



# 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 Prakash Cutinha****Web Page Address:**  
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Rachel Holdsworth

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Phone 5229 8298

St Patrick's

John Grant

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

I read the other day a true story about a baby girl who was seriously ill in a Neonatal ICU. The paediatric specialist said there was very little hope. The baby's five-year-old brother, Michael, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. 'I want to sing to her', he kept saying. Children were not allowed in the ICU, but Michael's mother eventually insisted that he be able to see his sister.

When he got to the humidicrib he sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey'. The nurse reported that as Michael sang, the baby's pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael', encouraged his mother with tears in her eyes. 'You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.' The baby recovered and left the hospital three weeks later.

I am not pretending for a moment that Michael's song healed his sister, but we should never underestimate the power of human support and love. It helps us to be healed.

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist,

our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important.

When we visit another parish we can tell a lot about it by the care with which the intercessions are composed and compiled. If they only attend to the needs of the parish and never with the wider Church or the world, if they focus on the needs of the Catholic world and never with the plight of those in crisis, who may not share our faith or may hold to another or no faith, it says so much.

The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer.

*/Cont'd P4...***- 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -***(Year B/2 - September 9, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Praise the Lord, my soul!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom,  
and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Is 50:5-9

2nd Reading: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mk 8:27-35

**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:

**Sept 10-24:** Bourke family, 36 Pleasant St.

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:

Angela Ruscito, Blanka Milinkovic, Lucilla Fornara and Patricia Foord

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Ian Salt, John DaCosta, Teresa Valitutti, Maurice Glynn, Walter Booth, William Bencsey, Angelo Guardiano, 1 month since death of Frank Canale and 10 year anniversary of Ron Sells

### BAPTISMS:

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### 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, Sean Montalto, Val Howard



## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" (James 2-5)*

What is more important - being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson.

When we are rich in faith, we keep God first in all things and realize that material things really don't matter and that it's more important to share with those who have less.

## **Roster for Next Sunday**

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

K Maddalena

K Maddalena

D Whelan

M Gifford, 5229 1656

### **HOLY FAMILY**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator

### **8.00AM**

K Saunders

P. Carvalho

Sr Concepta, P Ruggeri, R Culo

P Ruggeri, R Culo

R Allum

L. Kelly, 0409 291 138

### **HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM**

M Kroger

J McKenzie

L Stalio

L Fossey

F Kearney

### **9.30AM**

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C Taylor, M Fiorillo, M. Perera

E Dalton

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)**

### **The upcoming Plenary Council in 2020 could be a watershed for the Church in Australia or it could end up a giant disappointment.**

It has the potential to provide an experience similar to the one that transformed St Peter's understanding of the mission of the Christianity in the world of his time. Peter was a committed Jew who grew up believing in the laws of the prophets; laws that forbade the eating of certain foods; laws that forbade mixing and eating with certain people; laws that denounced this or that as *unclean*; laws that required prescribed rituals of purification (notably circumcision). Peter's understanding of the *Jesus message* was that it was a purified form of Judaism; as such it still required conformity to all the laws, rituals and prohibitions as laid down by the prophets in the Old Testament. He saw the *Jesus message* as something meant for Jews alone.

But something happened to change his perceptions. Peter was on a journey and arrived in a foreign city and while waiting for a meal to be prepared for him he went up on the roof of the house to pray. He fell into a trance and saw the heavens open. An unspecified vessel descended from the clouds. It was like a great sheet knitted at the four corners. On it were displayed "all manner of four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air." And a voice said to him: "Rise, Peter; kill these and eat them because you are hungry." Peter was horrified. Among the beasts were those that were considered *unclean* by Jewish dietary laws.

Peter said: "No, Lord; I have never eaten anything that is unclean. And never will." And the voice said to him: "What God has created and cleansed, you must not call unclean." The message was given three times and then the vessel (whatever it was) went back up into heaven. Peter was mighty puzzled about what this experience meant.

What is significant is the lesson Peter ended up drawing from this experience. Shortly afterwards three men appeared on his doorstep and asked him to visit the house of a certain Roman soldier (a Centurion) called Cornelius. These men told Peter that Cornelius wanted to speak to him in his own house. They told Peter that Cornelius was a just man, one who feared God, and had a good reputation among the whole Jewish nation. Cornelius had been told by an angel of God to hear the words Peter had to say. So Peter took the risk and went away with them. Cornelius was waiting for him, and had called together his kinsmen and his nearest friends.

