



# 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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Phone 5229 8298

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John Grant

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

**Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

**A** Queensland grazier, a Sydney stockbroker, and a woman barrister from Melbourne died and were standing in line, waiting for their chance at the entrance to Heaven. St Peter called the grazier first. 'We have only one simple requirement for entrance here,' St Peter said, 'You must spell "God".' 'Easy enough,' said the bloke from Queensland, 'G-O-D.' And he entered Heaven.

Next, St Peter called the man from Sydney. 'We have only one simple requirement for entrance here,' he said. 'You must spell "God".' 'No problem,' said the stockbroker, 'G-O-D.' And he went in. Finally, the woman barrister approached St Peter. 'Good riddance to the world,' she said. 'My whole life, I've tried to excel in a male-dominated society, only to continuously bump into the proverbial "glass ceilings" at every point. I can't tell you, St Peter, how glad I am finally to be rid of male chauvinism.' 'Well, you'll

certainly find none of that here,' said St Peter. 'I'm sure you'll enjoy heaven, if you can meet this one simple requirement for entrance. You must spell "Czechoslovakia".'

One of the things I find reassuring about today's Gospel is that the Church seems to have been wrestling with women's leadership since the very beginning. It's the issue that will not go away.

When it comes to interpreting scripture, I am always pleased that I'm a Catholic. We're not fundamentalists or literalists. We believe that the truth of the scripture lies not just in the words themselves, but also in the careful interpretation of the text in history. The story of Martha and Mary is a complex narrative. It can be read on at least two levels.

The first level is extraordinary enough: it focuses on Mary who assumes the position of the Rabbi's student and is defended against any attack on her right to be there. In first century Palestine, Jewish women were 'not permitted to be taught the Torah, but only instructed about how they should

live their lives in obedience to its demands. They were not permitted to touch the scriptures nor to take part in public debate or official liturgical ritual.' (Fitzmyer, Luke p.892) From this context we can see the sort of freedom Jesus envisaged for women, against the practice of his own day.

On another level, however, this story focuses on Martha. The writer of Luke's Gospel tells us that we are in Martha's home and, that with Jesus as special guest at table, she is serving the members of her household with care and devotion. Martha comes across as strong and outspoken. Mary, meanwhile, is passive and silent. It is likely this story is criticising a call in Luke's community for women to move away from the leadership Jesus gave them and to adopt again the traditional roles to which the Jewish/Christians were more familiar.

*/Cont'd P4...***- 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time -***(Year C - July 21, 2019)***ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

**Alleluia!****NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Gen 18:20-32

2nd Reading: Col 2:12-14

Gospel: Lk 11:1-13

**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:

**July 17-29:** Montalto family, 2 Graylea 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:

Sr Paulina Fitzpatrick SRM, Martin Sims, Beth Power and Maria DeJesus (Portugal)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Philip Holmes, Louisa Rodrigues, Manuel Silvestri, Gabriella Cracco

### BAPTISMS:

Humphrey Counsel, Isabelle Hassett, Lily McDonald and Lachlan & Camilla Barton

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Colleen Laffy, Allan Ansell, Alexander, Sandra Klinge, Cheryl Lambert, Erin Kinch, Veronica Werzak, Cassie McColl, Margaret Barry, Teresa Pellizzerri



*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

(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:

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)**


## St Michael's News:

### **"COME AND LISTEN TO THE GOOD NEWS"**

#### ***Christ is calling for you to Listen!***

A series of Catechesis will be given at St Michael's Community Centre,  
147 Separation St Bell Park **Monday and Thursday evenings from 7-8pm**

*Each evening gives an opportunity to pray, to encounter and experience the Church  
in a deep and enriching way.*

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- ◆ **WELCOME SR KATE O'NEILL:** Fr Prakash and parishioners of St Michael's extend a warm welcome to Sr Kate on her three yearly visit to Geelong. In the coming weeks Sr Kate will speak at our weekend Masses and visit our three Primary Schools. Fundraising ideas to support the Philippines Partnership are in the pipeline - further details to follow.
  - ◆ **2019 CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL:** At all Masses next weekend (July 27/28) there will be a special Third Collection taken up after Communion. All funds raised will help support the important work of Catholic Mission in Ghana, through programs designed to rescue babies and children who are vulnerable and foster their personal development for a brighter future. Donation envelopes are available at all Churches.
  - ◆ **THANKYOU** to everyone who contributed to the naming of the Bi-Annual Bulletin. The title ***St Michael's Messenger*** embodies the spirit and image of the parish. The Bulletin will highlight the diversity, inclusiveness, fun and community engagement of the Parish. Phase 2 now commences - obtaining articles, interviews, photos, etc for publication. The Parish has approximately 15+ different groups so your help and assistance in obtaining articles is appreciated. I will be making contact with group leaders in the coming weeks. Further information please contact Debbie on 0409 416 945.
  - ◆ **CUP OF TEA AND COFFEE AFTER THE 9.30AM HOLY FAMILY MASS:** An invitation is extended to all parishioners to join us after the 9.30am Mass each Sunday at Holy Family Church for a Cuppa. All are most welcome! 
  - ◆ **PLENARY COUNCIL 2020:** National Theme for Discernment - ***How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is open to conversion, renewal and reform?*** This National theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal. Find out more at [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



