



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			Web Page Address: www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
OFFICE:	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215 Phone: 5278 1343 - Email: bellpark@cam.org.au			
OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm			
PARISH SECRETARY:	Bernadette Bilogrevic	Phone 5278 1343	Email: bellpark@cam.org.au	
PASTORAL WORKER:	Sr Anne Lourey	Phone 5278 1343	Email: anne.lourey@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

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Frank Costa; Imre Sos; Tadeusz Hau; Patricia Stanhope; Arnoldus Vaanhold; Bernard Molloy.

ANNIVERSARIES: Dimmy Da Costa; Nicola De Leo; Robert Cummins; Alfred Bird; Andrew Stocks; Gino & Carmela Bisinella and Family; Marcella D'Aprile.

BAPTISMS: Toby Bean; Jack & Hamish Butler; Amelia & Gabriella Karpicz; Joshua Murray; Parker Elford; Ariyah Maher; Bobby, Ned & Sage Lonergan; Georgie Prendergast



St Michael's Parish is committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

A REMINDER: Children must be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian at all times!

- The Ascension of the Lord - (Year B/1- May 16, 2021)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God: praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11
2nd Reading: Gal 5:16-25
Gospel: Jn 15:26-27



PARISH PRAYER:

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more. Help the parents to be a good example to the children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy. May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

Heavenly Father, help us to respond to and live out our mission in the Church, and in the world.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life and assist them to live it well.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people, call many to be priests and religious.

Give those whom you call the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ♦ QR Check-In at all Masses & Church Services is now **compulsory**. Please arrange for the Services Victoria App to be installed on your phone and please, please bring it to Mass.
- ♦ For parishioners who do not have access to a mobile, please complete a **COVID Safe Information Slip** by entering your name and Phone No. Please return this slip and a volunteer will scan you in. Whilst masks are no longer mandatory, please remember to sanitise your hands on entering; continue to adhere to the 1.5m distancing rules, especially when seated in the church, entering & exiting and proceeding to the altar to receive communion.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators	A Henderson
Lectors	G Tolan
Special Ministers	A Henderson, G Tolan
Welcomers	J Cowell
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

M Kroger
J Fraatz
L Fossey, L Vannata
D Dougherty, L Fossey
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators	F O'Neill
Lectors	L Kelly
Special Ministers	L Sells, E Kelly
Projectionist	R Allum
Co-Ordinator	L. Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

M Lukesic
P Gizycki
D Lunn, C Simpson, V Resciniti
C Resciniti
J Mann, 0488 784 802

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English... 8am and 9.30am Sunday

Croatian... 11am Sunday

Slovenian... 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Saturday

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family:

9.15am Tues (Followed by Novena to St Anthony), 9.15am Thurs
(8.45am Rosary before Mass on Tues & Thurs)

Holy Spirit:

9.15am Wed, 9.15am Fri. (Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

Reconciliation after Friday Mass each week.

BAPTISMS:

Please contact the parish for new bookings

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Mon...	Rosary Prayer Group	11.00am	Holy Family Community Centre
Tues...	Meditation Group	5.30pm	Holy Family Community Centre
Fri...	Divine Mercy	3.00pm	Holy Spirit Church

Prayer Room is open Mon-Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

May 6-20 Hennessy family

If anyone would like to have Our Lady's Statue or if you could spare an hour a month to help, Ph Tina Montalto on 5278 9314.

SAFETY AND WELLBEING:

The safety and wellbeing of our parishioners, staff and the wider community is important to us all. Please report any accidents, incidents or near misses to the Parish Office on 5278 1343. Also, if you notice any potential hazards or risks, please bring these to our attention so that we can address them as soon as possible.



Liturgy at St Michael's:



Congratulations ! To the children from Holy Family School receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist this week! We also welcome and pray for the children from the Parish Sacramental Group as they begin classes for 1st Eucharist.



