



# 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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## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Recently I was shocked by a Catholic woman who told me she didn't care very much for her local Bishop. She enumerated the many faults and failings of her diocese and its leader and then highly praised Pope John Paul II.

It's hard to argue with her admiration of the Pope, but unknowingly, she was falling into the same trap to which the community at Corinth was prey. Unfortunately, my acquaintance thought that her Catholic identity primarily came from her communion with the Bishop of Rome. She felt she could bypass her local bishop, 'because he's too trendy', and 'deal direct' with the Pope. She told me she saw the Pope as her bishop. The problem with her position is that it is not Catholic!

All of us in the Church are called to pray for, support and follow the lead of the Holy Father. But our Catholic identity comes from our communion with our local church, in and through its bishop, who is in turn, in communion with the Bishop of Rome. This is what the five-yearly ad limina visits are all about: a brother bishop sharing with the Pope the graces and challenges in his local Church and reaffirming the Catholic faith that unites all of us as members of the same universal Church.

Soon after Jesus called the apostles, disputes broke out among them. We know from the whole of the New Testament that there were serious disagreements between the earliest leaders in the Church. Their different temperaments and missions led to several misunderstandings. What St Paul found in Corinth, however, was a fractured Church, pleading allegiances to different leaders over and against Jesus. He teaches the Corinthians a critical lesson in being Church: we are all one under Jesus' leadership. Christ is the head of the Church.

Within ancient and clear limits the Church has a wonderful diversity, a plurality of expression, emphasis and culture. It's always been like this. It means the Church is taking seriously its role of finding Christ in every place and every community in the world. The moment we pit one local Church against the other ('I prefer the Pope to my bishop') we lose the Catholic communion in Christ Jesus which holds us together.

Paul tells us preaching the Cross of Jesus is the mission of the Church. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel that teaching, preaching and healing are the hallmarks of his ministry. And the same should hold for us. No matter how differently any local church might develop, the Bishop of Rome confirms in the faith Bishops who continue to preach Christ crucified, teach in Christ's name, heal the sick and reconcile the estranged.

## - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A - January 26, 2020)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

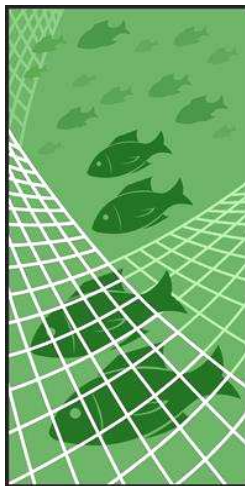
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.  
**Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

**The Presentation of the Lord**

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4  
2nd Reading: Heb 2:14-18  
Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



### 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 3rd Tuesday, (1st, 2nd & 4th Communion Service)

**St John of God Hospital:** 11.30am every Thursday in SJOG Chapel

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

### **RECENT DEATHS:**

Dorothy Keay, Ina Fitzgerald, Sandra Cafaro (Italy)

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Brian Hennessy, Jim Pollard, Maria Gdak, Ida DaCosta, Josip Brajkovic, Lesley Van der Linden, Maria Vannata

### **BAPTISMS:**

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Veronica Werzek, Ken Fusea, Angela Reed, Narciso Baldasso, Josica Markov



### **PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:**

**Tues January 28...**

Bodnar family members

**Wed January 29...**

Glynn & Pollard family members

**Thurs January 30...**

Caccamo family members

**Fri Jan 31...**

Burt family members

- ◆ **SPECIAL COLLECTION:** The St Vincent de Paul Society, the Bell Park Conference, with all other Conferences throughout Victoria, are holding a Special Collection at all Masses this Australia Day weekend, 25/26 January. All proceeds are going direct to the fire relief fund to aid persons and families affected by the fires. It is a special fund set up by the SVDP (Vinnies). You can also help our neighbours by donating at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au).
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S CRAFT & CONVERSATION GROUP 2020:** Come along and make new friends, bring along your current craft project, and spend an hour or two enjoying pleasant conversation over a cuppa while your project grows. **The day of the week has changed** - we will now meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons of most months at 2pm-4.30pm. Any questions ph Debbie on 0409 416 945. **Dates:** Feb 6/20, Mar 5/19, Apr 2/16, May 7/21, June 4/18, July 2. After a small gap we will again meet on Aug 20, Sept 3/17, Oct 1/15, Nov 5/19 and Dec 3.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for an interesting evening of food, friends and a speaker for our first dinner for 2020 - **Tuesday Feb 11**. 6.15pm pre-dinner drinks, 6.45 dinner. Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St Geelong West, cost \$33. Guest speaker - Dragons Abreast, a leader in the movement for people affected by breast cancer, spreading awareness and education on the benefits of an active lifestyle after diagnoses. **RSVP Michael Belleville at 0431 959 584 by Fri Feb 7.**

## 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  
M Kroger  
G Wright,  
L Fossey  
L Coles

### HOLY FAMILY

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