



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

Several years ago, the film 'The Pianist' won Best Picture at the Oscars. It's the true story of Wladyslaw Szpilman (Brody) who was a celebrated classical pianist in Warsaw during the 1930s. He came from an affluent and intellectual family. Like all Jews of Warsaw, in November of 1940 the Szpilmans are herded into the Jewish Ghetto. Unlike most of the others Wladyslaw comes out each day to work as a cocktail pianist in a Warsaw café. Polish Jews and Christians remember and admire his playing. So much so that in the summer of 1942 while the rest of his family are deported to Treblinka, Wladyslaw is rescued from the train by a Jewish collaborator. The Polish resistance hides him in Warsaw. When his whereabouts are discovered Wladyslaw goes on the run and survives in a city which barely survives the war.

Toward the end of the film there is a magnificent scene where the now-skeletal Wladyslaw is caught by a Nazi Army officer

hiding in one of the few Warsaw houses left standing. He asks Szpilman what he did for a living, and then invites him to sit and play the piano in the drawing room of the house. In the midst of the almost total destruction of the world around them, Wladyslaw enables beauty to have the last word over the horror of war. It changes both men. It's the first time the pianist has played in years, and his concerto touches something human in the German soldier which leads him to protect Wladyslaw.

In today's Gospel we get a very vivid picture of how the end of the world might break in upon us. It's clear that Mark thought it was going to happen in the lifetime of some of his hearers. It didn't, and many generations later we're still waiting.

This is not to say that the reign of God doesn't regularly break in upon us. Wladyslaw's playing shows how music can do it. We believe that every day more good is done in the world than evil; else this world would destroy itself. And we hold that the

source of all love is Christ. So, every time we are kind rather than cruel, patient rather than intolerant, generous rather than selfish, beautiful rather than ugly, the reign of God bursts into our lives.

One translation of verse 27 in today's Gospel reads, 'Then he will send out the angels and gather together his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven'. The whole idea of 'the elect' has exercised the imagination of several generations of Christians ever since this verse was written. The Protestant Reformation was, in part, based on who Christ elects to be his own, how we get elected, and how we stay that way.

John Calvin was especially interested in this question and he rightly linked the goodness of our lives with those elected by Christ. But Calvin and many Catholic scholars have interpreted the meaning of this text too narrowly.

*/Cont'd P4...***- 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -***(Year B/2 - November 18, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Keep me safe, O God;
you are my hope.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Be watchful, pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand
before the Son of Man. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**Christ the King**

1st Reading: Dan 7:13-14

2nd Reading: Apoc 1:5-8

Gospel: Jn 18:33-37

**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:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Teresa DeLuca, Julia Brady, Hilda Pearson, Kevin Craven, Peter Culo, Nina Pogacic, Antun & Marija Fantella, Monique Taylor and one year anniversary of Ray Fusea

BAPTISMS:

Xavier, Noah & Teddy Herbert, Maya Jenkins and Koby Robertson

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues Nov 20...

Radojevic, Kratofil & Bauer families

Wed Nov 21...

Craven & Brady family members

Thurs Nov 22...

Bodnar & Racz families

Fri Nov 23...

McDonald, Phelan & Duncan families

Roster for Next Sunday

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators A Henderson
Lectors G Tolan
Special Ministers A Henderson, G Tolan
Welcomers J Cowell
Projectionist B Middleton
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

M Burn
J Fraatz
L Fossey
D Dougherty
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators F O'Neill
Lectors L Kelly
Special Ministers L Sells, E Kelly
Welcomers E Kelly, L. Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L. Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

M Lukesic
M Baird, P Gizycki
D Lunn, C Simpson, V Resciniti
A Sare, A/I Dugandzic
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

Predicting the future: Harold Mitchell, AC.

15 years ago Harold Mitchell (businessman and an Age newspaper columnist) gave the Andrew Olle Lecture in which he expressed his concerns about Australia's future. He made a number of predictions and now that he's retiring as a columnist, he's been reflecting on those 2003 predictions.

