



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



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to the people who enjoy his favour" Lk 2: 14



Dear parishioners, friends and visitors,

We, with people around the world, have prepared to celebrate Christmas. Traditionally, Christmas is a time for coming home to our family and friends. It is a wonderful time to be close to those who are close to us. Also, St. Michael's parish community gathers as a family to express its faith in the birth of Christ, symbolized in most churches by the presence of the Crib. As we stand before the Crib, we reflect on God's infinite love and uniting himself with humanity as one like us.

In the Crib there are many different figures of various sizes. But it is important that everyone looks at the central person, Jesus, as did Joseph and Mary, with the ox and the ass, (representing nature) and see in the birth of Jesus the "Saviour of the world."

Although everything in the crib is simple, poor and humble, it teaches us this is the way God relates to us - a faith in Jesus who became flesh in order to save every human being. Each one of us is represented in the Crib. The question we need to ask is: where am I?

As we stand before the Christmas Crib, let us pray quietly before the Lord, asking Jesus for the gift of faith, love and hope in each of us and our community.

This is my first Christmas at St. Michael's parish. I look forward to serving you in the coming year. I wish you and your families a most blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Fr. Minh Tran

Have a Holy, Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year!

- Fourth Sunday of Advent -

(Year A - December 22, 2019)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

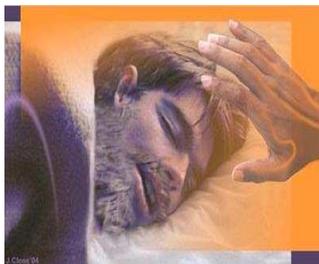
Alleluia, alleluia!

A Virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel:
God-is-with-us. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21
Gospel: Mt 2:13-15,19-23



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

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: James and Noreen Baxter

ANNIVERSARIES:

Joseph, Catherine & Felix Capicchiano, Charles & Marjorie McShanag, Boris, Eva & Andrew Uroda, Ray Gurrie, Peter Bahl, Antonio Cafaro, Gabrielle Shanahan, Manuel Silvestre, Vitorina Jesus and ten year anniversary of Michael Calafiore

BAPTISMS:

Jesse Smith, Jax Hudson, Sophia Tomljanovic, Alexandra Burn and Odafin Chirawu

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Margaret Barry, Angelita Obaldo, Josica Markov, Joe Vanjek, Angelina Bove, Lucy Burville, Sandra Klinge, Barry McFarlane, Veronica Werzek, Ken Fusea, John McDonald, Brad Fowler, Angela Reed, Narciso Baldasso



Roster for Next Sunday

(5th 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 Parish Christmas Celebrations



Christmas Masses:

Dec 24...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	5.00pm	Holy Family (Focus on the children)
	7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	8.00pm	Holy Spirit (Focus on the family)
Dec 25...	9.00am	Holy Spirit
	9.30am	Holy Family

Christmas Masses in Croatian:

Dec 24...	8.00pm	Holy Family
Dec 25...	11.30am	Holy Family

Christmas Mass in Lithuanian:

Dec 25...	9.30am	Ss Peter & Paul's
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PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO weekday Mass at 9.15am on Tues, Dec 24 Holy Family and NO Saturday morning Mass at 9am on Jan 4 and Feb 1 Holy Spirit.

Christmas Rosters 2019:

HOLY FAMILY

Commentator
Lector
Special Ministers

Projectionist

HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers

Projectionist

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

A Scaddan
L Kelly
E Kelly, L Sells, P Ruggeri, J Genova
D Lunn *****
B Bilogrevic

8.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

M Martin
M Kroger
V Trinder, M Martin, *****
R Martin

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

A Henderson
G Tolan
P McGlinchey, A Henderson, N Neeld

D Whelan

9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY

P Gizycki
T McMahon, *****
P Carmody, V Resciniti, *****

C Resciniti

9.00AM CHRISTMAS DAY

F Kearney

F Kearney, *****
L Coles

7.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

R Walker
M Gifford
M Gifford, **G Podbury, R Walker**

B Middleton

******Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.**

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.



St Michael's News:

- ◆ **OFFICE CLOSURE:** Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on December 25, 26, 27 and January 1.
- ◆ **LOST:** Prescription glasses left in Holy Family Church at Christmas Carols on Tuesday night. If found please contact Lane on 0409 291 138 or leave at Parish Office.
- ◆ **HKUD 'LADO' GEELONG:** Croatian Cultural Artistic Association presents their Christmas Concert on Sunday December 22, 6pm at Ss Peter & Paul's Church. Free entry, all welcome!
- ◆ **MICK'S MESSENGER:** The first edition of our Parish Magazine, "Mick's Messenger", is now available at our Churches. Lots of great reading and articles! A big, big thankyou to Debbie Horoba for the many hours that she has poured into getting this up and ready, in time for Advent.

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS:

Advent Sunday - December 22...

"God is With Us"

St Joseph listened to the call of God, his vocation was to trust. Today let us pray that many young people from our parishes and families will hear the call of God and trust enough to say 'yes' to priesthood and consecrated life.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ



Today's Gospel announces that 'God is with us'. In this final week of Advent the following story reminds us that God comes to us in unpredictable ways often with unsettling messages.

'I hurried into the shop to grab some last minute Christmas gifts. I looked at all the people and grumbled to myself. I would be in here forever. I hurried to the toy department and wondered if the grandkids would even play with my gifts.

'My eye caught a little boy holding a doll. He kept touching her hair and he held her so gently. I watched him turn and ask, "Aunty Jane, are you sure I don't have enough money?" Gently, the woman replied, "Emily doesn't need a doll David." The woman went to another aisle. The boy continued to hold the doll. David looked so sad that I couldn't resist asking who the doll was for. "My sister wanted it so badly for Christmas." I told him that maybe Santa was going to bring it. He said "No, Santa can't go where my sister is...I have to give the doll to

Mummy to take to her." I asked him where his sister was. He looked at me with the tear-filled eyes, "She has gone to be with Jesus. Daddy says that Mummy is going to have to go to be with both of them soon too." My heart nearly stopped beating.

'David went on, "I told Daddy to make sure Mummy goes nowhere until I got back from the store. I want Mum to take this doll to Emily."

'While he wasn't looking I reached into my purse and pulled out some cash. "David how about we count that money again?" He grew excited, "I asked Jesus to give me enough money. I just know I have enough." I slipped my money in with his and we began to count it. He looked up from the count and exclaimed, "Jesus has given me enough money for Emily's doll."

'In a few minutes his aunty came back and I wheeled my cart away. I could not keep from thinking about the little boy as I finished my shopping in a totally different spirit than when I had started. 'On the way home I remembered a story in the newspaper several days earlier about a drunk driver hitting a car and killing a little girl and that the mother was left on life support.

Two days before Christmas I read in the paper where the family had turned the machine off. The day before Christmas there was a funeral notice saying that a Requiem Mass would be celebrated on St Stephen's Day for Julia Norris and her daughter Emily. Michael was their husband and father, and their son and brother was David.

'As I gathered with my family in front of an overblown meal which none of us could finish, holding expensive gifts we didn't need and drinking more alcohol than was necessary, I thought "we've lost the plot with Christmas". God-with-us arrives as a simple child in need of love; and in the honour of that day we spend money, eat too much and get drunk.

'I left the table went to my desk and wrote a card for each member of my family. I told them what I'd never been able to say: "I want you to know I love you."

'When they read those cards, my family thought I was losing it, but through David and that doll, God visited me in the last week of Advent and Christmas will never be the same again.'