



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-5pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

PASTORAL WORKER:

Sr Anne Lourey Phone 5278 1343 Email: anne.lourey@mercy.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	Luke Sheahan	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Dorothy Withers; Jozo Balic

ANNIVERSARIES: Giuseppe & Maria Teresa Pitaro; Francesco & Serafina Lecchino; Joseph Gillet (Snr); Giuseppa Resciniti; Luigi Palmieri; Matt DeGrandi

BAPTISMS: Isabella Hudich; Hendrix Mayberry; Edward Morgan

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Clare Mathimugan; Fr Philip Godsell; Cheryl Lambert; Paul Secon; Harry Howard.



MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED 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-Eighth Sunday in ordinary time (Year B/1- 10 October 2021)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Time	29th Sunday in Ordinary		
1st	Wis 7:7-11	1st:	Is 53:10-11
2nd:	Heb 4:12-13	2nd:	Heb 4:14-16
Gospel:	Mk 10:17-30	Gospel:	Mk 10:35-45

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.

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.



St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office has now reopened
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **CRAFT AND CONVERSATION:** 'Lockdown blues getting to you?' Why not come along to the craft conversation group. BYO project or come along for a cuppa, chat and inspiration. NB: We do need to follow the COVID guidelines and yes, masks are required and QR scanning available. We will be meeting at Holy Family Community Centre Thursday afternoons, 2-4pm. It is most Thursdays so keep an eye on the dates. Naturally if another lockdown/stay at home order occurs, we are cancelled. Dates are: Oct, 7, 14, 21 & 28; Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25; Dec 2 & 9 (Christmas Break). **To book your seat**, please contact Debbie on 0409 416 945 as we do have a space limit to adhere to.

Community News:

- ◆ **CATHOLIC CARE:** A family (mother and son), evicted from their house due to toxic mould, is urgently looking for a 2-bedroom short term rental in Bell Park, Corio or Norlane at \$320 per week. This family has a good tenancy record. If you are able to help, please feel free to contact Nestor on 0439 358 342.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG UPDATE:** If we are able to, we hope to meet on Saturday 16 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.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE WHICH ALLOW A MAXIMUM OF 20 AT RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS, THE WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOT RECOMMENCE UNTIL THIS NUMBER IS INCREASED. MASS WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIVESTREAMED SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

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

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:

Tues...	<i>Meditation Group</i>	<i>5.30pm</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
Fri.:	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

John Calvin, one of the founding fathers of the Protestant Reformation, reacted against what he saw as medieval Catholicism's adherence to the sacramental law as a means to salvation. 'If you keep the law, the law will keep you.' He was right to condemn the preaching of some Catholic priests of his day. Calvin maintained that since time began God predestined those who, by faith, would be saved. Calvin argued that the rest of humanity would be lost. It was impossible to know for certain, Calvin argued, who was who. this was tough stuff!

Within a few years, however, his own congregation in Geneva wanted to know how anyone could be sure they were on the right path to salvation. Calvin's disciples taught that strict and right behaviour was an indication of who belonged to those elected by God to be saved. Not dancing, drinking, swearing or gambling, but working hard, saving one's money and the careful observance of the Ten Commandments became the benchmarks of the elect. Within a few generations of Calvin's death, it is easy to see that the observance of the strict, Protestant, moral code had replaced the seven Sacraments as the way of being assured of heaven.

The rich young man wanted to be assured of salvation too. He was a good man; an observant Jew and someone Jesus looked on with love. But he was hoping the law would save him. He wanted to be sure of gaining heaven by jumping through the right hoops, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Jesus doesn't reject the importance of faithful and good living, but he offers the young man a relationship that would make sense of the choices involved in following him. Without a loving relationship with God, who calls us to live the best life we can, the fulfilment of any law, civil or moral, is a tyranny. We do not believe in a tyrannical God.

We do believe, however, in a God who makes demands of us, who often challenges us in the places where we are most vulnerable. For the young man, his money was an obstacle. He could not embrace a relationship with Jesus because this would have placed in peril his wealth and the comfort that his many possessions afforded him.

For the earliest Christian community today's Gospel highlights serious issues on which people left their company: the role of the law in following Christ; the divide between rich and poor; the commitment demanded of followers in the earliest community. In comparison to our forebears in faith, we have domesticated this radical edge of the Gospel.

We often comfort ourselves with the assurance that the law will save us, whereas Jesus tells us that salvation comes from a loving relationship with him, shown in the sacrifice of our lives. To the degree that any law enables us to deepen this relationship with Jesus and to serve his people, then it is helpful and good. If a civil or religious law gets in the road, then its moral authority over us is questionable.

In a world where the vast majority of the world's wealth and resources are held and used by a dominantly white, educated and, at least nominally, Christian First World, then the demands of today's Gospel should be as confronting to us as they were to the rich young man. 'There is still one thing you lack, sell everything and come follow me.' It has suited us to move away from this financially hard teaching of Jesus.

The law and money are in themselves neutral things. They can be used for good or evil. At their worst the law and money seduce us into pride, greed and power. At their best they can serve the liberation of all people and enable our world to better reflect the Kingdom of dignity, justice and equality Jesus taught and lived.

Given that all things are possible for God, let's pray in this Eucharist that we might stop domesticating the Gospel but allow it to lead us more deeply into a relationship with Jesus who looks on us, loves us and calls us to write the law of love on our hearts in such a way that there will be justice for all people.