



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:Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

Bernadette Bilogrevic

Phone 5278 1343

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

RECENT DEATHS:

Vinko Jager, Milenko Tomic

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eugene Guardiano

SICK:

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

BAPTISMS:

Theo Merrett, Harriet & Marley Ward

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:

- NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK AUG 2ND - 9TH:** We pray for those searching for their vocations in life. We might think about and pray for the young people in our community and in our families this week especially. In prayer, ask the Lord to enlighten them and give them the grace and courage to respond to His call.

- 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.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year A - Aug 2, 2020)

Is 55:1-3

Rom 8:35,37-39

Mt 14:13-21



St Michael's Prayer Room !

Our parish community are most welcome to spend some quiet time in prayer, located at the Parish Community Centre. The prayer room will be opened daily from 9.30am - 2.30pm. If you would like to attend on any day, please register your time by contacting the parish office on 5278 1343. To abide by social distancing rules, a maximum of six people can be in attendance at any given time.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

There is an old line that runs, 'If you feel distant from God – guess who has moved?' It picks up the theme in the Romans reading which we have just heard, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.'

In the midst of persecution and suffering, St Paul writes to the community at Rome to tell them that, even in their fear, desolation and grief, nothing, and no one, can separate them from God's love. This shows us that when we feel separated from God we may have walked away from him, usually through destructive behaviour that sets up and maintains distance between us and the source of our faith, hope and love.

St Matthew and Isaiah also knew that nothing can separate us from God's love. Isaiah's river of plenty and Matthew's loaves and fish are all about the *plenty* of God's kingdom, the abundance of God's goodness.

Too often we focus on the miracle of transformation that occurs in Matthew's Gospel when all he tells about the actual miracle is that Jesus 'breaks and shares'. Matthew is more interested in the leftovers than he is in the miracle itself. From five loaves and two fish we are told twelve baskets of scraps are left over.

Numbers are rarely random in the Bible. The echo of the seven days of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of this story as Jesus takes seven fruits of the earth to feed the crowd. Similarly, the twelve baskets of scraps, the remnants of the meal at which all were filled and satisfied, echo the sign of God through the twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament.

For us today this story also has consoling resonance. Matthew is telling us that Jesus sees our need, does not turn us away, comes to where we are, as we are, and recreates us through the abundance of his love, so we can be signs of His kingdom in the world.

The Church has always believed that the feeding of the crowd prefigured the Eucharist, this weekly time where we receive the fullness of God in his Word, in the life of the community, in the minister and through the transformation of the Bread and Wine.

It's all about abundance. Our God has abundantly provided for us so that we can abundantly provide for all the world which is given into our care. 'Those to whom much is given, much is required.' The problem is that when we look around we see that while some of us have so much, others have nothing at all.

If this reality doesn't move us to a change of heart and right action then we have not understood the story of the loaves and the fish, that God's goodness is never intended for a select few.

Sometimes people look at the poverty in the world and think, 'How could God allow that?' This question can cause us to feel distant from God, but in light of what God has given us and our ability to share from this abundance, when we think like and feel like this, guess who has moved away from whom?

© Richard Leonard SJ

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THE SICK:

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick. When they diagnose, give them patience. When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection. When they work to heal, give them strength. When they comfort, give them consolation. When they are tired, give them rest. When they are discouraged, bring them your hope. May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial. Amen.