



St Michael's Parish

Incorporating the Churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

ASSISTANT PRIEST:	Fr. Minh Tran			Web Page Address: www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
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OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
PARISH SECRETARY:	Bernadette Bilogrevic	Phone 5278 1343	Email: bellpark@cam.org.au	
PASTORAL WORKER:	Sr Anne Lourey	Phone 5278 1343	Email: anne.lourey@cam.org.au	
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	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

For most of its history today's feast was a dual observation. The Purification of Mary accompanied the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

It's not that long ago that western cultures had ceremonies to 'purify' women after childbirth. These rituals have their roots in some appalling thinking about how the flow of women's blood defiles them and those who touched them. Maybe the only modern reclamation we could make of these rites would be to understand them as purification of the memory. After the selflessness of a pregnancy and the great pain of childbirth, a mother could use such a ritual moment to reclaim her body. In any case, it is right and good that we no longer overly emphasise this side of today's feast.

The Presentation of Jesus is easier to handle and to understand. Jewish law stipulated that within forty days of a child's birth the parents should present their baby in the temple as an act of thanksgiving. In the Bible the number forty always indicates a time of formation. So forty days after Christmas the Church has today's celebration. As Luke describes the scene Simeon and Anna represent the Old Covenant. He embodies all those who longed to see the Christ. She embodies all those who prophesied his coming. In a few sentences Luke tells us that just as the Israelites entered the Promised Land after forty years in the desert, so now the time of waiting, searching and hoping is over. Israel can receive the promised Messiah. The old covenant has been fulfilled

and the new covenant is established in Jesus.

The word 'presentation' is used in two revealing ways these days. In psychology they talk about a 'presenting problem'. In medicine people are said to 'present' with certain symptoms. In both cases, the word presentation is used to indicate that something more important lies beneath what is first observed. Further investigation reveals the deeper causes and the best course of action.

So to us. We present ourselves in the temple today and it's important we remember that we do have to put on a show for God. God does not need a performance from us; God invites us to an encounter of love. /Cont'd P4...

- The Presentation of the Lord -

(Year A - February 2, 2020)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 58:7-10
2nd Reading: 1Cor 2:1-5
Gospel: Mt 5:13-16



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:

10.00am Communion Service every 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday

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

BAPTISMS:

1st & 3rd Sundays 12noon at Holy Spirit, 2nd Sunday 12.30pm at Ss P&P,
5th 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:

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:

Rosario Resciniti

ANNIVERSARIES:

Frank Kennedy, Antonio Cicero, Angelina DePalma, Giuseppa Marcantonio, Givanio, Lidia & Maria DeAngelis, Rosa Valentino, Antonio Bagnato, Cosimina Croce, Maria & Antonio Polimeni, Gino & Carmella Bisinella, Antonio & Maria Bisinella, Massimo Bisinella, Abele Longo, Vince Fazio, Giovanni & Guiseppa Puglia, Mary Smith

BAPTISMS:

Coco Dempsey, Willow & Ruby Dent and Bodhi Malone

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Veronica Werzek, Ken Fusea, Angela Reed, Narciso Baldasso, Josica Markov, Giuseppa Forestieri, Maria Failla



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tues February 4...

Seales family members

Wed February 5...

Brjkovic family members

Thurs February 6...

Pellizzeri & Brady family members

Fri February 7...

Fiorillo & DeLorenzo family members

Roster for Next Sunday

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators M Carson
Lectors P Power
Special Ministers P McGlinchey
Welcomers D Dougherty
Projectionist B Middleton
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

E Strzelecki
M Martin
V Trinder, L Vannata
L. Fossey
R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators K Saunders
Lectors F O'Neill
Special Ministers R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
Welcomers C Marcantonio, L Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdnik, E Di Domenico, E Glynn
V Resciniti, E Glynn
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
Holy Family Luncheon...	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO casserole & drink to share.
St Michael's Luncheon...	First Sunday of each month at Louisa Fossey's house
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...	St Michael's Community Centre, 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.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL BUSHFIRE APPEAL:** Thankyou for supporting this important appeal. Last weekend's special collection, together with donations, has raised **\$4,786**. Your generosity is tremendous and much appreciated.
- ◆ **NOTE OF THANKS:** A huge thankyou to St Michael's Parish community who supported our Christmas Markets, which raised **\$4,282** for Fr Mick's Mates. Many thanks to Betty Rice, Margaret Brown and Committee for all their hard work. Winners of the raffle were:

1st Prize...	Maureen Baird
2nd Prize...	Noreen Neeld
3rd Prize...	Lennox Javni
4th Prize....	Sheila Carey
- ◆ **CWL:** The first meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL for 2020 will be held on **Wednesday February 3**, 1.30pm in St Michael's Parish Community Centre. All St Michael's Parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Bernadette 0417 514 598 or Tricia 0431 512 354.
- ◆ **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.

