



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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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:**

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|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 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:**

Katrina Honner

ANNIVERSARIES:

Paule Jakimov, Joseph Trong Nguyen

SICK:

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

**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.**

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2020: This Sunday is the one day in the year when the entire global Church comes together in support of mission - with a shout of courage and faith: 'Here I am, send me!'

This special day is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It is a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression.

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**.
- REMEMBRANCE MASS 2020:** This year our Annual Remembrance Mass will be livestreamed on All Souls Day, **Monday November 2nd at 7.00pm**
- HOLY SPIRIT HALL UPDATE:** Demolition of the existing hall is well under way and the building of the new hall and childcare centre will commence soon. Completion date is expected by December 2021.
- 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.
- PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday October 23rd**, due to the Grand Final Public Holiday.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**(Year A - Oct 18, 2020)**

Is 45 :1, 4-6

1 Thess 1:1-5

Mt 22:15-21

Reflection by Richard Leonard

There are people inside and outside the Church who think that Christ did not give the Church a mandate to speak about political matters. They regularly quote the Gospel we have just heard to support their case. But if one knows and understands the context and meaning within which this text was written it provides no ammunition for those who want the Church to stay indoors, reflect on things 'spiritual', preach the eternal verities, and sing hymns more ancient than modern.

In Jesus' day, we know that some people thought he was a Zealot. Zealots were a well-organised group who agitated for the end of the Roman occupation of Israel. One of the things Zealots did was withhold paying the Roman taxes. We can see why some people thought Jesus may have been a Zealot. He took the part of the poor, the sick, women and those who lived on the fringes of society. He attacked the religious authorities of his day and certainly stirred up trouble in many places he went. On the other hand he rejected violence, taught his followers to pray for their enemies and to return good for evil. Jesus showed us that the justice and equality God longs to see in the world comes from a community which is converted by love, not by weapons, fear or revenge. Jesus was no Zealot.

Rather than undermine civil authority, however, Jesus, in this passage, supports it. But he does more. 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's' is followed by 'And give to God, what is God's', which encompasses all the Caesars of this world, all civil authorities and states. The sense that we as the People of God can split off our obligations to the Gospel from the State is as false as it's dangerous.

We only have to think of some of the darkest chapters last century to see what happens when good, church-going people, like us, do not put their Sunday devotion in touch with their Monday politics. Evil can reign.

Christian leaders, who are charged to proclaim and defend the Gospel, are obliged to use whatever forum necessary to declare that God's personal love encompasses everyone and everything under heaven. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us today, God calls each one of us by name.

At times we may not agree with our religious leaders; we may think them ill informed; we may even think they have overstepped the mark. If this is the case we should tell them, enable them to consider other perspectives and to broaden the basis upon which they make their judgments. But we should never be seduced by those who want the Church sidelined from the mainstream of the debates that shape the way we live, the values we share, the laws we draft and the priorities we draw up for our human community.

If the Church shows disinterest in any of this, it is untrue to the very things for which Jesus lived, died and was raised from the dead. By all means we should give to Caesar all that Caesar is justly entitled to have for the sake of the common good. A higher allegiance, however, goes to God, who will call all Caesars to account for what they have done and what they failed to do. And we might be asked to explain how we let them get away with it in the first place.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Whose Image and Likeness?

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. *They* are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, *and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.*' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

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