



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon -Fri 9am-1.30pm

**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)		

**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)**RECENT DEATHS:**

Aleksandra Andrus, Geraldine Dillon, Josie Podbury

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Walter Augustyn, Luka &amp; Ana Cengija, Garry Giles

**SICK:**

Veronica Werzek, 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.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY:** This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled:

**To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today.** The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at [http://bit.ly/SocialJustice\\_2020](http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020)

## St Michael's News:

- FACE MASKS AVAILABLE:** We have a generous supply of material face masks available at the parish office. Please feel free to come and collect a mask.
- 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.
- PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** The parish office is opened daily from 9am- 1.30pm
- 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.

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

(Year A - Aug 30, 2020)

Jer 20:7-9

Rom 12: 1-2

Mt 16:21-27

# Light in the Darkness

## Time out for a suffering world



Next week, as we approach the eve of spring, Christians and all people of faith are invited to unite in prayer for our world. As the last light of the last day of winter fades on Monday 31 August, you are invited to light a candle, stand in your front garden, your balcony or lounge room and spend some time in silence and prayer to remember all those who have lost their lives to Covid-19 or to violence this year. As the first night of spring begins, let us look to the future with prayer and hope.

### Reflection by Richard Leonard:

At the morning parade in Dachau on 22nd July 1943, six prisoners were found to have escaped. Retribution was swift and brutal. Randomly selected, 12 people were hanged. As the other prisoners watched their 12 fellow inmates gasp for breath, someone in the crowd cried out, 'Where is God?' Silence descended on the yard. The 12 bodies were now in spasm, jerking and struggling for breath. As everyone watched, the voice came again, this time more urgently, 'Where is God now?' 'My God', another voice yelled back, 'My God is hanging there'.

This sort of faith is what today's Gospel is all about. Christianity is the only world religion that holds that God took our flesh, suffered, died and was raised to life.

It is certainly true that we have domesticated the scandal of the cross, even to the point that, these days, it dangles from various parts of people's anatomies. I often wonder, had Jesus been electrocuted to death, whether we would have little golden chairs around our necks? But while we have tried to tame the reality of Jesus' tortured hours in Jerusalem, the reality of the cross in each of our lives cannot be so commercially soothed.

Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. We are not meant to be lovers of pain – just bearers of it.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world. This is easier said than done. When we suffer in our daily lives, thoughts of others rarely come to mind easily, but it can be consoling to keep our suffering in context and know that we are not facing it alone.

We are encouraged to see that suffering can be an opportunity to grow in love. If we understand our crosses as our particular schools of love, then we learn more about ourselves and God and are able to help others carry their crosses as well.

Carrying our cross, however, is not just about bearing physical, personal, sexual, spiritual or emotional pain; it can also be in the sharing of our gifts and talents, our love and compassion. In every gift there is a burden. Following Christ's example, we are called to share our gifts heroically with anyone in need, even to the end.

Some people complain these days that God is often presented as a big marshmallow, all sweet and soft. Today's Gospel shows the 'edge' involved in being a follower of Christ. I don't know of a more demanding vocation in our world than that of taking up the cross of being faithful, loving and selfless.

And while we are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we never do it alone. If we have the eyes to see it and the humility to accept it, Christ, literally, hangs in there with us every step of the way.

So let's recall the first cross from which we take comfort as we bear our own crosses. 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'