



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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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

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(Acting Principal)

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

www.facebook.com/michael.parish.st

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Maurice Glynn, Manuel Silvestri, Vitorina, Maria & Augusta De Jesus and the first anniversary of Joe Vanjek



PRAY FOR THE SICK: Clare Magimuthan, Fr Philip Godsell, Cheryl Lambert, Paul Secon, Harry Howard

**DUE TO THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN,
MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED THIS SUNDAY AT 10AM ON FACEBOOK**

St Michael's Parish is committed to upholding the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in ordinary time (Year B/1- 26 September, 2021)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Num 11: 25-29

2nd: James 5: 1-6

Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43, 45,
47-48

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st: Gen 2:18-24

2nd: Heb 2:9-11

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

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 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.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

- Towards an ever wider “we” -

God created us in his image, in the image of his own triune being, a communion in diversity

Migrant and Refugee Sunday is celebrated in Australia on the last Sunday in September. This brings the practice of the Church in Australia into line with the practice of the Church around the world. The 2021 theme is ‘*Towards an Ever Wider We.*’

“Our challenge is to accompany people from the margins into a journey towards the fullness of life and love. We are meant to be in the coalface, in the messiness of it all and at the same time in fidelity to the Gospel... Like Christ in his ministry among the sick and the lost, we are called to meet God in the most unlikely people and places. We, too, must be in that frontier space.”

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.

Holy Beloved Father,
your Son Jesus taught us
that there was great rejoicing in heaven
whenever someone lost is found,
whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded
is gathered into our “we”, which thus becomes even wider.

We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus, and all people of goodwill,
the grace to do your will on earth.

Bless each act of welcome and outreach
that draws those in exile
into the “we” of community and of the Church,
so that our earth may truly become
what you yourself created it to be:
the common home of all our brothers and sisters.

Amen.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN, ALL MASSES AND LITURGIES ARE CANCELLED . MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM.

WEEKDAY MASSES: COMMENCING FROM SEPTEMBER 13, DAILY MASS WILL NOW BE CELEBRATED ON MONDAY MORNINGS, 9.15AM AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH AND NOT ON THURSDAY MORNINGS.

Holy Family: 9.15am Mon, Tues (Followed by Novena to St Anthony),
(8.45am Rosary before Mass on Mon & Tues)

N.B. There is no longer a 9.15am Mass on Thursdays at Holy Family

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
	Legion of Mary	10.00am	Holy Family Community Centre
Fri.:	Divine Mercy	3.00pm	Holy Spirit Church

St Michael's News:

- ♦ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office is currently closed and will reopen as soon as permitted.
- ♦ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:** St Michael's Parish Safeguarding Committee works with the Parish Leadership Team to ensure policies, processes and practices are in place to protect children and young people. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children in our parish.

We acknowledge and welcome diversity in our Church community. We recognise that cultural safety and inclusion serve as protective factors in relation to child safety, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, and are sensitive to how these factors may impact child safety.
- ♦ **PARISH BULLETIN:** Please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 if you would like a copy of the weekly bulletin emailed or posted out to you. There will also be bulletins available to collect from the parish office or at the main entrance of Holy Spirit Church.

Community News:

- ♦ **FRIENDS OF FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG UPDATE:** If we are able to, we hope to meet on Saturday 16th October. Details will be provided closer to that date. Faith & Light provides Christian fellowship and support for those with a disability. For members and interested parishioners, further information and updates, please contact Tricia O'Keeffe on 0414 672 267 or by email patriciaok65@gmail.com. Thanks.

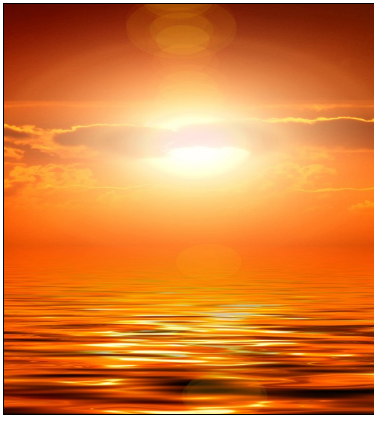
Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The question of legitimacy of ministry is not a new one. There is a certain amount of tension between the institutional and the charismatic aspects of the church. To say that one is Spirit-driven and the other is not is to misunderstand Jesus' promise to remain with the church until the end of time. God normally calls ministers through the structures of the community. The authorities of the church are usually the ones who make the ultimate decisions about the needs of the church, how these needs are to be met, and who is to meet them. That is one of the responsibilities of their office.

