



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:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon -Fri 9am-1.30pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

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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	John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

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

RECENT DEATHS:

Zlata Gugandzic, Ante Sertic, Frank Glynn, Liam McCloskey, Eileen Thornycroft

ANNIVERSARIES:

Albert Piccirilli, Annie & Harry Wallace, Mathildas Fernandes

SICK:

Veronica Werzek, Josica Markov, Giuseppa Forestieri, Julita Aquino, Fr Philip Godsell, Theresa Vickers, Cheryl Lambert



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:

- COVID-19 UPDATE:** Due to **step 3 of stage 3 restrictions for regional Victoria** in place up until October 18, indoor religious gatherings, including private prayer in the parish remain **cancelled**.
- HOLY SPIRIT HALL UPDATE:** Demolition of the existing hall has now commenced and the building of the new hall and childcare centre will commence soon. Completion date is expected by December 2021.
- COVID 19 PARISH CATCH UP:** Catch up with someone by phone, text, in person outdoors (where possible), you would 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.
- 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.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 (Year A - Oct 11, 2020)
 Is 25:6-10
 Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
 Mt 22:1-14

“Go and do likewise.” (Lk 10: 37)

Dear Parishioners,

We are living in difficult and hard times during this Covid19 pandemic. It has brought much stress, depression and loneliness. It has affected many people financially as well as children, family life and marriage itself.

Our Christian Community is also challenged to respond with love to those in need.

How do we reach out to our neighbours and support them?

Pope Francis in his recent Encyclical “Brothers All,” signed last Sunday, took the parable of the Good Samaritan as his Gospel reference and teaching. We too need to go out and do the same. It is fundamental and most significant for us, as a community of faith, to live this Gospel as Christians on earth.

Due to your ongoing generosity the parish is in a position to donate
\$20,000 to Melbourne Catholic Mission,
\$5,000 to Philippine Partnership,
\$5,000 to Vietnamese Dominican Sisters,
\$5,000 to St Vincent de Paul Geelong, and
\$5,000 to Geelong Mums.

These donations come from our heart in the hope that it will alleviate some of the burden caused by Covid19 and support those in need.

I again sincerely thank you all, for your generous financial giving, which makes it possible for the parish to give a helping hand to the “wounded” and give them a “hand up” to live with dignity, as our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

May God bless and protect each one of us.

Fr Minh Tran

Reflection by Richard Leonard

These days young couples ask for their children to be baptised for a variety of reasons. Initially, it's clear that for some, baptism is an elaborate naming ceremony, or the ritual preliminaries to having a ‘we've had a baby party’. For others, while they don't quite know why they want baptism, they just know they do. And for some parents it's clear that they wish to pass on to their children the life of Christ that has nurtured them.

At the baptismal ceremony, I always begin by saying that for the first three centuries of the Church's history, this sacrament was celebrated at dawn on the Easter Vigil not only because the rising sun symbolised Christ's light dawning in our lives, but because baptism was always done in secret. For 300 years Christians who took the waters of baptism at dawn could be dead by lunchtime. For them, baptism was no social day out; it was a life and death commitment.

In the parable of the King's banquet, Jesus foreshadows the days when those whom one would expect to be Christian would reject the invitation to faith, and those thought least likely to respond to God's call would flock into the Church.

Since the earliest days of Christianity, the Wedding Banquet was seen as a metaphor for two things: the Eucharist and Eternal Life. Curiously, this parable, while using the imagery of the Banquet, is less concerned about the meal and more about who's in and who's out, and why!

We can see this through the tenants who turn down the opportunity to go to a Royal Wedding – still an almost unimaginable thing to do. It's seen in the poor who recognise the gift and the giver, get dressed up and have somewhere to go. And it's seen in the impostor who is not correctly dressed for the occasion and is speechless when called to account.

This last character is clearly the one in the earliest Christian community who has taken the waters of baptism, but was betraying St Matthew's persecuted community. When discovered, people like this guest were thrown out. In Matthew's time, impostors cost lives.

So what does all this have to say to our own time? It's not about how one dresses for Mass or for Eternal life! It's not about the fear of being found wanting in being able to mouth the right words when called to account. It is about being poor enough to recognise the gift of God in the invitation to faith and about being generous enough to respond completely. For taking care about what we say and do, the values by which we live our lives at home, at work, at play and in the way we relate to each other is how we show that we mean what we profess. It is also how others legitimately judge whether we are really genuine about our faith or just another impostor.

Like the earliest Christians, when we were baptised we were clothed in a white garment – a wedding robe. Like theirs, our baptismal day was no naming ceremony and no social day out. It was the day we were issued with a standing invitation to the feast of life in Christ where people act as they profess, and where frauds are spotted a mile away.

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