



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:**
www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au**OFFICE:**

147 Separation St Bell Park 3215

Phone: 5278 1343

Fax: 5278 4618

Email: bellpark@cam.org.au**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic

Phone 5278 1343

Email: bellpark@cam.org.au**PASTORAL WORKER:**

Sr Anne Lourey

Phone 5278 1343

Email: anne.lourey@cam.org.au**SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:**

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

Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King in the Holy Year of 1925. It appears to have its roots in the 1880s when many European bishops were worried with what they saw as the rise of secularisation. I'm pleased they're not around today! These bishops were concerned at how governments were increasingly asserting more power over and against the church. Especially in France and Italy Bishops started to venerate Jesus as the Universal King. This devotion took off. By 1922, at the Eucharistic Congress in Rome, sixty-nine cardinals petitioned the Pope to establish this feast. Within three years the Vatican had been inundated with requests, and so the solemnity was established.

It's clear from today's Gospel, and the New Testament in general, that while Jesus frequently spoke of his Kingdom, is hailed like a king on Palm Sunday and is facetiously given the title of king by Pilate, his kingship is vastly different from those of

Caesar, Herod and even David and the other Kings of Israel.

The earliest Christians seem to have understood this very well. We find very little writing or artistic representation of Jesus as a king before 324 AD. In that year Emperor Constantine becomes a catechumen and Christianity becomes the religion of the Roman Empire. After this time Jesus starts to appear wearing a crown and holding an orb. Mary is styled as the Queen of Heaven and begins to be pictured as such. This is all understandable as the previously persecuted Christian sect now emerges to become the most powerful unifying force in the Roman Empire. It was a sweet victory, but it meant that whatever was said of the Roman Emperor, even more must be true of Christ the Universal King and Lord.

As centuries passed and the Roman Empire passed away, the Church maintained many of its now long-standing royal prerogatives and language. Just as an example, to this day the Pope and some bishops live in

places called palaces. They wear jewels and rings and have feudal coats of arms. Worse still by far, however, is the mentality and behaviour of a very few Bishops, who seem to think that the church is above the scrutiny of the faithful, and the law of the land.

The problem with all these historical accretions is that they directly contradict the way in which Jesus spoke about himself as a King. Almost all references to Jesus' kingship occur within the passion narratives. Today's extract from John's gospel is among the most famous of them all. 'You say I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

The problem with all these historical accretions is that they directly contradict the way in which Jesus spoke about himself as a King. Almost all references to Jesus' kingship occur within the passion narratives. /Cont'd P4...

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe -*(Year B/2 - November 25, 2018)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power forever and ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is king;
he is robed in majesty.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**1st Sunday of Advent - Cycle C**

1st Reading: Jer 33:14-16

2nd Reading: 1Thess 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Lk 21:25-28,34-36

**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:

Nov 19-Dec 3: Cawthray family, 66 Drysdale Ave; **Dec 10-24:** Moore family, 39 Willana 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:

Clifford Ryan and Joe Kapustic

ANNIVERSARIES:

Guisseppa Mileto, Robert Andrews, Francesco Amato, Manuel Louro,
Jose Almeida

BAPTISMS:

Jacob Allison, Oliver Axon, Quinn & Vivienne Harriott, Violet
Message, Frankie VanDerLugt & Vivian, AnVuTam, Olivia, Elena &
Athena Nguyen

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 27... Guarnaccia family

Wed Nov 28... Kavenagh family

Thurs Nov 29... Mairos, Medeiros, Ferraz & DaRosa families

Fri Nov 30... Humphrey, Bennett, Beale, Ruggles, Carroll & Loader family members

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

The political implications of loneliness

There is a loneliness epidemic; so the headlines tell us. People feel disconnected, distant and disengaged from those around them. And loneliness kills. Lonely people have worse physical and mental health; apparently, being lonely is the equivalent to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day.

Politicians, being politicians, have sought technocratic solutions. Earlier this year, the UK introduced a minister for loneliness and now Fiona Patten, a Victorian upper house MP and leader of the Reason Party, has proposed the state government do the same. That Loneliness minister would, she suggests, work across the health, infrastructure, justice and communities portfolios.

Loneliness is framed as a health-related problem affecting individuals. But loneliness is a by-product of the way our society is structured. By elevating the market above all else and reducing notions of freedom to individual rights and responsibilities, societies have become fragmented and notions of what is valued are now boiled down to measuring national wellbeing by reference to economic outcomes.

But there can't be a bureaucratic solution to loneliness— no matter how many departments the new minister works across — without addressing the underlying social causes. And there are real questions about whether governments — having surrendered so much of their power to the market, the bankers and the investment community — are even capable of doing this anymore.

In our market-dominated societies the majority of people have to sell their labour in order to make a living; we've made ourselves clones in order to make ourselves marketable. In the market economy we shape ourselves to fit in. We are required to be part of the economic rat race. We are in competition with everyone else; beginning with our ATAR scores at school. And if we don't have what everyone else has we feel left out and marginalized. Erich Fromm, the philosopher, argued that under these conditions individuals become 'a reflection of other people's expectations' with the effect that the 'cloning [automatization] of the individual in modern society has increased the helplessness and insecurity of the average individual.'

Fromm fled Germany shortly after the Nazis came to power and, in 1941, published *The Fear of Freedom*, in which he examined why parts of the German population were so receptive to Hitler's ideology. He argued that 'the modern industrial system makes for the development of a personality which feels powerless and alone, anxious and insecure.'

