



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:**

147 Separation St Bell Park 3215

Phone: 5278 1343 Email: bellpark@cam.org.au**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon -Fri 9am-3pm

PARISH SECRETARY:Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 Email: bellpark@cam.org.au**PASTORAL WORKER:**Sr Anne Lourey Phone 5278 1343 Email: 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)			

Web Page Address:www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au**Facebook Address:**www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st**RECENT DEATHS:**

Bozo Cacic, Carmen Muscat, Laura Spina, Patrick Slattery, Marie McKenna

ANNIVERSARIES:

William Vickers

SICK:

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

BAPTISMS:

Jack Napoli, Nova Badr

**PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS:*****I am vaccinated by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. No virus can touch me.*****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:

- 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:** Demolition of the existing hall is due to commence soon, and the start of construction a few weeks later. Completion by May 2021. Many thanks to our parish community for your patience and understanding.
- COVID 19 PARISH CATCH UP:** Catch up with someone— by phone, text, in person (where possible), you would usually see around the Parish or at Mass.
- 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.

**16TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
(Year A - July 19, 2020)**
Wis 12:13, 16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-43

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Today's Gospel gives us both a parable and then an interpretation of that parable. I'm very grateful for this pattern in the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. It indicates to us that not everything that Jesus says should be taken literally. Clearly the disciples were sometimes confused and needed some private coaching to bring them up to speed with what Jesus was on about.

As much as I respect the faith of our fundamentalist Christian brothers and sisters, it is at this point, on the way we interpret the Scriptures, that we cannot agree. The catholic community has always taken the process outlined in Matthew's gospel very seriously. We have always held that the full richness of the scriptures needs careful study and tested interpretations.

Unfortunately, in previous generations, the anxiety over people's private interpretations of the scriptures led Catholics to be suspicious of the Bible and the private reading of it. To read the Bible was often seen as a 'very protestant thing to do'. Given that Jesus, Mary, the apostles and the disciples are all recorded in the New Testament as reading, meditating on, or hearing the scriptures, nothing could be further from the truth. To be a Christian is to ponder the Word of God.

That's why the Second Vatican Council encouraged us all to return to regular private reflection on the Bible. Along with this encouragement they also reminded us, however, that as strong as the feelings and revelations we experience in our private scriptural prayer may be, these may have little or no consequence for the wider community of faith. We believe that the whole Church has the task to discern where the Word of God is leading us.

To help this discernment, it's scholars who pay great attention to the history and the literary, textual and cultural issues in and around the Bible have always aided the catholic community. They look at how various interpretations and approaches of the Scriptures have helped or hindered the Church over the centuries. We place great weight on the 'here and now' of the faith community who listens to the Word of God and lives it out.

Our approach is a long way from those who hold that the entire truth of the scriptures is found in the text itself. Fundamentalist interpretations of the scriptures dismiss the importance of studying the scriptures by reducing it to a book of facts. In doing so they tie themselves up in all sorts of textual knots whenever the scriptures seem to contradict themselves.

We hold, however, that the scriptures are not books of facts, though they contain historical information. We believe we have seventy-three sacred books that 'cannot err in leading us to the truth about God'. The Word of God is for us the pathway to faith, a series of revealed and inspired portraits of God and a distillation of God's saving love for us and our response to him.

When there are inconsistencies or differences in any two scriptural texts, rather than unsettle us, we see these differences as examples of the varying rich approaches to the truth of our salvation in and through Christ. This is nicely summed up in the verse, *The Bible in 50 words*.

God made	Saul freaked
Adam bit	David peeked
Noah arked	Prophets warned
Abraham split	Jesus born
Joseph ruled	God walked
Jacob fooled	Love talked
Bush talked	Anger crucified
Moses balked	Hope died
Pharaoh plagued	Love rose
People walked	Spirit flamed
Sea divided	Word spread
Tablets guided	God remained.
Promise landed	

At this Eucharist let's give thanks that Jesus often used stories to communicate his truth and that he explained their meaning to those with ears to hear. Let's be grateful that we are inheritors of this intelligent legacy.

Richard Leonard SJ.