REFLECTION by Diane Bergant CSA

Sunday 02 Feb 2020

The Presentation of the Lord

Traditionally this is the fortieth day of Christmas. Though the Christmas season closed with the Epiphany, the Presentation brings us back to some of the Christmas themes. The feast is on the edge, a kind of hinge between the seasons of Christmas and Lent.

The temple is not merely a building where believers gather to worship God. It is sacred because it is the dwelling place of God on earth. Therefore, the coming of God to the temple was always a time of great anticipation and excitement. It promised blessing and rejoicing.

The first reading declares that God will come to the temple in might and power. This coming will be terrifying. The sacred precincts have been desecrated and so God will come to purify it with fire and lye. This picture of purification is modified by the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews where we see that the purging and refinement are accomplished in the self-sacrifice of Christ.

It took the eyes of the old man and the faith of an old woman to recognise that the Lord had indeed come into the temple. Ritually, it was the child who was redeemed. In fact, it is the world that will be redeemed by this child. He is the light that shines in the darkness of the world; he will enlighten all people, Jew and Gentile alike. This feast shares the theme of universality so prominent on the feast of the Epiphany. The king of glory opens the portals for the entire universe to enter.

SAFETY AND WELLBEING:

The safety and wellbeing of our parishioners, staff and the wider community is important to us all. Please report any accidents, incidents or near misses to the Parish Office on 5278 1343. Also, if you notice any potential hazards or risks, please bring these to our attention so that we can address them as soon as possible.



Community News:

Feb 11... 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 - 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.**

Feb 24... BELMONT SENIORS CONCERT HALL proudly presents, direct from Melbourne, **Margaret Dennis**, 1.30pm. Talented and versatile performer will deliver music and song to brighten your day. Entry \$10, aged care residents \$5. Afternoon tea provided.

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA:

February and March - Lenten Journey 2020, Encounters series of Lenten Reflections, Poetry and Music. All at St Mary's Basilica, 136 Yarra St Geelong on Fridays 5.30 - 6.00pm. No charge.

Feb 21... WATER - Gilliam Turner, Vicki Hallett
Feb 28... FIRE - Helen Seymour, Tom Healey
Mar 6... EARTH - Alison Wong, Prue Farnsworth
Mar 13... WIND - Rosemary Blake, Frank DeRosso
Mar 20... LIGHT - Gillian Turner, Maximillian Rudd



Easter Concert -

The Seven Last Words of Christ, Sacred Cantata - Theodore Dubois

At St Mary's Basilica, Friday 27 March 8.00pm.

Tickets \$50 adult, \$45 senior, \$40 concession, children free.

Dramatic choruses, beautiful contemplative passages, Windfire Choir and Orchestra with Conductor Joseph Hie, soloists Teresa Duddy, David Campbell and Manfred Pohlenz.

Tickets available at www.trybooking.com/BHDZY or at the door.

Preferential seating - Friends of MAB and pre-purchased tickets.

www.musicatthebasilica.org.au

www.facebook.com/MusicattheBasilica

Contact Jeannette 0408 305 868

/Cont'd from P1...

Seeing that God knows us intimately it's crazy that we should be anything but ourselves before him. But we sometimes go through the pretence of dressing things up, pretending otherwise or putting on a show. Today's feast reminds us that when we encounter the presence of God a range of responses are on

display. Just recall the ones in today's Gospel: expectation, hope, frailty, thanksgiving, foreboding, puzzlement, love and joy.

May Jesus' presentation enable us to let pass in peace any need to act before God, but rather embrace a new way of encountering God's presence, where we own just how we are, and not how we would like to be.

When we do this we can enjoy the possibilities of a rich, deep and realistic relationship with God. We also find that it's so much easier to discover, with God, the causes and the actions that will lead us to healing, fulfilment and peace.