



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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Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

In today's Gospel Jesus lines up the religious leaders of his day and lets them have it with both barrels. It may come a surprise to learn that hypocrisy is the sin Jesus condemns most frequently in the Gospels. He could not bear it. And nor should we.

Being powerful and rich is not a problem in itself. As with all gifts, it is what we do with them that show us up for who we are. The problem with religious, political, social or even family power, and the wealth that can come from it, is that it is so seductive. The more powerful and rich we become, the more we can think everything is our due. We can take our eye off the Giver of all gifts and avoid our responsibility to share with those who are left with nothing.

In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus does not praise the widow because she is poor. There is no nobility in poverty. Jesus praises her for being generous and he

indicates how the poor teach the rich about what really matters in life.

This story teaches a similar lesson.

Centuries ago, the Pope decided that all the Jews had to leave Rome. Naturally there was a big uproar from the Jewish community. So the Pope made a deal. He would have a religious debate with a member of the Jewish community. If the Jew won, the Jews could stay. If the Pope won, the Jews would leave.

The Jews realised that they had no choice. They looked around for a champion who could defend their faith, but no one volunteered. It was too risky. So they picked Moshe, an old, poor man. Moshe had nothing to lose so he agreed, but on one condition. Not being a learned man he asked that neither side be allowed to speak. The Pope agreed.

The day of the great debate came. Moshe and the Pope sat opposite each other for a full minute before the Pope raised his hand

and showed three fingers. Moshe looked back at him and raised one finger. The Pope waved his fingers in a circle around his head. Moshe pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope pulled out a wafer and a glass of wine. Moshe pulled out an apple.

The Pope stood up and said, 'I give up. This man is too good. The Jews can stay.'

An hour later, the cardinals were all around the Pope asking him what happened. The Pope said: 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that there was one God common to both our faiths. Then I waved my finger around me to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground, showing that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the wine and the wafer to emphasise the Eucharist. He pulled out an apple to remind me of original sin. He had an answer for everything.' /Cont'd P4...

- 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B/2 - November 11, 2018)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord, my soul!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dan 12:1-3
2nd Reading: Heb 10:11-14,18
Gospel: Mk 13:24-32



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 29-Nov 12: 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:

Maureen Cowburn and Mervin Fernando (in Sri Lanka), brother of Sr Nirmalie

ANNIVERSARIES:

Anna Menchise, Damian Dougherty, Klara VanSlouten, John McMahon, Domenico Fazio, Bob Johnson and 1 month since death of Vito Monteleone

BAPTISMS:

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PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Joe Vanjek, Frank Mason, Val Howard, Kylie Kosic, Anita Capicchiano, Sandra Klinge, Allan Ansell, Marie Brown, Cheryl Lambert



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues Nov 13... McGlinchey and Millns families

Wed Nov 14... Harrison family

Thurs Nov 15... Plunkett, Landas and Reyes families

Fri Nov 11... Rotiroti family

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 SPIRIT - 11AM

M Kroger

J McKenzie

L Stalio

L Fossey

F Kearney

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

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. 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

Ever since he became Pope, Francis has been drawing attention to the issue of loneliness.

In the first year of his pontificate he said: "The most serious of the evils that afflict the world these days are youth unemployment and the loneliness of the old. The old need care and companionship; the young need work and hope but have neither one nor the other, and the problem is they don't even look for them anymore. They have been crushed by the present. You tell me: can a person live crushed under the weight of the present? Without a memory of the past and without the desire to look ahead to the future by building something, a future, a family? Can we go on like this? This, to me, is the most urgent problem that the Church is facing." When asked: **But isn't this a political and economic problem for states, governments, political parties, trade unions?** Francis said: "You are right, but it also concerns the Church; in fact, particularly the Church because this situation does not hurt only bodies but also souls. The Church must feel responsible for both souls and bodies."

He has been particularly scathing about families who rarely visit their elderly parents in nursing homes.

Governments are starting to wake up to the importance of the issue. So important that earlier this year the British government appointed a "Minister for Loneliness." This was treated as a joke by a number of commentators; many drew a parallel with the Monty Python parody of Whitehall officialdom setting up a "Ministry of Silly Walks." Stephen Colbert, on his TV show, said: "This is so British. They've defined the most ineffable human problem and come up with the most cold, bureaucratic solution."

In a country whose citizens are, according to tradition, so buttoned up—so committed to the stiff upper lip, to grinning and bearing it—the appointment of a Minister for Loneliness provides an ironic counterpoint to the national caricature. If a country's prevailing temperament is one of congenital, chronic emotional constipation, how would its inhabitants even recognize that they're lonely in the first place? The appointment seems to address an ill that Britain can barely admit it is suffering from. A parallel would be if Donald Trump's government were to install a Secretary of Humility.