When he saw Peter coming, Cornelius fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter made him stand up, saying: "Stand up. I am only a man." And Peter talked with him and the many others that had come together to listen to his words. And Peter said to them: "You must know that it is unlawful for a Jew to keep company with the likes of you, people from another nation and other beliefs. But God has shown me that I should not call any man *unclean*."

What lessons does this story have for us as we approach the Plenary Council? First imagine if Peter had not taken the risk of talking with and listening to Cornelius and his friends. Christianity might have ended up a sect confined under the Jewish umbrella rather a religion that tries to encompass the whole of Humanity. Second, the Laws that were unchanging and unchangeable were a barrier to offering salvation to the whole human race. Peter found that some sort of prioritizing was essential if Jesus' message was to be liberated. So he (in discussions with the first consultative gathering of the people of God in Jerusalem) abolished circumcision as a prerequisite to membership of the Church. Third, the Book and the Law (in the case of Catholicism: the Magisterium) are not the only guides to our understanding. We must also be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. That is also a strong Catholic tradition.

Fourth, we are all mere equals in conversation with the Spirit. Politeness and Christian civility are essential for such conversations to yield fruit. But deference is a barrier to unlocking God's plan for the Church. There are others beside the bishops and those learned in the niceties of dogma who have insights that the Church in Australia needs.

Fifth, if it is a genuinely representative Council, we may find the most unlikely people speaking God's truth. In the Acts of the Apostles, after Peter had told the story of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection, the *unclean* and previously despised Gentiles did the most unexpected things. Even while Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them present. Those who came with Peter (and were circumcised believers) were astonished because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out as much on the Gentiles as on them. The adherents to the Law heard the hitherto *outsider* Gentiles speak with tongues, and magnify God. Peter said to his followers: "Would any of you deny the water of baptism to these who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

(The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10).

- Kevin Fell

# St Michael's News:

- ◆ **COMMUNION TO THE SICK/HOUSEBOUND:** If you know of anyone in the Parish who is housebound and would appreciate a visit and Holy Communion, please leave the details with Bernadette at the Parish Office.
- ◆ **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** If you are a Eucharistic Minister and would be prepared to visit a housebound person to take Holy Communion to them on a monthly basis, please leave your details with Bernadette at the Parish Office.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** Parish Edition Spring 2018 - As the Australian Church prepares for the 2020 Plenary Council, we take a look at how the 'People's Church' has changed over the past 25 years, and share some stories about being Catholic today.
- ◆ **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 21 Sep, 5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov, 30 Nov.
- ◆ **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY:** Rosary will be recited on **Sunday Oct 7 October** around 9am in the Sunroom of the Parish Community Centre, straight after Holy Family's 8am Mass and before the 9.30am Mass. Hope you can join us.

# Community News:

- Sept 12... **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Monthly meeting next Wednesday, 7.30pm at Clairvaux Meeting Rooms, Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- 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.
- Sept 26... **FUNDRAISER FOR THE GEELONG INTER-CHURCH SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY:** At St David's Uniting Church, cnr Aphrasia & Talbot Sts Newtown, 7pm. \$20 online, \$25 at the door, \$10 children and Concession price. Movie - *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. For tickets: [socialjusticegeelong.org.au](http://socialjusticegeelong.org.au)

## ST MARY'S PARISH PANTRY FUNDRAISING EVENT:

Come alone and support a great cause, providing assistance to those less fortunate by buying a ticket to St Mary's Parish Pantry Fundraising Event which provides food to people who come from all over Geelong and District. Held at St Mary's Football Club, Kardinia Park West Oval, on **Friday 12 October 7pm**. A fun night of dancing with music by DJ Graham, catering by Steampacket, drinks at bar prices, door prize, table lotto, raffles and more. Tickets \$50pp from St Mary's Parish Office - 5222 1977, Gary McIlvena 0447 599 059 or Catherine Moon 0409 007 913 or [cmoon2@bigpond.com](mailto:cmoon2@bigpond.com)

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Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them.

And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ

## MELBOURNE CUP DAY LUNCHEON

**When:** Tuesday November 6  
**Where:** Holy Spirit Hall  
**Time:** From Noon  
**Cost:** \$20 per person  
*(All funds going to Fr Mick's Mates helping to fight Cancer)*

**Come along for a sociable afternoon, lunch and glass of 'bubbly' provided.**

**Sweeps, Raffles and a congenial afternoon guaranteed!**

**Book a table or come on your own.**

**Contact:** David Lunn  
0408 378 982

Margaret Haines  
0413 690 625

Amie O'Brien  
0427 866 891

Desma Dougherty  
5244 5459

*Melbourne Cup Day!*  
Cluster Office  
5278 1343

*Tickets available from Sunday Sept 16th.*

