



# 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**

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## OFFICE HOURS:

Mon -Fri 9am-1.30pm

## PARISH SECRETARY:

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[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)

## Facebook Address:

[www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

## PASTORAL WORKER:

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## SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family

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Holy Spirit

Rachel Holdsworth

Minerva Rd Manifold Hts

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St Patrick's

Luke Sheahan

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

(Acting Principal)

## RECENT DEATHS:

Marianna Baran & Ivan Ilekovic

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Darmel Fernandes, John Da Costa, Pat McGlinchey Snr, Tony Millns, 1 Year Anniversary of Francesco Bocchicchio & 10 Year Anniversary of Michael Degoldi

## 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.

## PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON FOLLOWING THE BEIRUT BLAST

**God of Compassion**, You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster. Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those who grieve for loved ones.

United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:

For healing and strength for those injured and suffering. That the international community will respond with generosity and compassion. And that stability and peace will be restored to Lebanon.

**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## St Michael's News:

- **COVID-19 UPDATE:** Unfortunately, due to the reintroduction of **stage 3 restrictions**, all religious gatherings, including private prayer in the parish are **cancelled** until further notice.

- **CARITAS LEBANON DISASTER APPEAL:** To make a donation to this appeal, please go to [www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-emergency-appeal](http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-emergency-appeal) or by phone, 1800 024 413.

- **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.

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year A - Aug 23, 2020)

Is 22:19-23

Rom 11: 33-36

Mt 16:13-20

## Reflection by Richard Leonard:

A furore broke out in a country diocese some years ago about the retreat style of priest who was taking Catholic students in their last year of high school or who were attending university away for weekend retreats. On the Friday night of the retreat this priest would tell the young people that by the end of the weekend they should make a decision about their Christian faith.

Some parents were shocked that their young people were given an ultimatum that included the possibility of rejecting their faith. The priest replied that Catholic youth have to make all sorts of decisions regarding career, lifestyle, residence, studies and relationships. Religion, he contended, often fell by the wayside, either not important enough on which to make a decision, or relegated to the personal shelf of neglect to be possibly taken down and dusted off years later for a hatching, matching or dispatching.

The priest argued that this wasn't good enough. After 12 years of Catholic education or many years of catechetics the Church had to take the risk of calling for a personal decision for faith. Some of the young people consciously chose membership in the Church. In making such a profession of faith many reported having a deep encounter with God and an experience of their faith in Christ. Other students made decisions against belonging to the Church, which is, of course, never irrevocable.

The entire retreat process was based on the question in today's Gospel: 'Who do you say that I am?'

The disciples, reflecting on their experiences with Jesus, offer various possibilities, but it is Peter who says that Jesus is the revelation of God for the world. This is the great profession of faith and the basis on which the Church comes into being.

And what was true then, is true now. At some point, if we want our faith to move from being a code of law, a concept, or some excellent ideas to something we can experience, we must take the faith of the Church, which has nurtured us up to now, and make it our own. In doing so, when we encounter Christ, we contribute to the re-founding of the Church in our generation.

Just being part of the 'Catholic crowd' is hardly the challenge Jesus presents to the disciples in today's Gospel. We are commissioned like the disciples to bear witness to Christ's personal love in the workplace, with our friends and in our families.

It's always helpful to be reminded that we might be the only face of Catholicism, or even Christianity, that another person may encounter. The way in which we bind them up or set them free might be the measure by which they judge if the Church is the face of Christ in today's world and whether they could find a home with us.

And it all hinges on that great question which is asked of each of us today: 'Who do you say that I am?' How we answer this question reveals so much, including whether Christ is an idea we like, or the object of our passion.

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***Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.***

***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.***