



# 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

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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**

Some years ago I was at an annual parents' dinner for a Catholic school for profoundly disabled children.

A well-known local politician, whose child was in the school, was asked to speak. This is what he said:

'I would like to pay tribute to the staff at this school. Only parents and teachers know what a joy and a heartbreak it is to have a profoundly disabled child. I always wanted the perfect child, but where is the perfection in my son David? We are told that God looked at the world and it was perfect, but my son cannot understand things as other children do. David cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. David walks with difficulty and cannot speak. How can God be

filled with joy at David?'

The audience was shocked by this pained question from an anguished father.

'I believe', the father continued, 'that when God allows a world in which David can now live for 50 years, perfection is found in the way people react to children like him.'

'Just recently David and I were walking in our local park. Some boys had been there most of the day playing cricket. They were serious about this competition. David was very excited and I knew he wanted to join in. David has terrible physical co-ordination, but I approached one of the boys on the pitch and asked if David could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his mates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said "Things are tight, we have to get six runs to win but we'll try and give him a bat". David smiled broadly. After scoring three more runs the next boy got out. David

was put up the batting order and called to the wicket. I helped him get out there.'

'Everyone knew that it was all but impossible for my son to help them win the game. He didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. The bowler, however, sent down a soft ball so David could at least make contact. The second similar ball came and David swung clumsily and missed it. One of David's team mates came up to him and together they held the bat and faced the bowler waiting for the next ball.'

'As the ball came down, David and his teammate swung at the ball and together they hit a strong ground shot to the boundary. At his captain's urging David stumbled up the pitch as quickly as he could. Never in his life has David run so fast.'

*/Cont'd P4...*



Welcome to the children who are making their commitment to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - February 24, 2019)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord is kind and merciful.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
**Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**8th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

2nd Reading: 1Cor 15:54-58

Gospel: Lk 6:39-45

**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:

**Feb 18 - Mar 4:** Martin family, 26 Honey Lane; **Mar 11-25:** Sharry family, 23 Lily 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:

Ron Podbury

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Domenico Mileto, Rosina & Salvatore Maiolo (Italy), 1 year anniversary of Rocco Ciccone and 10 year anniversary of Salvatore Rizzo

### BAPTISMS:

Amelia & Oliver Harden, Emmett & Lola Hardiman and Jackson McKee

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Allan Ansell, Alexander, Peter Brown, Sandra Klinge, Greg Malishev, Wayne Gilbert, Amalia Zaino, Paul Kennedy



*After approx 5 weeks names will be taken off sick list. Please contact Office if you wish names to be reinserted.*

## 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 Needl, 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  
M Bird  
P Carmody, B Kline, Horoba  
M&E Hoffman  
C Resciniti  
J Mann, 0488 784 802

## RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN ST MICHAEL'S:

Rosary...	The Rosary is recited at 8.45am Tues and Thurs in Holy Family Church prior to the 9.15am Masses
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. <b>BYO casserole &amp; drink to share.</b>
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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)**

## Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **PARISH LITURGY MEETING:** Tuesday February 26, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre
- ◆ **PLENARY COUNCIL:** An open meeting on February 12th was attended by a group of ten parishioners. They used this opportunity to express their ideas, opinions and suggestions on the topic of ***"What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?"***. If you are interested in knowing the points that came up at the meeting, please contact Bernadette at the parish office for a copy. If you wish to submit your own ideas, please email to [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) by **February 28th**.

## Lent at St Michael's:



### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES - March 6:

9.30am...	Holy Family Church (all school children in attendance)
9.30am...	Holy Spirit Church (all school children in attendance)
12noon...	St Patrick's School
7.00pm...	Ss Peter & Paul's Church

### TRUST LENTEN PROGRAM 2019:

This year there is an invitation to those who would like to be involved in small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. A clipboard will be available at the back of each Church to gauge interest. **We envisage meetings to be held each Wednesday evening during Lent 7pm at the Parish Community Centre, beginning on March 13th.**

### LENTEN PROGRAM 219 - A DAY OF REFLECTION BY THE SEA - Santa Casa, Queenscliff

#### *We walk in the footsteps of Jesus.*

The day will include: Meditation, time of quiet and reflection, walking the Labyrinth, a foot wash and massage - Jesus said, "Do as I have done unto you."

Venue - Santa Casa, Flinders St Queenscliff on Tuesday April 9 or Wednesday April 10 from 10am to 3pm. Cost \$15 with morning tea and lunch included.



## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP:** Over the past 12 months, St Michael's Parish raised over \$17,000. The funds came from the three parish primary schools, the raffle and your donations, and will go to Sr Kate at the Kuya Centre. Many thanks for your ongoing support.
- ◆ **ITALIAN MASS:** Holy Family Church Sunday February 24 at 4pm. The Celebrant will be Fr Sebastiano Sessa who is visiting from Italy.
- ◆ **WELCOME TO LYNNE HOWARD:** I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Lynne Howard to the Parish Team at St Michael's. Her expertise and assistance in the areas of administration will be an asset to the Parish Office.
- ◆ **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 skills? **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, Separation St from 2-5pm on 15 Mar, 22 Mar, 29 Mar, 26 Apr, 3 May, 10 May, 31 May. Further dates will be added later.
- ◆ **RAFFLE RESULTS** from raffle books distributed in Nov 2018 from Ballarat Rotary Club for Fr Mick's Mates Relay for Life team, drawn Sunday Feb 1, 2019. Winner 1st prize Mazda CX5, ticket No 011357 - A McKinnon Burrumbeet. 2nd prize Mazda 2 Max, ticket No 077506 F Lidgett (address withheld). Thankyou for your participation, you contributed \$2,450 to Cancer Council!

