



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

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon -Fri 9am-2.30pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

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Web Page Address:

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RECENT DEATHS:

Felix Nekrep

ANNIVERSARIES:

Patricia McDonald

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.



St Michael's News:

- **ST MICHAEL'S PRAYER ROOM:** Our prayer room located at the parish community centre is now open daily from 9.30am - 2.30pm. In accordance with covid-19 conditions of entry, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 to register your details and book a date & time.
- **REMEMBRANCE MASS 2020** - The Annual Remembrance Mass will now be livestreamed on Tuesday, November 24th at 7.00pm.
- **CWL:** Due to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we have booked a Christmas Lunch for the Manifold Branch of the CWL on Wednesday December 2nd, 12noon at Pekish, City of Geelong Bowls Club, 7-9 Ballarat Rd, North Geelong. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of \$10 for our luck dip Kris Kringle. We need to have accurate numbers so if you plan to attend please call Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 515 598. Looking forward to seeing all our friends again.
- **2021 COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** Available to purchase for \$9 from the parish office
- **COVID 19 PARISH CATCH UP:** Catch up with someone by phone, text, in person (where possible), you would see around the Parish or at Mass
- **LIVESTREAMING OF MASS:** This Sunday at 10am. Mass is also available on Channel at 6am and 11am on Channel 31 & 44. Mass is also available on You Tube daily, from St Simon's Parish, Rowville.
- **THANKYOU! THANKYOU!** To all parishioners who helped deliver the thanksgiving envelopes and statements. A tremendous effort and greatly appreciated.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year A - Nov 15th, 2020)

Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thess 5:1-6



Reflection by Richard Leonard

As Catholics we have no problem with the time-bound nature of the Bible. In fact we appreciate it, believing that the scriptures deserve to be read within their context, and also need careful interpretation. And while the Catholic Feminist Association may not choose to have today's first reading as the opening text at their next convention, we would be mistaken to hear it only in terms of our world today.

The Book of Proverbs is a distillation of sayings and teachings which had grown up over hundreds of years, most probably from Rabbis and Scribes. Its world is a vastly different one to ours. This is clearly seen in the tasks of the 'capable wife'. She is praised for her work with wool, flax, in the vineyard and in real estate. It's only in the context of an agrarian society that the power of this text makes sense.

Until quite recently, women in Palestinian society, and in wider society for that matter, were considered the 'possessions' of their husbands. They could be bought, sold, divorced, or killed without any appeal to the law. Wives in this society had no legally recognised human rights. They were expected to serve and shut-up.

By contrast, then, this text from the Book of Proverbs, which can seem so old-fashioned to us, was a liberating text in its day. A woman's right to work is not only defended, but also extolled. She is praised for her creativity, wisdom, goodness, strength, sense of justice, generosity, joy and faith. In any age and for either gender this is not a bad list of virtues toward which we should all aspire.

And these days of course, through the ongoing revelation of the Spirit, we believe that what the Book of Proverbs expects and praises in a capable wife, we should equally look for in a capable husband.

It is almost possible that Jesus had women in mind when he shared the parable of the talents in today's Gospel. What can often get lost in the debates about who should be ordained in today's Church, is that women have always and still 'lead' the Church in powerful and long-lasting ways. From the extraordinary abilities of religious and lay women in Catholic welfare, education, healthcare, overseas missions and theological reflections, to wives and mothers whose daily witness to the fidelity and goodness of God, this all reveals in innumerable ways the power of the parable of the talents. The reality is that if it were not for women's leadership, commitment and faith, it would be hard to see how the Church could survive. We would not be able to continue almost all of our ministries.

None of this minimises the pain and hurt some women have experienced at the hands of the Church. Some feel as though their particular contribution to the life of the Church has not been fully realised.

All we can hope and pray for is that we may find ways to use everyone's talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God, and that we may see that everyone's contribution, irrespective of gender, is precious and worthy of praise.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate: 'Befriending time'

God's plan for human happiness is mostly frustrated by a good person burying his or her personality traits, what one might call one's talents, which is really to bury oneself and to become invisible.

In the old language of my schoolboy catechism, we should be concerned not just with sins of commission, but with sins of *omission* – failure of courage, failure to take risks, failure to put everything on the line with the personality and the moment in time given to you and to me.

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar:

'There is a tide in the affairs of men
which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
omitted, all the voyage of their life
is bound in stillness and in miseries.'

The Divine Tide is flowing through human history. We should trust ourselves to that tide which can carry us to the shores of Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish stillness and miseries.