



# St Michael's Parish

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

**PARISH PRIEST:****Fr. Minh Tran****OFFICE:**

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Mon -Fri 9am-3pm

**Web Page Address:**[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)**Facebook Address:**[www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)**PARISH SECRETARY:**Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)**PASTORAL WORKER:**Sr Anne Lourey Phone 5278 1343 Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@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	Luke Sheahan	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412
	(Acting Principal)		

**RECENT DEATHS:**

Jakov Mionic, Franco Liburdi

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mary &amp; Harry Callander, Geoff Callender, Margaret Carmody, Tindara Rao

**SICK:**

Veronica Werzek, Angela Reed, Josica Markov, Giuseppa Forestieri, Julita Aquino, Fr Philip Godsell

**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:***My Jesus,**I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.**I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.**Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

## St Michael's News:

- UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS:** Unfortunately, due to the recent increase in numbers contracting coronavirus and the retightening of restrictions, only allowing a maximum of 20 people in attendance, it is not feasible to re-open our churches. Livestreaming of Sunday Mass at 10am continues. Thank you once again for your understanding and patience.
- THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM** are not formally meeting but we are still operating remotely. The Working Group for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Persons continue to meet to progress actions. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.
- CHILDCARE CENTRE & HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** We are happy to report that things are finally moving with construction of the childcare centre & new hall at Holy Spirit. The demolition of the existing hall is due to commence this week, and the start of construction a few weeks later. Completion by May 2021. Many thanks to our parish community for your patience and understanding.
- LIVESTREAMING OF MASS:** This Sunday at 10am. Also available on Channel 10 at 6am and 11am on Channel 31 & 44. Mass is also available on You Tube daily, from St Simon's Parish, Rowville.

**15TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
(Year A - July 12, 2020)**  
Is 55:10-11  
Rom 8:18-23  
Mt 13:1-23

## Reflection by Richard Leonard

A newcomer to a city known for its wind and rain arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young child and, out of despair, asks, 'Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?' To which the child replies, 'How should I know? I'm only six.'

With the three readings we have just heard, we could easily celebrate Environment Sunday today. Rain, snow, seeds, sowers, fertile soil and a labouring creation giving birth to the fruits of the Spirit, are all rich ground upon which we can reflect on the importance of our earth's ecology.

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit.

If this means we must limit our consumption, change our priorities in regard to energy and trade and show the third world the way in developing eco-friendly industries, then all the better for us. Most of us know that we cannot keep going as we are, with ever increasing unsustainable demands on our planet. There is no point any of us crying over the demise of our environment in the future, if we are doing nothing to help it now.

Every small thing we do from being conscious of the issues, to recycling and using our cars less, is not unimportant. Some of us are in positions to do a lot more than these things as well and we should take our Christian responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

One creative reading of today's Gospel is that it parallels how we can respond to the news of the degradation of the environment.

For some of us the facts and figures about the planet's ecosystem fall on rocky ground. We are not receptive to hearing anything that might demand a change in our lifestyle or a lessening of our comfort.

For others of us, recent debates fall among the thorns. Competing with other issues for our attention and action, the plight of the earth is not able to take root in our consciousness or sympathies. We think it can all wait for another generation who will have the ability to fix the problems then.

For some of us, however, recent surveys and our own sense of environmental changes means that what experts are saying falls on fertile soil. We want to do whatever we can to see that the earth continues to bear fruit for as many generations as God intends.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with the importance of our relationships to the earth. In the book of Genesis humanity is told to care for and subdue the earth, not wreck it. We cannot be irresponsible about the world's finite resources in the hope that we will find solutions in the future. Avarice is not one of the seven deadly sins for nothing.

We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.