# Community News:

## CATHOLIC SECONDARY COLLEGES OPEN DAYS:

- March 15...** **CLONARD COLLEGE** - Information sessions followed by tours 1pm and 4.30pm. Enrolments for Year 7 close **Fri May 17**. Pre-register online [www.clonard.catholic.edu.au](http://www.clonard.catholic.edu.au)
- Mar 19...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE** - Explore the College 4pm to 7pm to discover life at SHC. Enrolments for Year 7 will close **Friday May 17**.
- Mar 24...** **ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE** - Open 11am to 2pm with Information Sessions 11am and 12.15pm. Visit [www.ignatius.vic.edu.au](http://www.ignatius.vic.edu.au) to view our online College Prospectus and download an enrolment application form. Year 7 applications close on **Friday May 17**.

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## Pope Francis takes 'the fight' to the Muslim world.

Although he wouldn't be pleased to hear the word 'fight'. Because that is precisely what he went to the United Arab Emirates to argue against.

He's just made the first-ever visit of a pope to the Arabian Peninsula. Long overdue you would think, given that it's a region where the pope's own Christian flock are treated as second class citizens or actively persecuted (particularly in places such as Syria, Iran and Iraq). And this despite Christians having lived in the region for more than 2,000 years; longer than their Muslim neighbours. Islam is a faith six centuries younger than Christianity.

It's all been a bit of a gamble and some, on both sides of the religious divide, were dead against the visit. Francis went to Abu Dhabi (capital of the United Arab Emirates) to participate in an interreligious gathering organized under that country's "2019 Year of Tolerance" banner.

The Pope saw it as a unique opportunity to offer a sign of fraternity and tolerance. While there he gave his oft-repeated reminder that killing in the name of God is never justified. He hopes it may have a long-standing impact on Muslim-Christian dialogue. We can only hope he's right.

The country has a Muslim majority population but around 10 percent are Christians, with an estimated one million Catholics - virtually all of whom, including some 60 priests, are immigrants from the Philippines, India and other places, working in the oil and construction industries or as cleaners and domestic servants.

Pope Francis' invitation came from the leader of the UAE, Prince Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, and Professor Ahmed a-Tayyeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar University in Cairo and a key Islamic theologian.

The armoured pope-mobile was not used. Instead in a sign of friendship, the pope and the Grand Imam travelled together in a minivan to the Prince's palace, where both stayed as state guests.

The prince and the Imam are highly regarded figures within the Muslim world, and the fact that they shared the red carpet with the pope, travelling together in an unprotected minivan, represents one of those occasions in which the *meeting is the message*. To be blunt: any fanatics who wanted to assassinate the pope would be assassinating their beloved imam and the prince as well. Still, fanatics are fanatics (who knows their minds) and there was a certain amount of danger in Pope Francis' gesture. But he has come through without incident.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has a reputation for tolerance by contrast with neighbouring Saudi Arabia and its extreme version of Islam. Even so in UAE there are (by Western standards) severe limitations to religious freedom, including the fact that Christians are not allowed to express their faith publicly.

Cardinal Joseph Coutts from Pakistan attended the meeting. He has had a long association with the UAE from when he lived there 37 years ago, as a pastor for the Catholic Pakistani community. He said the UAE has had a long history of religious freedom. He noted that of the seven emirates that compose the country, all have at least one church, with the lands donated by the ruling families.

Speaking about the conference he said: "We've talked about dialogue and tolerance before. But this is far beyond tolerance. I've attended many interreligious meetings, and we're all usually very defensive, trying to show that my religion is the best."

He believes that many countries can learn from what the government of the UAE has done, declaring 2019 as the 'Year of Tolerance'; something he believes is particularly impressive seeing that the country shares a border with massively intolerant Saudi Arabia.

Cardinal Coutts said: Despite this conference pushing Christian-Muslim dialogue forward, he doesn't think the openness shown by the UAE will be contagious, as many Islamic nations lack a similar tradition of tolerance. The joint presence of Francis and the Grand Imam helps; but at the end of the day, it comes down to the 700 people who took part deciding to carry back to their communities this message of human fraternity: "We need to live in peace, to be together, to accept each other, exchanging our experiences."

- Kevin Fell

:/Cont'd from P1...

Never in his life has David run so fast. He came back for a second run as the fielder saved the ball from being four runs and so the team was screaming for a third run. The fielder could have thrown the ball to David's stumps and got him out. On the winning third run, however, he threw the

ball to the other end where the other batsman was safely home. The keeper casually sent it up to David's end, just as David was completing the third, winning run.  
'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'those boys showed me why God always looks at creation

and knows it is very good.'

Jesus said, 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that? Be kind, be merciful, forgive and do not condemn, for the measure you give out is the measure you will receive'.