



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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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

John Grant

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

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'. /Cont'd P4...

- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time -*(Year B/2 - September 30, 2018)***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!**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Gen 2:18-24

2nd Reading: Heb 2:9-11

Gospel: Mk 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 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:

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: Maureen McGrath and Stan Kabala

ANNIVERSARIES: Matt DeGrandi, Jennifer McLaurin, John O'Loughlin, William, Irene & Marj Dempsey, 1 month since death of Pietro Silvestri and 1 year anniversary of Jeanette Sheahan

BAPTISMS: Maggie Butcher, Mila Collins and Quinn Layley

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Michael Walsh, Tony Doyle, Peter Daniels, Val Howard, Joe Vanjek, Frank Mason, Val Howard, Kylie Kopic, Anita Capicchiano



STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." (Mk 9:41)

Does your life reflect the life of Jesus?

Remember, we were made in his image. We tend to forget this.

When others see you, do they see the face of Jesus?"

When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them?

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
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

The 1937 Plenary Council

As we face an upcoming Plenary Council in 2020 it may be instructive to look back on the last Plenary Council held in 1937. That's a long time between Plenaries. Does that Council give us any warnings of what could happen or what this one is likely to achieve? [Nick Brodie](#), writing for the Jesuit publication *Eureka Street* ([Vol 28: No 18](#)), has done some digging. Here's what he found.

On the surface, the Australian Catholic Church's last Plenary Council (1937) seemed focused on dos and don'ts.

"From ensuring priests steer clear of horse and dog racing (decree 54), to insisting that women dress modestly (decree 295), to addressing the quantity of beeswax in paschal candles (decree 545), it covered a variety of subjects, not all of which have stood the test of time. I'm unsure when I last heard a priest preach on the evils of bad reading and cinema (decree 294), but theoretically they should all be doing so twice a year.

"Unsurprisingly, not quite every letter of the 1937 Plenary still gets obeyed. After all, it passed 685 decrees, with 18 appendices. That's a lot of words, mostly in Latin. Let's hope the next one is moved with a spirit of brevity.

"Being in English, the Joint Pastoral Letter is still accessible and interesting for its social justice bent, clearly inspired by the very recent circumstances of the Great Depression. It condemned communism and promoted Catholic education, peace, human welfare, and domestic holiness.

"The bishops styled unemployment as 'a serious blot on our social system on account of the suffering it entails on the poor'. They spoke of 'the duty of governments and employers to remove as far as possible the cause of unrest, discontent and revolt among wage-earners by giving them the fullest measure of justice.' Those are strong words [for the time]. Still relevant, still resonant.

"The bishops enthusiastically advocated support for the St Vincent de Paul Society. While also suggesting abstinence pledges and temperance societies, these boozy and various below-the-belt issues were dealt with in six sentences, worked into a wider structural discourse about what we could call the common good. The focus of the pastoral was societal, not individualist.

"For all its 685 dos and don'ts, the 1937 Plenary Council revealed the Church not as a sanctuary from the world, but as a help to it. This concern with the common good reflected the way the Council began. Members of the wider community were invited to the opening celebrations, especially representatives of government, the judiciary, and scholars.

"This was a recognition that the council spoke to and in a wider world. While there are obvious gaps — women, for instance — this was nonetheless a step towards a historical moment of growing inclusivity. And while some pomp and processions were notable, the organisers seemed to recognise that the Plenary had to go beyond Catholic flag-waving in the streets. This was articulated during the commencement Mass on Sunday 5 September, where the [preacher] reminded the congregation that the Council was intended to 'give yourselves an opportunity to decide on the policy which will most favour the preservation and propagation of the faith in these lands'. This was a clear case of local decision-making for local circumstances. Moreover, this encouragement came from the top. The homilist was Archbishop Joannes Panico, the Apostolic Legate. Thus, with the Pope's representative articulating what Catholic Social Teaching calls subsidiarity, the last Australasian Plenary Council began.

"Australian Catholics gathered in the wake of a time of great hardship, and in Christ's name sought the common good. Aware of continuity with the Apostles, the bishops recognised that the church changed through history. It was both progressive and conservative in parts, but not regressive.

"For all its 685 dos and don'ts, the 1937 Plenary Council revealed the Church not as a sanctuary from the world, but as a help to it."

Nick Brodie (historian and author). He appears regularly on ABC24's Matter of Fact with Stan Grant. *Eureka Street* ([Vol 28 No 18](#)). His recent books include *The Vandemonian War* (2017) and *1787: The Lost Chapters of Australia's Beginnings* (2016).

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **PARISH LITURGY MEETING:** Will be held **Tuesday October 9**, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - Sept 30:** This weekend we celebrate Social Justice Sunday. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: '*A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*'. The Statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: Monday 1st October at 6.30pm.** A Party Lite Show will be held and a beautiful range of candles will be on display for all to enjoy! Remember, Christmas is coming... Everyone welcome!
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** Will be held **Wednesday October 3**, 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held on **Wednesday 3rd October**, 1.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall. All St Michael's Parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please ph Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY:** Rosary will be recited on **Sunday Oct 7** in Holy Family Church, after the 8am Mass. Hope you can join us.
- ◆ **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 5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov.

Community News:

- Oct 11...** **CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME:** A Climate Change and Sustainability Forum with the key question "*Individually and collectively: what can we do?*". This Forum seeks to bring a Christian perspective to the crisis of climate change and to work with concerned like-minded people to develop environmentally sustainable and socially just ways to 'Care for our Common Home'. Geelong West Town Hall, 7-9.30pm. Free event! Further details socialjusticegeelong.org.au
- Oct 12...** **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE BOARDERS' REUNION:** Past boarding students are invited to join us at 11am. For enquiries and bookings please contact Julie Cole on 5226 8149 or email julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au
- Oct 13...** **MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** Assembles in the Treasury Gardens, cnr Spring St and Wellington Pde, 1pm, concluding with speeches in front of Parliament House commemorating the 100,000 Australian lives a year lost through abortion in our country.

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE: Is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary Schools across the Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approx half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an education setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Email: somml@bigpond.com or ph Mercy Connect Melbourne on 9326 1895.

VILLA MARIA CATHOLIC HOMES: A Catholic, not-for-profit organisation providing services to more than 7,000 people across Victoria. For more information please ph 1800 036 377 or visit www.vmch.com.au

GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for a 2-course evening meal, interesting guest speaker and the opportunity to meet new friends. We are open to members of all faiths. Appetisers begin 6.15pm on **Tuesday October 9** followed by meal for \$33/person. Due to remodelling at our usual venue we will be located at the **Eastern Hub Geelong, 285A McKillop St**. Guest speaker - Jackie Bennet who will speak about locals who have made a difference to us all. For More information/reservations ph or text **Terry O'Brien at mobile 0409258019** by **Friday October 5**, the deadline for catering purposes.

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

Parish Office
5278 1343

Melbourne Cup Day?

/Cont'd from P1...

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.