



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:

Bernadette Bilogrevic

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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

The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, 'What effect would adultery have on your marriage?'

In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together.

Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by

saying, 'Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault' or 'I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless'. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship.

The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again.

Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

*/Cont'd P4...***- 3rd Sunday of Lent -***(Year C - March 24, 2019)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord
Jesus Christ!**

Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**4th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

2nd Reading: 2Cor 5:17-21

Gospel: Lk 15:1-3,11-32

**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:

Mar 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:

Henry Cieciura

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ivanka Iskra, Joseph Ribaric, Rosaria Traficante, Nevio Ercoli, Becky Lunn, Lorenzo Leone, Anna Kot, Manuel & Gracinda Oliveira, Manuel & Manuel (Jnr) Almeida

BAPTISMS:

Olive West

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Allan Ansell, Alexander, Sandra Klinge, Greg Malishev, Amalia Zaino, Paul Kennedy, Cheryl Lambert, Erin Kinch



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

(5th 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 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

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

M Kroger

J McKenzie

L Stalio

L Fossey

F Kearney

9.30AM

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

M Fiorillo, M. Perera

E Dalton

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. 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

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Church every Friday at 2pm until April 12. All welcome!

Lent at St Michael's:



PALM SUNDAY 9.30AM MASS CHANGE OF TIME:

Please note, the 9.30am Mass on Palm Sunday, April 14, at Holy Family Church will begin at **9.15am** for that Sunday only. This is to ease traffic congestion with the Croatian Mass at 11am.

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 or alternately, contact the parish office on 5278 1343. **Meetings will be held each Wednesday evening during Lent 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.**

LENTEN PROGRAM 2019 - A DAY OF REFLECTION BY THE SEA - Santa Casa Retreat Centre, 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. For bookings, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 or Sr Jean 0408 559 891.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP 2019 FUNDRAISING:** Sr Kate O'Neill will be home in Geelong in June for a few months and will be visiting St Michael's Parish Community. The Parish Leadership Committee would like to form a Fundraising Committee to organise events during this period. We are seeking your ideas and assistance to help make this a great success, and would love you to come on board and be part of our team. As the saying goes... "many hands make light work". Please contact Bernadette at the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or David Lunn on 0408 378 982.
- ◆ **PARISH MAGAZINE:** St Michael's Parish plans to produce a Parish Magazine to help keep us all informed about the various activities in the Parish. We envisage two productions a year. Step One - everything 'new' needs a name so there will be a competition to suggest the most suitable name, with a prize for the winner! If you have a suggestion, please leave it with Bernadette at the Parish Office before Easter, or email to bellpark@cam.org.au
- ◆ **HELP:** Are there any parishioners out there in the Parish who are competent in calligraphy and would be able to help out with any calligraphy from time to time? Please contact Bernadette at the Parish Office on 5278 1343 if you can help.

- ◆ **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 29 Mar, 26 Apr, 3 May, 10 May, 31 May. Further dates will be added later.

Community News:

- March 25... BELMONT SENIORS CONCERT HALL,** 52 Thomson St proudly presents direct from Melbourne: ***The Best of British*** featuring Franki Muratore, 1.30pm with a'noon tea provided. Entry \$10 - Aged Care Residents \$5.
- April 7... THE PLAINS YOUTH EVENT:** St Joseph's Parish Meredith invites all young people from Grade 6 upwards to this youth event from 6pm to 7.30pm. Bannockburn Stadium adjacent to St Mary Mackillop Primary School. Great contemporary Christian music and story telling!
- ◆ **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH CatholicCare:** Volunteer tutors are needed to assist students of refugee backgrounds in three schools in the Geelong area for 1.5 to 2 hours per week after school, commencing in term two. Skills required: Good interpersonal skills, cross cultural communication, able to assist refugee students in social and language development and their schooling. Please contact Matt Walton on 9926 5699 or email Matthew.Walton@ccam.org.au
 - ◆ **EMPLOYMENT POSITION - Nazareth Parish Grovedale:** There is currently a position of employment available as 'Director of Parish Faith and Mission at Nazareth Parish to begin Term 3, 2019. A Working with Children check and Police check are required. For a detailed job description and any further information, please contact Nazareth Parish Office on 9412 8444 or grovedale@cam.org.au. Applications to be sent to: Fr Linh Tran, Parish Priest via email or post: 43a Surf Coast Hwy, Torquay 3228. Closing date is **Wednesday March 27, 2019.**

Living the Gospel - Bad Things/Good People

Today's gospel taps into the vexing question: *Why do bad things happen to good people?* The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, *How could God let this happen?*

The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events.

Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

PROJECT COMPASSION:



Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with a brighter future. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future.**

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We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best

we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world.