



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	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:

Maria Bosnjak, Milan Benasic

ANNIVERSARIES:

Haberman Family Members, Reg Doherty, Francis Murphy and 1 Year Anniversary of Margaret Gorniakowski

SICK:

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



Please keep in your prayers the children from the Parish Sacramental Program who will begin lessons next week, via Zoom in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation!

Sending Fr Minh our best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery as he recuperates from recent back surgery!

St Michael's News:

- COVID-19 UPDATE:** As Step 3 of stage 3 restrictions for regional Victoria are currently in place, religious gatherings in the parish remain **cancelled**.
- LIVESTREAMING OF MASS CANCELLED:** Due to Fr Minh recuperating from surgery, the livestreaming of Sunday Mass over the next few weeks is cancelled.
- REMEMBRANCE MASS 2020 - DATE RESCHEDULED:** The Annual Remembrance Mass will now be livestreamed on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7.00pm**.
- HOLY SPIRIT HALL UPDATE:** Demolition is now complete and the building of the new hall and childcare centre will commence soon. Completion date is expected by December 2021.
- MASS:** Available on Channel 10 at 6am and 11am on Channel 31 & 44. Mass is also available on YouTube daily, from St Simon's Parish, Rowville.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year A - Oct 25, 2020)

Ex 22:20-26

1 Thess 1:5-10

Mt 22:34-40

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Nguyen Van Mah is one of eight sons. In 1978 his poor farming parents had to decide which one of their 12 children would be sent on a boat from Vietnam. They knew there was a great risk that they would be sending their son to his death on the South China Sea.

At 4.00 am a knock on the door of the family home came and Mah said his goodbyes. He has not seen his parents since. Mah was blindfolded and travelled in the back of a truck for eight hours. He was led through the jungle to a beach where the blindfold was removed. Mah told me that sometimes at this moment people are shot by evil traders who collect the money without any intention of dispatching a boat. That families never hear from their children is no surprise.

Mah told me, 'We were lucky, we made it off the beach.' There were 29 adults in a boat built for 10. Inadequately prepared for the two week trip, all the boat people were sick, hungry and exposed. Thai pirates attacked their boat, executed three men and raped all the women on board. They were to bury another six people at sea who died from the effects of the journey.

On sighting land, the remaining 20 people in Mah's boat thought hope had arrived. But the Malaysian Navy, under orders to fire on all Vietnamese boats, forced it to return to international waters. Mah told me, 'At this point I almost lost my faith in God and human beings. I was going to die.'

The boat began to take water and was noticed by a Dutch trading ship which rescued them and deposited them in the Philippines. Mah migrated to Australia 12 months later and is now the local doctor in an outback community that could not get a doctor for two years.

Isaiah tells us today 'You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.' Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the love of God is fulfilled precisely in as much as we love our neighbour.

No pressing issue in the Western World, it seems to me, invites such hysteria as does immigration. Until recently, most western countries have been good in offering hospitality to people who have chosen to leave, or have had to flee their country of birth. Given our comparative wealth this hospitality is entirely appropriate. And it is also appropriate for our countries to have a threshold number for the sake of the common good.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus does not promise us that the love of God and neighbour is going to cost us nothing. Jesus' law of love involves sacrifice for us individually and as a nation. Through the acceptance of this teaching we are committing ourselves to being our neighbour's keeper. In another part of the same Gospel, Jesus tells us that 'those to whom much has been given, much will be required.' Sadly, many of us want the good life for ourselves, while doing very little to help other countries become more liveable, and then we can reject people who want to share in the blessings we have worked for and inherited.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus being forced to flee Israel for Egypt as refugees. If the Holy Family were coming our way these days, they might be sent back to King Herod. May this Eucharist see in us a change of heart that enables our faith to act justly toward all people everywhere. May our goodness and hospitality mirror on earth the welcome we hope to enjoy from Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the kingdom which is promised to all, irrespective of where any of us has been born. © Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate - True Perspectives

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the *Lord* your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love the *Lord* your God'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as *yourself*.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command. © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com