# Community News:

**July 27... PASTORAL HEALTHCARE NETWORK PAMPER DAY:** You are invited to a relaxing afternoon of pampering and pastoral healthcare - come along and choose a range of treatments, including hand, shoulder and foot massages, Bowen therapy, blood pressure testing, meditation and afternoon tea. Please come and join us for a wonderful opportunity for relaxation and socialising - 1pm until 3.30 with 10 minute meditation at 2.45pm - St Bernard's Church Foyer, Fryers Rd Belmont. Donation appreciated. Enquiries/bookings ph Gabrielle 0403 500 279. **Please RSVP by Wed 24 July for catering purposes.**

**July 28... MUSIC AT THE BASILICA 'SEASONS' SERIES: *Brazilian Adventures*** - Windfire Chamber Choir with rarely performed choral gems, music of Villa Lobos. 3pm St Mary's Basilica, tickets \$50/45/40 at the door or [trybooking.com/BABCY](http://trybooking.com/BABCY)

**Aug 11... MUSIC AT THE BASILICA 'SEASONS' SERIES: *Terra Australis*** - Australian Chamber Choir links great choral works with voyages in search of Terra Australis, the fabled Great Southern Land. 3pm St Mary's Basilica, tickets \$50/45/40 at the door or [www.auschoir.org](http://www.auschoir.org)

**Sept 15... MUSIC AT THE BASILICA 'SEASONS' SERIES: *Lauridsen the Mystic*** - Turod Choristers present contemporary settings of breath-taking music imbued with Greek modes and Gregorian plainchant. Tickets \$35/30 at the door or [ww.trybooking.com/BABDA](http://ww.trybooking.com/BABDA)



## KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:

Are looking for active, mature Catholic men to become part of our organisation. Enquiries to Ray Henry 0418 350 679.

## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

***Jesus turned the customs and taboos of his society upside down. In this Gospel, against all the rules of segregation, Jesus is alone with women who are not his relatives, completely at ease with their hospitality. It is personal relationships, not gender determined relationships, which are important to him.***

***Further, here is Mary assuming the posture of a student at the feet of a Rabbi (teacher) listening to his teaching. We remember that Jesus had chosen his male disciples in order to teach them. Mary chooses Him to teach her! Maybe it was a counter-cultural step too far for Martha. Is that what she is really 'anxious and troubled' about?***

***Jesus was willing to upset the social conventions and religious taboos of his day in respect of women. What would be a good contemporary response of the Catholic Church?***

***The word 'cardinal' means hinge – 'hinge of the door' – an essential part of the structure of the Church which is our home, in which we listen to the words of Jesus Christ. Could the College of Cardinals be supplemented to include women alongside the ordained male prelates? Outstanding women, religious or lay, could head some Vatican departments and take part in the election of the Pope.***

***That would be a strongly symbolic step with repercussions throughout the Church.***

*/Cont'd from P1...*

At the Vatican on 21 May 2000 the Pope told a group of Bishops from the USA: 'The genius of women must be ever more a vital strength of the Church of the next millennium, just as it was in the first communities of Christ's disciples.'

To that end today's story from such a community holds a key to our own dilemma. Just as Jesus broke through the gender boundaries of his own day, so too must we. We must renew our commitment to ending anything that degrades, exploits or dehumanises women throughout the world.

But more, it's time for the Church to take some strong symbolic and practical steps to defend the leadership of women within our own Catholic community. For example, Church teaching does not stand in the way of re-admitting lay people, and this time lay women, into the College of Cardinals; women could continue to assume high profile positions in each Diocese and also leaderships roles within the Roman Curia, starting with those departments that deal with instructions and decisions that directly affect them; and the Church could welcome the ordination of women as Deacons.

These avenues would enable women to have even more options for them to demonstrate and realise the full extent of their genius, as the Pope puts it.

At this Eucharist, then, let us recommit ourselves to using, in the best possible way for the mission of the Church, the gifts, talents and strengths of over half our community. May we learn from the earliest Church, described in today's Gospel, 'that which is the better part' and never 'take it away from her.'