At the time he said: "We live in good times. In many ways Australia remains a very lucky country. Since the beginning of the European settlement in Australia, it has been the way of each generation to ensure that they built the country so that their children and their children's children lived a better life than they did. We are the wealthiest, happiest, healthiest generation in our history."

He said there were four reasons for this: our democracy, our willingness to improve, our belief in ourselves and our preparedness to sacrifice for our kids.

But he warned, for the first time, we are about to leave the next generation five great burdens:

1. An inability to get a job the way we could.
2. An unaffordable health system. Thirty years ago, health costs were 1.7 per cent of budget expenditure. At the time of the speech (2003) they were 4.3 per cent and now they are 8 per cent.
3. An education system that is not turning out enough smarter, better people for Australia. Soon many of our universities will have more than 50 per cent of their students from other countries. What country will they build after their studies?
4. A housing and land crisis that will move the Australian dream of owning your own home beyond the average young family. The home-ownership rate of younger Australians aged 25 to 34 fell from 61% in 1981 to 47% in 2011. It is now 39%.
5. A seriously degraded environment.

Harold said there are two big things we need to do.

"First, we need to decide that we want our children to have an even better life than us, and their children to have a better life than them."

"Secondly, we must be prepared to change ourselves and not just wait for politicians to do something. Each of us according to our means has to give something back to this society that has been so good to us. As the old Indian saying goes, "if you try to change the world you'll fail - change yourself and the world has changed already'."

Pope Francis has said: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? ... We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us."

Pope Benedict wrote: "Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change, desertification, the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of rivers and aquifers, the loss of biodiversity, the increase of natural catastrophes and the deforestation of equatorial and tropical regions?"

In *Caritas in Veritate* Benedict spoke of intergenerational justice. "We must recognise our grave duty to hand on the Earth to future generations in such a condition that they can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it."

- Kevin Fell.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES ROTARY RAFFLE BOOKS DUE BACK BY NOV 25:** 36 books outstanding - please return next week. Thankyou - David Lunn 0408 378 982.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be held **Wednesday Nov 21** 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. **Please Note:** Membership \$25 now due. Horizon \$20 - Diaries \$10.

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.



Advent/Christmas Carols Service...

A warm welcome is extended to all parishioners, family and friends to our Inaugural Advent/Christmas Carols Service at Holy Family Church on **Tuesday December 11**, commencing at 7pm. Hope to see you all there!

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:

- Dec 2...** **RICE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR:** 11am to 3pm with Stalls, BBQ, Spinning Wheel, etc. 2 Marshalltown Rd Marshall. All welcome!
- Dec 9...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** End of Year BBQ/Social 1pm at the home of Louise and Alan Fossey. Invitation to members, ladies and family. Cost \$10/head, incl BBQ & drinks. Just bring a salad or sweet please. Phone Joe Lambert 5229 8442 to confirm attendance.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." (Mk 13:26)

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us "What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?", how will you respond?

/Cont'd from P1...

Remembering that Mark thinks the end of the world is soon, that his community is being persecuted for their Christian faith and that Christianity has not spread all that far by the time he writes this Gospel around 65 AD, it's somewhat surprising to read that the elect might be made up of people who come from the ends of the earth. We can safely assume that at this time not many people, beyond the

Mediterranean basin, had heard about Christ. Even if this more generous and inclusive reading is not what Mark means when he refers to this world, it would be mean-spirited of us to imagine that all he means in reference to the elect in heaven are only those professing Christians who had died in his lifetime.

The more consoling reading of who is in the

elect, is to understand it as including anyone, anywhere, whose life enables faith, hope, love, beauty, justice and peace to break in upon the world.

And so what makes being a Christian so special? We know who's doing the electing and why, and we have each other as we struggle to live out Christ's reign every day – until he comes again.