But as Pope Francis says, the issue is too serious to sweep under the carpet or joke about. Loneliness is a real and diagnosable scourge. In the U.K. a twelve-month investigation conducted by more than a dozen non-profit organizations found nine million Britons suffer from loneliness (fourteen per cent of the population). Among vulnerable people, those rates are much higher. More than a third of elderly people reported being overwhelmed by loneliness. (This scourge is not limited to Britain; in Japan elder loneliness is a widely recognized phenomenon). The chief officer of The Aged UK warned that social isolation could be worse for a person's health than smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. Still, such isolation could be relieved, by practices and programs that cultivated conversation, friendship, and empathy: the founding of community allotments where solitary folk might gather; or knock-on-door initiatives, with volunteers making contact with lonely souls.

There are many victims of loneliness. Taking care of an elderly or disabled relative, no less than taking care of a child, can be a terribly lonely business: eight out of ten caregivers have reported feelings of isolation as a result of looking after a loved one.

Bureaucratic initiatives aren't everything: loneliness may be helped by something as simple as a friendly word at the check-out counter from a cashier empathetic enough to recognize its symptoms. (Be patient: the chatty retiree holding up the line may be having her first conversation in days).

More frightening than elder loneliness for the wider society is loneliness in the young. To be brutally frank the elderly usually don't have the physical energy to punish us for their loneliness. Lonely young people can be a time bomb. Months can go by without them seeing well balanced and supportive friends or family, and they end up feeling really depressed and alone. For example there are so many university students who just lock themselves in their rooms for days because they feel rejected or that they don't fit in. It's only a matter of time before loneliness turns into depression. And that's where it gets dangerous. For them and for us.

What can we do? Where do we start? The chances are that most of us live within walking distance of at least one elderly person who will spend this Christmas alone and lonely. This Advent, go out and find that person. Bring your children to visit them, take them to Mass or for a walk, or help them connect with a family member far away. Would you consider inviting them for Christmas lunch? You might turn one of the most difficult days of their year into one of the best. It could just be the best Christmas gift you'll give.

- Kevin Fell.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANKYOU:** To the parishioners and friends who attended our **Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon** - thankyou! With your continued support we raised \$2,300 for the Cancer Council Vic. To the ladies who organized, catered, set up and cleaned up, your continued support is greatly appreciated. **"Thankyou!"** you are magnificent!
- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for all contributors (including credit card etc) in the foyer today. They are in order, alphabetically by **STREET**. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start giving. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact Bernadette at the Parish Office, or email bellpark@cam.org.au. Thankyou for all your continuing regular support.
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** St Vincent de Paul Society are selling Columban Calendars for \$9 available to purchase from the Piety Stall in all three Churches until **December 16**. Also available are Christmas cards for \$7 a set of eight. Proceeds are used to assist those who are in need.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** **Wednesday November 14** at 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be held **Wednesday Nov 21 (not the 7th)**, 1.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall. This will be followed by a Thankyou Afternoon Tea for all the volunteers who have kindly helped our funeral catering. 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 16 Nov.

FR MICK'S MATES:

Christmas Markets will be held on the following dates:

Sat Dec 8... Ss Peter & Paul's after the 5pm Mass

Sun Dec 9... Holy Spirit after the 11am Mass

Sun Dec 16... Holy Family after the 8am and 9.30am Masses

Reminder - Christmas Hampers will be made to order. If you want one please call Margaret Brown 5229 1280 or Betty Rice 5229 4530.

Thankyou for supporting Fr Mick's Mates.



Liturgy at St Michael's:

The Anointing of the Sick and Senior Parishioners Luncheon at Holy Family Church:



A warm invitation is extended to all Senior Parishioners to attend the Mass and Luncheon on **Saturday November 24**, commencing with Mass at 11am and Luncheon at 12noon. If you wish to attend, please place your name on the signup board (white form) in the Narthex.

Catering for the Function: Please place your name on the signup board (pink form) in the Narthex if you can assist with catering. Your assistance is welcomed and your support is valued.

Community News:

- Nov 14...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Monthly meeting at 7.30pm in Clairvaux Meeting Rooms Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- 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 or 9926 5727.

:/Cont'd from P1...

Meanwhile, the Jewish community had crowded around Moshe, amazed that this old, poor man had done what all their scholars had insisted was impossible!

'What happened?' they asked. 'Well,' said Moshe, 'First, he said to me that the Jews had three days to get out of here. I told

him that not one of us was leaving. Then he told me that this whole city would be cleared of Jews. I let him know that we were staying right here.' And then?' asked a woman. 'I don't know,' said Moshe. 'He took out his lunch and I took out mine.'

May this Eucharist, then, give us strength to

avoid being seduced by power, riches and greed. May we use whatever gifts we receive to build up the entire human family and may we never stand condemned by Jesus for coming here each Sunday and saying one thing, and then leaving here and doing the very opposite.