



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-5 pm

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:**

Lillian 'Jean' Lamaro, Maria Hoa, Rosalia Puglia

ANNIVERSARIES:

Anton & Marija Fantella, Ray Fusea & One Month Since Death of Bruno Stranieri

SICK:

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

BAPTISMS:

Georgia & Mia McGennissen, Vincent & Norah Dillon, Lachlan Patterson

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 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 PARISH IS REOPENING FOR WEEKEND & MIDWEEK MASSES:**
At long last, we are pleased to announce that our Masses will recommence on Tuesday November 24, 9.15am at Holy Family Church. There will be three weekend Masses. Please see over the page for important information with regards to registering for Mass and Covid-19 conditions of entry.
- CHANGE OF TIME FOR MIDWEEK MASSES:** Please note the permanent change to the starting time of both midweek Masses at Holy Spirit Church to 9.15am. Adoration on the Friday will follow Mass.
- PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** As we head into Advent and Christmas, the parish office will be opened daily from 9am—5pm.
- PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Our next meeting will be on Wednesday December 2nd, 7pm at the parish office.
- LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the **2021 Break Open the Word** is now available. Please collect from the parish office when you can.
- 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
- LIVESTREAMING OF MASS TO CONTINUE:** This Sunday at 10am.

**Our Lord JESUS CHRIST,
KING of the UNIVERSE
(Year A - Nov 22nd, 2020)**
Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28
Mt 25: 31-46

Registration for Weekend Masses:

- Mass times:- Saturday 5pm at Ss Peter & Paul
- Sunday 8am at Holy Family
- Sunday 10am at Holy Spirit (Will continue to be Livestreamed)

To book your place, please contact the parish office on Monday or Tuesday, either by telephone on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au to register your contact details and preferred Mass. Confirmation of your booking will be made by Thursday.

You can only book for the Masses for that current week.

If you are feeling unwell or circumstances do not allow you to attend, please contact the parish office .

Entrance to each church will be via the main entrances where your name will be marked off, and please ensure that you sanitise your hands before entering. Don't forget your mask.

At Communion time, sanitiser stations will be set up just before the altar, you must sanitise your hands again before receiving Communion.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

The Roman Emperor Constantine was baptised in 337. He put it off for years. In the early Church Christians could only confess their sins once in their lives, so Constantine remained a catechumen until he was nearing the end. When he thought his death was imminent, and that he could probably sin no more, he asked for baptism, received Holy Communion and later confessed his sins. It was a watershed moment for the Church.

In 313 Constantine declared that Christianity was to be the new state religion. No one could hold any other belief. It was meant to unify the Empire as trade, law, taxation and Roman culture had done. I think we should admit that this move has been a mixed blessing for the Church ever since.

On the positive side of the ledger it finally sealed the end of the persecution of the earliest Christians. The blood of the martyrs had been so eloquent that their witness caused even a few emperors to ask what sort of love would see so many followers be prepared to die for their beliefs. It also saw the Church become a significant player in shaping the values of society, especially in the West. There is no question that Christianity moderated, cultivated and humanised some of the worst Roman excesses.

On the cost side, the Church became very powerful very quickly. Bishops started to wear the purple robes of the senators. Churches took on the shape of the Roman basilicas, while the government of the Church mirrored that of the Empire. Our liturgy imported all sorts of practices that were popular in the Roman temples. Tragically, for the next few hundred years, conversions were demanded at the end of a sword. No religious dissent or pluralism was tolerated. It's in this context that Islam arises against Imperial Christianity in the 6th Century.

It cannot surprise us that after Constantine's conversion the image of Christ the King becomes one of the most popular ones used in religious art. Up to this time the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was the most represented. After 313, however, Jesus is dressed in royal robes, with a crown, sceptre and orb. Mary is often presented in similar dress and starts to be called the Queen of Heaven.

The problem with all this is not that imperial language was now being used in reference to Jesus. He described himself as a King. The problem comes in how Christianity starts to forget that Jesus also pointed out that his kingdom was 'not of this world' and that his courtiers could be recognised by how they feed the hungry, water the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit prisoners. Jesus' reign, and his courtiers, are of an altogether different order to that usually prized in worldly kingdoms.

That's why today's feast is so important. On the last day of the Church's year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true allegiance to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but the quiet revolutionary work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live.

To the degree that we do this we are co-heirs to the Kingdom Jesus lived, died and was raised for, and we are witnesses to the real meaning of Christ's reign in our lives.

© Richard Leonard SJ