However, God calls in other ways as well. A solid biblical tradition maintains that the Spirit is not confined to human structure or custom. We see this in the judges, the prophets, and even the early kings. The Pentecost story describes the coming of the Spirit upon all people – sons and daughters, young and old, slaves and free. When God calls it is up to us to recognise that call and to test its spirit. Perhaps the primary criterion we have for judging is the biblical measure: By their fruits you shall know them.

Today we also see that those who benefit from exploitation of the vulnerable will reap the fruits of their sin. This warning stems from the belief in the justice of God. Just as we believe that God will not allow the righteous to go unrewarded, so we are confident that neither will the wicked escape punishment.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



“To all people of good will who are working for social justice:
never tire of working for a more just world, marked by
greater solidarity.”

POPE FRANCIS

“At the heart of who we are is not all the buildings but
the person of Jesus Christ, who enters into our lives
and who we then share with others.

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Today's gospel makes me very pleased I'm a Catholic, and that we don't take the bible literally. Our Christian brothers and sisters who insist on the literal truth of the scriptures must have a tough time trying to avoid cutting off their hands and feet, plucking out their eyes and worrying about how hot hell is! I'm not sure about them, but I know my feet have taken me to places I wish I'd not gone, and when I got there my eyes saw things I wish I'd not seen. Still, in spite of the times I've let myself down, I am glad I'm still in one piece, and not all that worried about the worms and weather in hell!

As Catholics we believe the Scriptures reveal the truth of our salvation – they are not books of fact. Jesus was a skilled and powerful communicator. And like all great teachers he used metaphor and exaggeration to make his point. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus takes evil very seriously. He is always conscious of it around him and is aware that it comes from within us, and without us. Jesus teaches us today to stop doing the destructive things that prevent us from loving God, each other and ourselves.

Sinful behaviour often falls into two categories of human activity: habitual and compulsive. Habits are unusual things. There are good habits, like saying 'please' and 'thank you'. There are habits that can start out well-intentioned enough, but end up being obsessions, like caring for one's physical fitness. And there are habits that bring moments of relief or let us off the hook – like lying, dishonesty and stealing – but always end up being destructive.

Compulsive behaviour, however, is of a very different order. Gambling, drinking, shopping, smoking, violence, work, sex, eating, drugs, pornography, money and the Internet are fairly common modern manifestations of compulsive behaviour. As heart-breaking as these addictions are, they are the presenting problems of deeper issues related to self-esteem, personal history and even genetic disposition.

One of the comments I've heard people make about their compulsive behaviour is, 'I found myself doing it again and I am not sure how or why'. No doubt there are some people who feel so lonely and get so depressed about their habitual or compulsive behaviour, they contemplate severing an arm, a leg or gouging an eye.

Jesus underlines that we have to stop our destructive behaviour and offers three pieces of practical advice so we can. Firstly, do whatever helps. For some people the most unusual solutions attend to the deeper issues and help us piece our lives back together. It doesn't matter whether others approve of it, or it's related to religious faith, for as long as it doesn't lead to other destructive behaviour then, 'whoever (or whatever) is not against us, is for us'.

Secondly, accept help. None of us can battle through life carrying all our burdens on our own. Steps four to six of Alcoholics Anonymous deal with sharing the exact nature of our burdens as a means to coming to terms with them. Our family and friends are not mind readers and we need to seek out wise counsel and follow it wisely. The help and support we receive could be like the cup of refreshing water Jesus tells us about today.

Finally, habitual and compulsive behaviour always has a pattern. St Ignatius Loyola taught in the sixteenth century that it was only when we regularly examined ourselves to see where, when, how and with whom we are most likely to walk away from God's love, that we can work out why we do it and change the pattern.

And when we really know ourselves as we are, and not as we would like to be, we have the chance to choose life over death more often than not.