



# 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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Phone 5229 8298

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John Grant

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

One Monday, three priests, a Franciscan, a Dominican and a Jesuit were having a hard time on the golf course. The golfers in front of the priests were the slowest and worst they had ever seen. Golf balls were going everywhere. Against golfing etiquette, the group never asked the priests to 'play through'. By the 18th hole the priests were furious. At the clubhouse, just as they were going over to blast the group, they were told that the men were blind.

The Franciscan, moved with remorse at how they had spoken about the group, said to the Dominican and the Jesuit, 'I am going to say Mass every day that God may grant them a miracle and restore their sight'. The Dominican, equally filled with regret, told the Jesuit and the Franciscan that he was going to get the blind men an appointment with the best eye surgeon in town. The Jesuit, however, looked at the Franciscan and the

Dominican and declared, 'I can't see why they don't play at night!'

To have any type of disability in first century Palestine not only meant financial hardship, but social segregation. Because Jesus' contemporaries did not understand the causes of disability and illness they assumed it was, to some degree, a curse sent by God in punishment for sins. They also thought the curse could be caught. So the blind, the lame, the crippled, the leper and the bleeder were desperately poor and socially outcast. Incredibly in our day, with all our supposed sophistication, some Christians have made similar statements about God cursing gay people with AIDS. Given the way Jesus acts toward those he encounters with illness, we know that God never sends disease as a curse for sin.

Bartimeaus is, however, a desperate man and in the story he acts desperately, calling out until he is heard. And in one of the strangest questions in the Gospel, Jesus asks a blind man what it is he wants. Maybe

Jesus wants Bartimeaus to name his deepest desire. Maybe Jesus knows that it is, often, the unseen hurt that is the most diseased and needs healing first. Whatever of his motives, Jesus' question gives the man dignity.

American dramatist, Michael Moynahan, has written a moving play entitled *Bartimeaus* which centres around that pivotal question, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. The action of the parable, as we have it in the Gospel, freezes when Jesus puts the question.

As Bartimeaus considers his options, he hears the voices of those he might have to look at if he regains his sight. The poor remind him that, 'once before you could see and what you saw disgusted you'. The hungry ask, 'do you have the courage to experience and share my hunger?'. The elderly inquire whether he wants to see those 'put away because we remind you of the frailty of life'.

*/Cont'd P4...***- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time -***(Year B/2 - October 28, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;  
turn to the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

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

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. **Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Deut 6:2-6

2nd Reading: Heb 7:23-28

Gospel: Mk 12:28-34

**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:

**Oct 15-29th:** Hoare family, 22 Sycamore 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:

John (Jack) O'Connor and Nicola Cotruzzola

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Maria Tigani, Jozef Kot, Michael, Eileen, Basil, Bernie & Maree Haberman, Tina Rebestina, Theresa Bahl, Herman Hagebols, Mollie Lourey, Julie Alexander, Reg Doherty

### BAPTISMS:

Florence Eley, Lailah & Penelope Jales, Sophia James and Leon Pietrapertosa

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Joe Vanjek, Frank Mason, Val Howard, Kylie Kosic, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Allan Ansell



## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well". And immediately he received his sight and followed him on his way." (Mk 10:52)*

Faith is believing in something, even though you may not be able to see it.

Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore.

But if you focus on the positive, not the negative, focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common and you will see God's active presence in your daily life.

## **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:

<b>St Michael's Luncheon...</b>	First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.
<b>Holy Family Luncheon..</b>	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. <b>BYO casserole &amp; drink to share.</b>
<b>Holy Family Women's Group...</b>	First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 6.30pm
<b>St Vincent de Paul...</b>	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
<b>Legion of Mary...</b>	Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre
<b>Baptism Preps</b>	4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
<b>Holy Family Choir Practice...</b>	Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm
<b>Manifold CWL...</b>	Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month
<b>Italian Mass...</b>	First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
<b>Catholic Diners' Club...</b>	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)**

## Religious freedom and gay Christians

So far, the national debate about religious freedom has been less about religion and more about what religion should do about homosexuality. Perhaps this was inevitable as it was shaped by last year's debate on same sex marriage.

The debate about religious freedom gives us "an opportunity to have a more nuanced conversation than is allowed by the current [fight] between secularists, who support LGBT rights, and the religious, who *supposedly* do not."

A key problem arises from the way the discussion is framed. "Both sides implicitly endorse the premise that homosexuality and Christianity are incompatible. This tells LGBT Christians that the best they can expect is to be tolerated within their faith communities." Because gay Christians keep their heads down in the life of the church, the broader community doesn't realise how many gay people exist in the church. "The public debate makes it appear to young Christians who are same sex attracted, that they must choose between their sexual orientation and their faith."

The secular side puts the argument that LGBT teachers should be employed for their teaching skills and that their sexual orientation is irrelevant: 'gay teachers don't teach gay maths', as Labor's Terri Butler put it. This professional/private distinction assumes that LGBT teachers should compartmentalise aspects of themselves beyond the normal discretion expected of their heterosexual colleagues.

It also obscures the reality that many Christian LGBT teachers working at religious schools bring their whole selves to work in the service of Christian ethics. They don't see a trade-off between their faith and their sexuality. They bring a unique set of skills, experiences and sensibilities, as LGBT teachers.

The view put by the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) and its supporters explicitly condemns homosexuality as incompatible with Christianity. They want LGBT people to either exclude themselves from faith communities or repudiate their sexual identities as the price for remaining. Both responses are cruel and based on the misconception that sexual orientation is a choice.

