



St Michael's Parish

Incorporating the Churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

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Rachel Holdsworth

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St Patrick's

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Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Recently I was invited to a relative's home for dinner. This family has been having more than a little trouble with their 13-year-old daughter, who is going through a particularly defiant and rebellious stage. The young girl was not happy with the vegetables her mother served at dinner and so she refused to eat them. The uneaten vegetables became the staging ground for an adolescent conflict. Trying to coax the girl into eating, her mother calmly used some lines I'd heard before. 'Wasting food is a sin' and 'There are starving people in the world who would be grateful for what you don't want'. With that the girl jumped up and left the dining room. A few minutes later she returned with an oversized envelope and a marker pen. She began to stuff the food into

the envelope and as she did she angrily asked, 'What starving people do you want me to send these vegetables to?' Who said being a parent was easy? Celibacy had never looked better!

In today's Gospel, after the 5,000 have been fed, Jesus says, 'Gather the pieces together that are left over. Let nothing be wasted'. Some of us have never truly been hungry, so it can be hard to fully appreciate how wasteful our developed world must appear to those who watch their families die of starvation. People who lived through the Depression or have lived through wars often carry the scars of being hungry. To this day some of them are on guard against waste. Others try to numb the memory of want by overindulging. For most of us in the developed world, especially 13-year-old middle-class kids, hunger has

only ever been fleeting, and we are presently eating ourselves into obesity.

Some people would prefer to think of the story of the feeding of the five thousand exclusively in spiritual terms. There is no question that today's Gospel refers to the Eucharist where all are spiritually nourished by Christ our host. It also refers to the eternal banquet where hunger will be no more. But this Gospel asks us to look at our world through the eyes of Christ's kingdom where the mighty will be cast down from their thrones, the poor will be raised up, and the rich who will not share will be sent away.

There is such a thing as healthy guilt. It's where we become aware of what we have done or failed to do to bring about Christ's Kingdom in our world. /Cont'd P4...

- 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time -*(Year B/2 - July 29, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

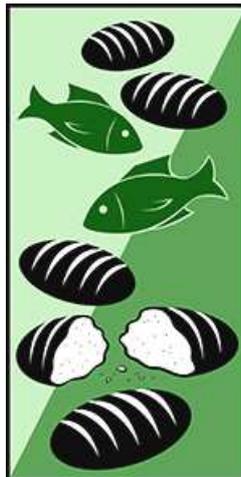
The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Ex 16:2-4,12-15
2nd Reading: Eph 4:17,20-24
Gospel: Jn 6:24-35

**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.

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

Holy Spirit:

9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat. **Reconciliation after Saturday Mass**

McKellar Centre:

10.15am - 1st Tuesday (3rd & 5th Communion Service)

Multicultural Centre:

1.30pm - 1st Friday;

Elstoft House (formerly Vincentian Village): 3.00pm 1st & 3rd Tuesday, (2nd & 4th Communion Service)

St John of God Hospital: 11.30am every Thursday in SJOG Chapel

BAPTISMS:

1st & 3rd Sundays 12noon at Holy Spirit, 2nd & 4th Sundays 12.30pm at Ss P&P, 3rd Sunday 2pm at Holy Family

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Mon... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Tues... Meditation Group

5.30pm

Holy Family Community Centre

Wed... Prayer of the Church

Before 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Wed... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Thurs... Italian Prayer Group

10.00am

St Patrick's Chapel

Fri... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After 11am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Fri... Divine Mercy

3.00pm

Holy Spirit Church

Sat... Rosary

After 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

July 23-Aug 8: Mileto family; **August 6-20:** Spitale family, 4 Marathon Ave;

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.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Viv Greenhalge, Joaquin Prats, Marko Vlahovic, John Ryan and Rose Smith

ANNIVERSARIES:

Cosimo Mileto, Salvatore Peralta, Joseph Gillett Jnr, Garry Dougherty, Frank & Cath McCormack, Joseph Hagebols, Cath Edwards, Kate Dempsey, Matilda Matjasic, one year anniversary of Margaret Howard and 20 year anniversary of Peter Javni Jnr.

BAPTISMS:

Minnie Lunn, Violet & Ivy Missen, Lachlan Murray and Bronn Paddon

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Aaron Lyall, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Brian Biviano



STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" (Jn 6:9)

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is the only miracle which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let him. No gift is too small or insignificant!

Roster for Next Sunday

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators C O'Brien
Lectors Sr J McGonigal
Special Ministers N Neeld, P McGlinchey
Welcomers
Projectionist D Whelan
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
B Middleton
G Wright
I Cleary, L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators R Allum
Lectors V Pavlovic
Special Ministers J Bartolo, I Baulch, Peter McBride
Welcomers K McArthur, L. Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

J Siketa
C Taylor, M Bird
P Carmody, B Kline, Horoba
M&E Hoffman
C Resciniti
J Mann, 0488 784 802

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN ST MICHAEL'S:

St Michael's Luncheon...	First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.
Holy Family Luncheon..	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO casserole & drink to share.
Holy Family Women's Group...	First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 6.30pm (Winter), 7.00pm (D'light savings)
St Vincent de Paul...	Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre 7pm. Holy Spirit meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 5.00pm in Holy Spirit Hall
Legion of Mary...	Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre
Baptism Preps	4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
Holy Family Choir Practice...	Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm
Manifold CWL...	Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month
Italian Mass...	First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
Catholic Diners' Club...	2nd Tues of each month, 6.15pm at Capri Receptions. Dinner/Guest Speaker - ph 0431 959 584

If you wish to know more about these groups, as well as about our Sacramental Program for children in non-Catholic schools, our Baptism and Wedding procedures, our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines and so on, please visit our webpage:

www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

Did you know there's going to be a Plenary Council of the Church in Australia in 2020?

