



# 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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**Web Page Address:**[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

I have some sympathy for the response of the Jews to Jesus' hard teaching in today's Gospel! For a Jew to be asked to drink blood is as abhorrent as it gets. It is the same as demanding that an ultra Orthodox Jew eat pork!

In almost all the stories in the Gospel of John there are insiders and outsiders, those who understand the message and those who take Jesus too literally and are offended or confused. The flesh and blood given for the life of the world is at one and the same time the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist. Jesus was not, literally, offering

his arm for his followers to chew! He was referring to the gift he was soon going to give his followers: the example of utter fidelity to God's Kingdom even unto death, and the meal of that Kingdom, the Eucharist. We are the recipients of both gifts and the commission to live them out. The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation is given to us for our mission in the world today and for our journey toward the World to come.

The other response in today's Gospel gives us great hope. In spite of being confused and deserted by his friends Peter hangs in there with Jesus. He holds on to faith when all the signs show that a hasty retreat may be a better course of action.

We all know people who remain faithful in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some of these we can understand – parents with sick children or spouses with ill partners. It's heroic, but understandable. But sometimes fidelity is heroic and inexplicable: when a spouse welcomes back his or her partner after an adulterous affair; when a foreign-born priest or religious will not abandon an oppressed community; when a person will fight a just cause and be persecuted all the way to the end. These are powerful signs of faithful love at work too. It's a fine line to know when fidelity is 'dying to self' not 'killing self'. We are called to the former and often seduced by the latter. /Cont'd P4...



We welcome and pray for the children receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend.

**- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time -***(Year B/2 - August 26, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

**Alleluia!****NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Deut 4:1-2,6-8

2nd Reading: James 1:17-18,21-22,27

Gospel: Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

**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:

**August 20 - September 3:** Hennessy family, 4 Hennessy 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:**

Ana Siketa, Salvatore Fazio, Natale Rotiroti, Fr Tom Brophy

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Francesco Abate, Vendel Detelic, Vilma Gaiser, Caterina & Francesco Iannuzzi, Michael DeGoldi, Dora & Paolo Accheni, Giuseppe & Charlie DiDomenico, Michael O'Dwyer, Kristian Verdnik, Francesco Altieri, David Bird, Domenico Fama

### **BAPTISMS:**

Lleyton DeBono, Riley Marks, Sophie Noonan and Axton Pearce

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Aaron Lyall, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Cheryl Lambert, Brian Biviano, Michael Walsh, Tony Doyle, Peter Daniels, Val Howard, Joe Vanjek, Frank Mason



## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)*

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a partner in the work of the Lord.

A partner is a person who invests time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports the parish and Church mission.

If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!

## **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**

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. <b>BYO casserole &amp; drink to share.</b>
Holy Family Women's Group...	First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 6.30pm
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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)**

## Happiness

Is being happy the most important thing in life? People make choices in their lives that undermine their own happiness. And those choices are not necessarily *bad* choices. They are often *courageous* choices. The choice to have children is a good example. Most people assume that having children will make them happier. Yet a lot of research shows that parents are no happier than people who are childless; and in many cases are less so. I read an article recently where the title said it all: *All joy and no fun: why parents hate parenting.*

Parenting may be painful at times but it's likely that the process ends up making life more meaningful for many (perhaps all) people. It gives their lives a purpose. A meaningful but more difficult (even painful) existence might be more valuable to us as humans than simple happiness. Helping others can be challenging, boring and, at times, a pain in the butt. But in the total wash up it gives a helper's life meaning and so, in a roundabout way, increases happiness. Both for the helper and the person being helped.

A rewarding, well-lived life is not necessarily a happy one because *happiness* and a *meaningful life* are not the same thing and sometimes incompatible. Devoted carers of sick family members are often people who score very low on a happiness scale. But they keep going year after year.

Roy Baumeister in his book *Meanings of Life* said the paradox can be resolved because people need not just *happiness* but also *meaning* in their lives. So for carers the gains in meaningfulness offset any losses in happiness.

How do we make sense of *happiness* versus *meaningfulness*? Happiness is rooted in our animal nature. We need it to keep going. Happiness as a feeling of subjective wellbeing, while meaning is a cognitive and emotional sense of purpose and value. Lower level creatures need their needs satisfying *immediately*. And to some extent our human nature is composed of basic animal needs. We satisfy those needs with good food and drink; with a latte and a cake; with a holiday in the sun; with movies; with romance and sex. That part of our nature is not to be dismissed as unimportant.