For Christians who support LGBT rights in the secular sphere and want to welcome them into their faith communities, there is work to be done. For Catholics the emphasis on natural theology and canon law is the main obstacle. The official Catholic view of homosexuality is that it is 'intrinsically disordered'. This is not a view foremost in the minds of most Australian Catholics or that of Pope Francis. But as Fr Frank Brennan SJ acknowledged on ABC television last year, it's a rule that's still on the books. The apparently more compassionate view encapsulated in the slogan 'love the sinner, not the sin' is in fact no better, as it considers the intrinsic human sexuality of LGBT people potentially sinful.

"Contemporary Australian Catholics are a more diverse group than either the ACL position or the official definition allow. They know LGBT people in their faith communities, their workplaces at Catholic schools and health services, and their families. I was taught at a Catholic school by a number of men whom I later came to know were gay. They were men of great intellect, faith, sensitivity and culture who gave me access to a spiritual culture that has imbued my life with meaning ever since. This was their unique gift."

"In my lifetime Catholics responded to the AIDS crisis with compassion and bravery when there was scarce of either in the mainstream community. And when it came to the question of whether same sex relationships should be regarded as equal before the law, Catholics overwhelmingly voted yes."

"Both the same sex marriage discussion and the current religious freedom debate are uncomfortable for LGBT Australians and for some religious people. But it is worth remembering another kind of religious freedom is at stake: that of LGBT Christians, who are created in the image of God, who are imperfectly practising their faith and who have heard that all are one in Christ Jesus and salvation is for all who believe in him."

This is an edited version of an article by Sea Slavin in the Jesuit publication *Eureka Street*: [Vol 28 No 20](#), 17th October 2018.

- Kevin Fell

## Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ The weekend of November 3/4 at all Masses, the focus of our Mass will be **Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones**. As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "**In Loving Memory Of**", which will be placed at the foot of the Cross. These leaflets are now available if you would like to take one and fill it out in preparation for the November Masses. At the Remembrance Masses please do not put the notelets at the foot of the Cross until directed by the Priest.

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: Wednesday November 14** at 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **GEELONG CEMETERIES TRUST** take great pride in hosting its Annual All Souls Day Mass at the Geelong Eastern Cemetery which will be led by Fr Prakash Cutinha. The Mass will be held in the Catholic Chapel at the Geelong Eastern Cemetery starting at 5.30pm on **Friday 2nd November**. Please enter via McKillop St Gate 2. Tea/coffee will be supplied - all are invited to attend.
- ◆ **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 2 Nov, 16 Nov.

## Community News:

- Nov 10...** **ST JOSEPH'S OLD COLLEGIAN'S ASSOCIATION REMEMBRANCE MASS:** Please join us for our annual Remembrance Mass, paying tribute to past students, staff and benefactors of the College. The Mass will be held in the College Chapel at 10am to be followed by light refreshments. Enquiries: Julie Cole 5226 8149 or [julie.cole@sjc.vic.ed.au](mailto:julie.cole@sjc.vic.ed.au)
- Nov 11...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Annual Deceased Members Mass 11am at Holy Spirit Manifold, followed by Awards Luncheon in the Hall afterwards. Cost of lunch \$25 per head incl. drinks. Open invitation to members, ladies and family to please attend. RSVP to Denis Turnbull on 5242 8663.
- Nov 20...** **2018 RERUM NOVARUM ORATION - WIDENING THE DOOR OF HOPE, A Response to the Victorian Assisted Dying Legislation.** 7.30pm start, 7pm light refreshments - Mercy Theatre, Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Pde Fitzroy. RSVP/inquiries by Mon 12 Nov - [justice@cam.org.au](mailto:justice@cam.org.au) or 9926 5727.
- Dec 1...** **ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL EAST GEELONG CLASS OF 1968:** A 50 Year Reunion is to be held - for information call Frank 0414 949 570 or [stmargarets1968.org](http://stmargarets1968.org) Please let any family or friends know who might be interested.
- “ **2018 LOURDES DAY MASS 10.30AM AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL:** Organised by the Order of Malta and the Archdiocese, this is an occasion to come together in prayer with those who are sick, infirm or elderly, and their carers. As many are unlikely to ever visit Lourdes, in a sense it's like Lourdes coming to them. All welcome!

## 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



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The captives challenge him to see those 'unjustly bound and oppressed'. And finally the Self wants to know, 'Are you willing to look inside yourself to see your beauty and ugliness, darkness and light?'. It's a gripping scene.

It reminds us all that sight, and the insight that can come from what we see, bestows on us the dignity of having options and the responsibility to do something about what we behold. We are in the position of

making choices about what we look at. Not everything in the world needs to be seen. There is enough violence and abuse of human dignity in real life to discourage us from seeking out most fictionalised portrayals of it. We cannot, however, let ourselves off the hook in regard to seeing the world as it is and doing something about creating a better vision of humanity for everyone, everywhere.

Michael Moynahan's play finishes, like the Gospel story, with Bartimeus requesting from Jesus the gift of sight. But in the play, in

a powerful twist, as Bartimeus follows Jesus on the path, he stops, turns and sees the human faces behind the challenging voices. He goes back, embraces them and together they walk the Christian path.

In this Eucharist, then, the same question is put by Jesus to us, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. And if our answer is to have sight or insight, then let's also pray for the courage to shoulder the responsibility that comes with every gift.