- ◆ **RECRUITMENT OF LECTORS, COMMENTATORS, PROJECTIONISTS, SPECIAL MINISTERS & COLLECTORS:** The parish is currently looking to recruit more volunteers to assist at our weekend Masses. Some of these roles may be on a regular basis or to cover when needed. We would love to hear from you and training & guidance will be provided. Please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 if you are interested or would like more information.
- ◆ Pope Francis has called on the faithful to unite in praying the holy rosary this May to ask the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession for an end to the corona virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the resumption of social and work activities. During the remainder of May at all our weekend Masses, we invite our parishioners to pray the rosary prior to the start of each Mass.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a set of envelopes for all **weekly and monthly** contributors in the foyer today. They are in order, alphabetically by **STREET**. If you can't see your set of envelopes, please contact the office to see where they were sent and let us know which Church you prefer next time. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start giving. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact Bernadette on Ph: 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au. Thankyou for your continuing regular support.

Community News:

- ◆ **CRAFT AND CONVERSATION GROUP—Holy Family Community Centre:** Thursday afternoons 2-4pm, Public /School Holidays excluded. BYO craft project or just come along and chat.
 - ◆ 20 May 3 June 17 June 15 July 29 July
 - ◆ 12 Aug 26 Aug 9 Sept 23 Sept 23 Sept
 - ◆ 7 Oct 21 Oct 4 Nov 18 Nov 2 DecScan in using the App for more information please contact Debbie 0409 416 945.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** All are warmly invited to join our small community of people with Disability, their families, carers, friends and other supporters. We sing, pray and share our faith—and afternoon tea! Next monthly meeting is Saturday 29 May from 1.30 to 4pm. We will celebrate Pentecost as well as our 2nd birthday as a group. Venue: St Mary's Pioneer Room, Level 1, 150 Yarra Street Geelong. RSVP and enquiries to Tricia O'Keeffe, Ph: 0414 672 267 or www.FaithandLight.org



Reflection by Richard Leonard

Aren't we lucky we don't take the Scriptures literally? If we did it would appear from today's Gospel that only multilingual, snake-wrangling, poison-drinking exorcists, with a gift for healing, would be seen as the genuine Christian article. That would leave most of us out in the cold.

This passage, however, is a dramatic addition to Mark's Gospel to show that even though Jesus is now at the right hand of God, he sends his disciples out to the whole world to carry on his ministry, and that he will protect us when trials come. And even though there have been tragic and shocking chapters in our 2,000 year history, it's good for us to remember what God has done in and through us as we have gone out and proclaimed the saving love of Christ. Today 33% of the world's population are, at least nominally, Christian, numbering 2.1 billion people, making us the largest religion in the world. Our Catholic family accounts for just over half this group. We have around 1.1 billion Catholic brothers and sisters worldwide. Many Christians continue to be persecuted or discriminated for their faith, and some continue to die for their love of Christ which impels them to seek justice for all.

But the feast of the Ascension is not just an opportunity for us to look back on how we have tried to fulfil the command of the Lord to go out to the world. Indeed, this feast is primarily focused on where we are going from here on in. The Ascension promises us that just as the Father raised Jesus from the dead, so too the Father, Son and Spirit will welcome us into heaven as well, to be at Christ's right hand for eternity. This parable demonstrates the point.

In 1939 a father and son were famous art collectors. When World War II broke out, the son volunteered. In 1944 the son died in battle while rescuing another soldier. A year later, a young man came to see the father. 'Sir, you don't know me but I was with your son when he died. I want you to know he didn't suffer.'

'I know you both loved art, and though this isn't much, I want you to have it.' He gave the father a package. Inside was a portrait of the son. It was rough work, but the father welled up with tears. 'It was the least I could do for your son because he saved my life.'

A few months later, the father died. At the art auction which followed, investors gathered from around the world. The first item up for bid was the portrait of the son.

The auctioneer tried to start the bidding, '\$200 ... \$100 ... Any bids? Any at all?' The investors called out, 'Skip this one. Where are the Rembrandts?' Just then a man spoke up from the back. 'I'll give you ten dollars for the painting. It's all the money I have.' It was the gardener at the father's estate. So the auctioneer brought down his gavel. 'Sold for ten dollars!' An investor called back, 'Can we now get on with it?'

But the auctioneer continued, 'The auction is over. According to the will, whoever bought this painting would inherit the estate, including all the art.'

No matter what they said the wealthy investors couldn't buy their way into the inheritance. Only the one who had the eyes of love, and knew what he was looking at, inherited everything the Father and Son had to offer.

May we go out from this Feast of the Ascension so confident of our spiritual inheritance to come, that we lavish its riches on all we meet right now. Because when it comes to Christ's kingdom, there's plenty for everyone.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.