He had a warning for all Western democracies. Yes, lonely people are less healthy. But more important, and little mentioned, are the broader societal effects and the kind of politics that evolve out of societies made up of a large chunk of alienated individuals. This was what preoccupied Fromm.

Loneliness sounds trivial; something that afflicts losers and misfits and is divorced from larger social and political questions. But how often are the American teenagers involved in school shootings described as 'loners'?

In their feelings of loneliness, marginalization and impotence some people develop a readiness to accept any ideology and any leader, if only he promises excitement and offers a political structure and symbols which give meaning and order to their lives. Many have come to believe that politicians are unwilling to address (and even incapable of addressing) their grievances. If we can't get our leaders to solve our problems, at least we can choose a leader who will *stick it up* the clever dicks who run the society for their own benefit and can't be controlled by public policy. Hitler blamed the Jews. Donald Trump blames everyone who is not an American citizen and even some groups within the U.S.A. who are American citizens. But he's very careful not to vilify the extremely wealthy who are, in his view, the pivot for making America great again. Therefore their work deserves the support of tax cuts.

We need to think about the connection between the 'loneliness epidemic' and the rise of populism. Loneliness is a social disease. When combined with envy of what everyone else has (or appears to have) it is toxic. No matter how impressive Australia's record of economic growth, the benefits have not been shared equally. Those who have missed out feel aggrieved. And amazingly many who've done pretty well out of Australia's affluence also feel aggrieved because there's always someone who appears to be doing better than them.

Part of the solution must be to rebuild a sense of community in this our frenetic, self-absorbed society; where those who are better off make some room at the *affluence* trough for the littler and weaker piggies to get their snouts in. We need to build a community where everyone feels comfortable with the variability in life's outcomes because everyone feels valued for who and what they are. A parish is an ideal micro environment to practice those values. A place where people look out for each other. A place where on Christmas Day no one has to sit alone at home.

This article draws on an article by Tim Robertson in the Jesuit publication *Eureka Street*, 19th November 2018.

- Kevin Fell.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



Plenary Council 2020
'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...' 2020

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have begun a process to prepare for the **Plenary Council** that will take place over two sessions, in October 2020 and May 2021. A Plenary Council (or Synod) is the highest formal gathering of all local Catholic churches in a country and can discuss and legislate on a wide range of issues, including matters of faith, morals and discipline. It has been over 80 years since such a Plenary has been held in Australia.

The first phase of the Plenary process, "A Year of Listening", has begun and will continue until Ash Wednesday 2019. All Catholics are invited to contribute, specifically by contemplating, discussing and feeding back to the Bishops their own response to the question **"What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?"**

Early in the New Year you will be invited to share your answers to this question. You are very welcome to email your ideas to St Michael's Parish or to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES ROTARY RAFFLE BOOKS DUE BACK NOW!** Please return this week. Thankyou - David Lunn 0408 378 982.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS:** Will be holding a Christmas Stall at Holy Family Church on December 2nd.
- ◆ **ST PETER & PAUL'S TOILETS:** Revamp of the toilet block is near completion and looking good. Hopefully, next weekend the toilets will be open. Thankyou for your patience and understanding.
- ◆ **LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the new **Break Open the Word** is now in the Sacristy where you are rostered. Please collect it as soon as you can. Many thanks for your continued support.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** The Summer Edition of Australian Catholics is available for free today and includes articles on **Strands of Spirituality in the Catholic Church; Finding God in Community, and Breathing with God.** Pick one up today!
- ◆ **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.

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.



The Holy Spirit Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society will have their Annual "Christmas Appeal" Collection at the 11am Mass on Sunday 2nd December. This Appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming Holy Season of Christmas. There will be a Special 3rd Collection taken up in support of this.

Liturgy at St Michael's:



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!

- Dec 3...** Communion Service and Anointing at Blakiston Lodge, McKellar Centre 10.30am
- Dec 4...** Mass of Anointing at McKellar Centre 10.15am
- Dec 6...** End of Year Mass - Years 7-10 at Clonard College, 9am
- " Mass of Healing at Multicultural Centre - 1.30pm (Thursday)

Community News:

- Dec 2...** **RICE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR:** 11am to 3pm with Stalls, BBQ, Spinning Wheel, etc. 2 Marshalltown Rd Marshall.
- 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.
- Dec 16...** L' ASSOCIAZIONE SANTA LUCIA VM VI INVITA A CELEBRARE LA **FESTA DI SANTA LUCIA VM SIRACUSANA**. CON SANTA MESSA E PROCESSIONE. NELLA CHIESA DI SAN BRANDAN, 103 WELLINGTON ST FLEMINGTON (Melway Map Ref P.29 (A12)).

/Cont'd from P1...

Today's extract from John's gospel is among the most famous of them all. 'You say I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

There are not too many Kings or Queens today who would love their people so

much that they would be prepared to die for them. We know from history that when the going gets tough many monarchs get going. But what we get in Jesus as King is one who did not compromise his humanity, who would not yield from his preaching and does not abandon us in our desolation. Jesus' kingship is revealed in his utter fidelity to us – even to the end.

So let's not be seduced by the power, pride, riches and greed which worldly rulers so crave. Let's keep our own eyes on Christ our King who loved people more than things, who spoke the truth with love, and who died that we might live. And let's not shrink from challenging the entire Church to do the same.