But our more sophisticated human nature craves more. It craves *meaningfulness*. We are in a quite unusual new era where the pursuit of happiness goes hand in hand with an increasing sense of dissatisfaction and disillusionment. People are accumulating things, experiences and comforts unheard of in previous generations. But many feel empty and alienated. It seems the more we have the more dissatisfied we are becoming.

The Philippians wrote to St. Paul expressing concern about his hard life and worrying that they were too far away to help him. He wrote back thanking them for their concern but added:


"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

There is no disputing Paul found a meaning that drove his life and gave him incredible amounts of energy; a meaning that helped him put all his life experiences into a context. A meaning that helped him cope with adversity. He found that meaning in the words of the Man called Jesus.

And he has given us the word that might help us unlock the puzzle of *happiness*. He uses a word with a less frenetic, less urgent, less demanding edge. He calls it *contentment*.

- Kevin Fell

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **TOILET BLOCK AT Ss PETER & PAUL'S:** Work has now commenced on the new toilet block. Temporary amenities are available at Ashby Hall for parishioners during Mass times if required.
- ◆ **CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL:** This weekend at all our Masses there will be a special third collection taken up after Communion for the CatholicCare Appeal. Donations from the parish community will help CatholicCare to support the most vulnerable people in our community. If you have forgotten to bring your donation with you, please take an envelope home and return it directly to CatholicCare. 
- ◆ **CWL:** The Annual General Meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held on **Wednesday 5th September, 1.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall.** Our guest speaker is Fr Prakash. All St Michael's parish ladies are most welcome. Members are invited to lunch at 12 midday before the meeting. Please bring a small plate to share. 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 7 Sep, 21 Sep, 5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov, 30 Nov.

## Community News:

- Aug 26... MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: Australian Chamber Choir** - Please note the change of venue and time to St Paul's Church, Latrobe Tce, 3.30pm. Tickets available at the door and also at [www.auschoir.org](http://www.auschoir.org). \$40 adult and senior, \$35 concession, school students free.
- Aug 30... SACRED HEART COLLEGE** invites you to the Inaugural Dinner for Dads and Daughters, 6.30 for 7pm start/finish 9.30pm in Celies Dining Room, celebrating 12 years of supporting student pathways to AFLW. Tickets \$55 (\$45 students) which includes a 2-course meal with drink on arrival. Bookings via [TryBooking https://www.trybooking.com/XAOU](https://www.trybooking.com/XAOU). **RSVP Wednesday 22 August.**
- Sept 13... ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES:** Featuring our new Archbishop, Peter A Comensoli. Come along and support the new Archbishop at the CQ Club 113-123 Queen St Melbourne, cost \$45 7-9pm. Enquiries Michael Bohan 0439 172 465. The **Catholic Man Breakfast Series** is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith.



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL FURNITURE:** St Vincent de Paul now have a storage area opposite the South Geelong Vinnies store. This is being used to house furniture items to be handed to welfare clients by the various Geelong Conferences. We could handle more items now with the extra storage space and increased demand, and ask if you have any unused items - particularly mattresses, bases, kitchen tables/chairs, lounge suites that are in good condition to supply our needs for welfare recipients. To donate ph 1800 621 349 to arrange a pickup. (Geelong area only). Also SVDP are looking for new members to assist Conferences with visits to people in need of assistance. If anyone can spare about three hours per week please contact [geelong.rc.pres@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:geelong.rc.pres@svdp-vic.org.au) or ph 5229 4852.

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James Keenan in his excellent book, 'Virtues for ordinary Christians' says that fidelity is the bottom line of the Christian life. He argues that the Church has spent too much time preaching about 'infidelities' and too little time teaching about those things that strengthen fidelity. 'Each person', he says, 'has two major moral goals in life: to be just and to be faithful'.

Being faithful to his Father, and to us, sums up what Jesus does for

our salvation and is exactly what He calls forth from the disciples in today's Gospel.

Perhaps because we too easily think it is something difficult, we presume that being faithful to our friends is hardly a moral issue. Yet once we see that friendship is the key to the moral life then we can come to see that living the moral life is about the ordinary interactions of our day.

James Keenan writes, 'To this end we may need to make more calls, write more letters, cook more

dinners, take more strolls, linger a little longer with a friend. We may also need to disengage ourselves from the habit of counting or measuring what the other does or does not do or say'.

May this Eucharist enable us to respond to the invitation of the Holy One of God to place fidelity and friendship at the centre of our moral life and attend to the everyday activities that will see us live it out.