



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-1.30pm

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:**

Francis (Frank) Hogan, Joe Vanjek

ANNIVERSARIES:

Agnes Tuddenham, George Carmody, 40 Days since Death of Ivan Ilekovich & the One Year Anniversary of Frano Skratulja

SICK:

Veronica Werzek, Josica Markov, Giuseppa Forestieri, Julita Aquino, Fr Philip Godsell, Theresa Vickers, Sr Carmel O'Dwyer,

**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.

29TH SEPTEMBER: FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL: Next Tuesday we celebrate the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. The name "Michael" means "one who is like God". Michael is the Archangel who fought against Satan and now protects us from harm. Michael is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host"; the leader of all the other Angels.

St. Michael the Archangel is also the Patron Saint of sick people, of soldiers, of police and of doctors.

St Michael's News:

- COVID-19 UPDATE:** Due to **stage 3 restrictions** currently in place, all religious gatherings, including private prayer in the parish remain **cancelled** until further notice.
- HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY:** To Elsa Glynn who is celebrating her 90th Birthday on September 29. Sending Elsa, our Congratulations & Best Wishes for this special day. From Fr Minh and Parishioners at St Michael's Parish.
- DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS:** Next Sunday, October 4 marks the beginning of daylight saving. A friendly reminder to turn your clocks forward 1 hour.
- 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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Year A - Sept 27, 2020)
Ezek 18:25-28
Phil 2:1-11
Mt 21:28-32

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

*St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in the day of Battle;
Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God, cast into Hell,
Satan and all the other evil spirits,
who prowl through the world,
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*



Reflection by Richard Leonard:

A young priest was sent by his bishop to a parish that had a 'red light district' within its boundaries. On his first day in the parish a nun, who had worked in the area for many years, took him on a tour of her beat, the area where all the women-in-prostitution were plying their trade. As they went along Sister introduced the priest to her friends Bubbles, Ginger and Calamity Jane. 'Sister it's fantastic that you know these women so well', he said. 'Don't worry', replied Sister, 'you'll know them in no time as well, and they'll know you by name too.'

Seized by panic, the young priest had visions of the bishop, the parish priest or, worse still, his mother coming to visit and walking with him down the street as Bubbles, Ginger and Calamity Jane all wave and call out across the road, 'Hello Father'. Who would ever believe he only knew them pastorally?

'Truly I tell you that prostitutes and tax collectors are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God.'

The preaching of Jesus attracted all sorts of people who lived at the fringes of, or were oppressed by, Palestinian society. Jesus' message was especially attractive to them. Tensions among the huge variety of Jesus' disciples, between the rich and the poor, men and women, the Jews and Gentiles, the socially respectable and those with outrageous backgrounds continued after his death throughout the next decades, during which the Gospels were written.

It's hard for us to imagine what a diverse and scandalous group in many respects, the first fathers and mothers of our faith were seen to be. Imagine, if you will, the fuss that would still be created if the local bishop was seen constantly dining with women in prostitution, drug dealers or known terrorists. People would be outraged, but the bishop would be doing nothing short of following Jesus' example. This situation gives us a little insight into how affronted the Chief Priests and Pharisees were by Jesus and, in turn, by his disciples' behaviour.

For Jesus there was never a lost case, or a person beyond help. He didn't just spend time with the poor and broken of his society, but offered them a new way of life, an opportunity to start again and redemption from their destructive behaviour. He went to where they were, as they were. And we do the same because this is precisely what God has done for us. God didn't wait for us to 'talk the talk' before we could 'walk his walk'. Jesus came to us when we were religiously dumb and immobile and showed us how to speak, what to say and where to walk.

The Christian walk and talk is meant to have a profound impact on our daily lives, our concerns, our priorities and compassion. So much so that if, over a period of time, what we celebrate here each Sunday makes no inroads into our family life and workplace, our professional life, our business practices and our relationships, then we should ask ourselves what we are doing here.

And, what's worse, we could even miss the on-going revelation of Christ's presence in the poor, weak and vulnerable of our own society. We constantly look for Christ in the spectacular and the wonderful and he comes to us in the least of our brother and sisters.

May this Eucharist give us the strength to not only 'look good', but to 'be good', to start over if we need to, and do our best to live out the faith we profess. May it strengthen us to find the Lord where he is, and not keep looking in the places where we would prefer him to be.

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