



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

PARISH SECRETARY:

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Holy Family

Peter Brunt

Separation St, Bell Park

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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

Church architecture often tells in stone the story of theology. By the ninth century as Christian Churches in Europe became longer and higher, a shift was occurring in theology as well. Coinciding with the engineering abilities of the builders, theologians reinstated a more severe and distant theology about God. God was 'immortal, invisible, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes'. Jesus had ascended his regal home in the tabernacle which over the centuries got further and further away from where the people stood or sat.

One of the extraordinary things that occurs in the layout of Churches of this time is that as the tabernacle goes back, the Marian altar comes forward, often half way down the church where people could have easy access to it.

Today's Gospel was used as the justification for this theological and architectural movement. Mary is seen to intercede on behalf of the bride and groom and ask Jesus to do what he can. This is the first sign in the Gospel of John and Jesus is reluctant to perform it, but because his mother asks, he does it.

The changing of the water into wine is not just a sign that Mary and Jesus like a good party! It is a sign of the Kingdom of God where joy and life are in abundance, where shame ends and all tears are wiped away. It is no accident that in John's gospel the mother of Jesus is present at this first sign and remains faithful until the end, right up to the culmination of all the signs: his being lifted up on the cross. Mary not only asks for a sign, she understands that it will cost something for Jesus to give it and for her to witness it.

So for us, the wedding feast at Cana is a taste of the fullness of life we celebrate

here every Sunday. The Eucharist is always and everywhere a first course in the eternal banquet of heaven. But it is also an invitation to see beyond the signs, to the faithful relationships that require sacrificial love and years of fidelity.

All parents who sacrifice so much for their children, all spouses who remain faithful and good to their wife or husband, all friends who attend to their companions with devotion and care, share in the Kingdom of God and are the signs of Christ's presence in our world. Every time we are kind, Cana occurs again.

Sometimes these actions can be very lonely and the cost can be high. Today's Gospel, and the traditions of the Church that flow from it, tell us we are not alone, especially when the going gets tough.

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- 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

*(Year C - January 20, 2019)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Proclaim his marvellous deeds
to all the nations.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God has called us with the gospel to
share in the glory of our Lord Jesus
Christ. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Neh 8:2-6,8-10

2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:12-30

Gospel: Lk 1:1-4,4:14-21

**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:

Jan 21-Feb 3: Montalto family, 2 Graylea Ave; **Feb 4-18:** Trinder family, 20 Downie Place

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:

Murray Howard, Francesca Iannuzzi (Canada) and Danica Jelinic

ANNIVERSARIES:

Felemou and Goq family, Alison Da Costa, Cresencana Mangas, 1 year anniversary of Maria Gdak and deceased members in the Polish community

BAPTISMS:

Aurora Wiasak, Ned Diery, Lottie Dixon, Mason Palmieri and Keeson & Huxley Lehpamer

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Jan 22... Ricciardi family members

Jan 23... Cicero family members

Jan 24... Burt family members

Jan 25... Bole, Osano and Sinkovec 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

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS:** Beginning from next weekend, January 26/27, Communion will be offered at our weekend Masses under both kinds.
- ◆ **Next Weekend, 26/27 January, a Third Collection will be taken up so that as a parish we can mark Fr Prakash's 50th Birthday.**

Community News:

- ◆ **THE COMBINED SOCIETIES OF MARY** welcomes you to a beautiful **Our Lady of Lourdes Celebration** on Sunday February 10th at St Colman's Church, 293 Carlisle St Balaclava. 1.40pm Rosary and 2pm Adoration, Prayers, Benediction, Healing Mass Blessings with Lourdes Water and a Procession, with Veneration of the First Class Relic of St Bernadette.
- ◆ **VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED TO WORK WITH REFUGEE STUDENTS:** Volunteer tutors are needed to assist newly arrived refugee students (year 9-10) at Northern Bay College in North Geelong, on Mondays 3.15-4.30pm during first semester in 2019. You will need good interpersonal skills, able to assist newly arrived Refugee high school students in social and language development and schooling. For more details contact Matt Walton (Volunteer Co-ordinator) at CatholicCare on 9926 5699, email Matthew.Walton@ccam.org.au
- ◆ **FAMILY REQUIRING ASSISTANCE:** A young mother from Geelong and her family are looking for a house to live in from January 31st. The mother comes highly recommended as a tenant by her current landlord. If anyone has a house with four bedrooms that is vacant and could be rented to this family, or any contacts who could assist, please contact Prue - pruesmith4@gmail.com as soon as possible. A reference letter is available.
- ◆ **Belmont Senior Citizens Centre** proudly presents **DEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS**. Onstage Monday February 4, 1.30pm. This is a traditional 'Blue Grass' Country Music Group and you will enjoy every moment as you relive this country music that is so popular with many. Entry \$5 with tea/coffee afterwards. Venue - Belmont Seniors Concert Hall, 52 Thomson St Belmont. All welcome! Information ph 5241 1776.

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What I like best about our belief in intercessory prayer, in the healthiest devotions in honour of the Mother of Jesus and in our belief in the martyrs and the saints is that they take seriously the companionship of God's family that transcends time and space.

Through our common Christian faith we

are connected to millions of believers who have battled with similar, and sometimes greater, struggles than we endure and yet remained faithful to the end. Led by Mary, who never wants us to feel ashamed or embarrassed, they are our cheer squad in the stands of heaven willing us on in the race of life, giving us a few pointers on the best preparation, the pitfalls on the way

and how to maximise our performance as we strive to do our best and be our best.

Welcome to Cana where one course is richer than the last. And the wine only gets better with age.

REFLECTING ON THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's liturgy invites us to take a detour into the Fourth Gospel and into a marriage scene that the evangelist John places at the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry.

Marriage imagery appears from time to time in Israel's prophetic tradition, sometimes in quite confronting ways, especially in Hosea where God is imaged as husband and Israel as God's faithless wife. In the first reading from the postexilic prophecy of Third Isaiah, Jerusalem is the bride, once alienated from God and then fully reconciled with and embraced by God, its "builder".

The link between the Isaian passage and the marriage at Cana is fairly tenuous, although the juxtaposition of the two readings in the context of today's liturgy invites us to consider the intimate relationship that our Earth and its inhabitants enjoy with God, its "builder" or creator. God's delight is in Earth and in the Earth community, not simply in one city and one people of the Earth.

The focus in the gospel story is less on the marriage, however, than on the symbolism of the abundance of wine at the marriage feast. The 8th century BCE prophet Amos had looked to a future time when the mountains would drip sweet wine, and the hills flow with it, a time when God would restore the fortunes of God's people. An abundance of good food and the best of wines is the image of future salvation deployed by another 8th century prophet, Isaiah (Isaiah 25).

Today's gospel suggests that these prophetic dreams come to fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. Those who listen to his word and follow his instructions become agents of an extraordinary transformation.

The mother of Jesus features significantly in the Cana story. She is attentive to the integrity of the feast and informs her son when the wine gives out. This provides the opportunity for Jesus to speak of his "hour": it has not yet come. Jesus addresses his mother as "Woman". He will address her in precisely the same way when the "hour" of his death and handing over of the Spirit finally comes. This "woman" believes in him and invites the servants at the marriage feast to obey his word.

While Jesus performs this first "sign" that leads his disciples to faith, the role played by this faith-filled woman casts her in the role of "witness to the light" and proclaimer of the Word.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