What is a Plenary Council? Put simply, a Plenary Council is the highest form of "communion" (that's church terminology meaning 'a serious getting together' in lay-person terms) between the various local churches of our Nation. It is not simply a meeting of bishops but a process that calls for the participation of the entire Catholic community. It invites the whole Church into a discussion to figure out where the Church is going; to think about how our various communities can carry out the mission Jesus has given us with renewed vitality, faced as we are by changing community attitudes and challenges. The Plenary Council will have representation from the laity, religious and ordained ministers, together with the bishops of Australia, as "the culmination of a sustained pilgrimage in faith" (more church terminology). It is the first such Council to be held in Australia for 80 years.

The Church is not a democracy. It is not an institution where the will of the majority determines future doctrine. Rather it is an institution that has been handed a set of principles by its founder that it is required to carry out. Each of us has been given performance targets by Jesus. We don't get to pick and choose which bits of his 'plan' we'll adhere to. On the other hand there are parts of His message that are open to interpretation.

The bishops say that the question for the Plenary Council is this: What is God asking of the Church in Australia?

They make much of the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to the soul of each Catholic, giving each of us insight into the needs of the Australian Church. Admittedly this sentiment is expressed in rather convoluted ecclesiastical terminology: "A Plenary Council is an expression of the 'synodality' of the Church, the nature of the Church as a communion of persons 'walking together' in faith as disciples of the Lord. The Plenary Council recognises that all the baptised have received a common vocation to be a 'sacrament or instrumental sign of intimate union with God and of the unity of all humanity' (Lumen Gentium 1) and upholds with faith that it is by our mutual listening to the Holy Spirit – who guides the Church 'into all truth' (John 16:13) – that we can realise our mission most deeply as a community of faith."

The slightly worrying thing is that whatever is discussed in the Plenary Council it seems it will be the bishops who make the final decisions as chief guardians of Jesus' truth.

To quote: "As set out in Canon Law, a Plenary Council has legislative power **with the final decisions reserved to the bishops by nature of their episcopal ordination as successors of the Apostles**. The bishops are obliged to make decisions on the basis of their careful discernment of the work of the Holy Spirit in the minds and hearts of all the People of God, recognising that the sense of the faith of the faithful – what is known as the *sensus fidelium* – is a source of the Church's life and learning as it seeks to fulfil its Gospel mission."

(Kevin Fell)

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **EUCCHARIST:** Through the colder months, a decision has been made to offer Eucharist of one type **only** at our Masses. This will be re-addressed in September.
- ◆ **PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL:** At All Masses this weekend (July 28/29) there will be a special third collection taken up after Communion. All funds raised will help support the people of Myhanmar in the areas of education and quality schooling to build their nation for future generations. Donation envelopes are available at all Churches.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** On Wednesday, **August 1st at 12noon** in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held on **Wednesday August 1**, 1.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall. All St Michael's Parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Bernadette 0417 514 598 or Tricia 0431 512 354.
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S CONVERSATION/CRAFT GROUP:** Ladies - are you interested in meeting new people? Do you want to experience informal conversation practice and improve your conversation? ***We promote cultural inclusiveness and building strong St Michael's Community bonds.*** Bring along your current craft project, hobby, or just come sit and chat and be part of the St Michael's Conversation Craft Group. Contact Debbie 0409 416 945. We meet at Holy Family Community Centre, 147 Separation Street, 2-5pm on 10 Aug, 24 Aug, 7 Sep, 21 Sep, 5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov, 30 Nov.

Community News:

- July 30...** **SING AUSTRALIA:** On stage Monday 1.30pm Belmont Seniors Concert Hall, 52 Thomson St. Geelong's very own professional singing group who will delight with a wide range of musical talent. Entry \$5 - tea/coffee after.
- Aug 14...** **LIFEBOAT GEELONG:** A Fundraiser will be held at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club from 5.30-7.30pm with guest speaker Brian Cook, CEO of the Geelong Football Club. Finger food is provided and tickets are \$60/person. Please purchase online at lifeboatgeelong.com.au

/Cont'd from P1...

Given that it is entirely unnecessary for 29,000 people, on average, to die each day because of lack of food and water and the diseases this brings, guilt on our part seems a reasonable response. It becomes a healthy moment in our lives when we decide to change our priorities, and call for similar changes in a nation's priorities which spends more on bombs than starving babies.

I often wonder what God thinks when he hears wealthy nations say that the reason they refuse to share more with the poor is because these poorer nations often have unelected despots who divert their country's wealth into Swiss bank accounts or nuclear and conventional weaponry programmes. Even in the face of these complex issues we could find a way to feed the hungry who might, one day, be empowered to take charge of their nations.

'What starving people do you want

me to send these vegetables to?', the 13 year old asked. To which I wanted to reply, 'Put your own name on the envelope because your own comfort makes you the neediest person in the world'.

May this Eucharist enable us to do on earth what is done in heaven, where the hungry are welcomed and fed, the leftovers are gathered together and nothing is wasted.