettle and unravel Clarice's well-formed defences. Clarice is revealed as vulnerable, because of the grief she carries from the violent deaths she has seen.

John's use of the metaphor of the sacrificial lamb in reference to Jesus in today's Gospel is meant to engender a similar empathy to that of the childhood memories of Clarice Starling. While there are many jokes about the stupidity of sheep, lambs still claim a spot in the hardest heart. They are pure, white, fluffy and defenceless. They demand nurture. And like their parents they don't seem able to smell danger very easily. They follow where they're led, even to execution. For the agrarian Jews of Jesus' time the sacrifice of a lamb demonstrated how serious they were about atoning for their sins. Jewish law dictated that a lamb had to be killed at least once a year, at Passover. Such a sacrifice cost the shepherd big time. Lambs were currency. This was tithing writ large.

Saying Jesus is the Lamb of God is a shorthand way of telling us two things. The first is that Jesus is God's most precious gift; God's own self, given to the world that we might know how serious God is about us. God can give us nothing more than Jesus. As a result of Jesus' innocent suffering and death there is no need for any lambs to be religiously slaughtered ever again. We need to keep hearing this message because some Christians get caught into glorifying Jesus' suffering so much they get trapped in their own world of pain and go looking for more. Jesus never sought out suffering. He bore what came his way. And the same must be true for us. Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. Most of us don't need to look for more suffering in our lives because we share in the Lamb of God's sacrifice in the ordinary downs of our lives.

Secondly, John would have known that 'talya', the Aramaic word for sheep, is the same word used for servant. The first hearers of this Gospel would have known it too. Jesus, then, is the servant who brings us the truth we need for life, who answers our deepest desires to know that our existence has meaning and purpose and he opens up for us the life beyond this one, where there will be no more weeping or sadness.

Jesus shows us that when we are baptised into his death and enter his service we also share in his resurrection and glory because he bears, and bears away, the sins of the world.

## - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A - January 19, 2020)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. **Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Is 8:23-9:3  
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:10-13,17  
Gospel: Mt 4:12-23



### 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 3rd Tuesday, (1st, 2nd & 4th Communion Service)

**St John of God Hospital:** 11.30am every Thursday in SJOG Chapel

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

### RECENT DEATHS:

Amanda Stripp and Leo Kennedy

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Antonietta, Lidia, Maria & Rosa DeAngelis, Rosa Valentino, Alison DaCosta, Robert Callander and 1 year anniversary of Antonio Lombardo and Joseph Rebis

### BAPTISMS:

Niko Wesolowski, Albie and Mia Meggs

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Veronica Werzek, Ken Fusea, John McDonald, Angela Reed, Narciso Baldasso, Josica Markov



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

**Tues January 21...**

Sells & McFarlane family members

**Wed January 22...**

Leo Consedine family members

**Thurs January 23..**

Kennedy family members

**Fri Jan 24...**

Javni family members

- ◆ **SPECIAL COLLECTION:** "For days now, our skies across Geelong have been filled with the smell and haze of the fires - a steady reminder that our neighbours, so close to us particularly in the Gippsland areas, the bordering States of NSW and South Australia, are in dire need. We stand with all those affected by the devastation of these bushfires, as well as those working tirelessly to assist in the recovery efforts." (Archbishop Peter Comensoli). **Help our neighbours by donating at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) or as part of our Parish Special Collection on Australia Day weekend.**
- ◆ **NEW PARISH CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:** A Safeguarding Committee at St Michael's Parish is currently being established to promote the safeguarding of children and young persons. More information to be provided over the coming weeks.
- ◆ **EXCLUSIVE EUROPEAN RELIGIOUS TOUR:** (Including Oberammergau) Escorted by a Priest, departs June 3rd, 2020. Fifteen nights - for information please contact Romaine Ferdinands at Travel & Cruise on 9585 3800 or email [travel@jettravelandcruise.com.au](mailto:travel@jettravelandcruise.com.au)

## 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, L Vannata  
D Dougherty, L Fossey  
A Zarb

### HOLY FAMILY

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  
C Resciniti  
J Mann, 0488 784 802