



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. Minh Tran

OFFICE:

147 Separation St Bell Park 3215

Phone: 5278 1343 Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon -Fri 9am-1pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic

Phone 5278 1343

Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

PASTORAL WORKER:

Sr Anne Lourey

Phone 5278 1343

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family Peter Brunt

Holy Spirit Rachel Holdsworth

St Patrick's John Grant

Separation St, Bell Park

Minerva Rd Manifold Hts

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5278 4634

Phone 5229 8298

Phone 5229 4412

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

Facebook Address:

www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st

RECENT DEATHS:

Anatoliusz Hau, Nada Velcek & Vito Resciniti (Canada)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Carmela Caccamo, Marj Hill, Dimmy Da Costa, Clifton Diniz, Alfred Bird, Nell Cummins, Michael Sparsi & 1 year anniversary of Eric Smith

BAPTISMS:

Alfie Richards & Stella Marinovic

SICK:

Veronica Werzek, Angela Reed, Josica Markov, Giuseppa Forestieri, Julita Aquino



PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS:

I am vaccinated by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. No virus can touch me.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

Congratulations to the students from the Parish Catechetical Program who made their First Reconciliation during the week!

St Michael's News:

- **UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS:** Although restrictions for religious gatherings now allow a maximum of 10 people to attend, the numbers are not workable to open our churches for Masses. We will readdress this after May 31st. Live-streaming of Mass will continue until then. Thank you for your understanding.
- **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** Can be dropped in at the Parish Office at a time that is suitable to you or, if you prefer to make a one off payment, please contact the Parish Office on **52781343**.
- **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Until further notice, the parish office will be opened daily from 9am-1pm.
- **LIVESTREAMING OF MASS:** This Sunday at 10am.
- **CHANNEL 10:** Mass at 6am & CHANNEL 31 or 44 Mass at 11am every Sunday. Mass is also available on You Tube daily, from St Simon's Parish, Rowville.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

(Year A - May 24, 2020)

Acts 1:1-11

Eph 1:17-23

Mt 28: 16-20

A message from Teresa Rhynehart Director of Mission, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Our parishes in lockdown

Great signs of life and hope!

Have you been wondering what is happening in parishes around the archdiocese during the pandemic 'lockdown'? We have discovered that while our churches may be closed, our parishes are thriving and active. Parishes are discovering many innovative ways to pray, communicate, connect, socialise and reach out. Here is some of what the Mission Team is discovering as we have connected with more than two hundred parishes since restrictions came into place.

First, our parish priests and their teams are amazing! They are working hard to lead their communities through this challenging time. We acknowledge and feel a great deal of compassion for priests who are struggling to minister to their people without access to sacraments, with reduced staff and with sometimes outdated parish office and communication systems. We greatly admire the deep heart priests have for the elderly, sick, disabled and lonely people in our communities, and for the huge efforts so many parishes are making to keep in touch and reach out in love to these people.

Prayer

Many of our parishes are doing great work in pivoting towards a strong online presence. Almost half of our parishes are offering Mass online, and many report huge numbers of 'views'—sometimes many more than would usually attend Mass in church on Sunday. A percentage of parishes are also offering Masses in languages other than English, including Vietnamese, Italian, Tagalog (Filipino) and Chin. Many parishes, 14 per cent of them, are offering online Mass during the week, and some daily. One parish is streaming Masses from each of its parish churches in turn, so that parishioners can worship from a familiar setting.

Communication with parishioners

Without Sunday Masses, the usual method of communication via the pulpit and printed bulletins is not possible. Yet communication is more important than ever. Parish leaders have expressed their desire for the parish to remain a strong presence in people's lives. In these disorienting times, they want to both hear and respond to people's needs, and also to communicate the love and care of Jesus and his church.

Parishes are using a range of ways to stay in touch with their parishioners:

75 per cent of parishes are continuing with a weekly 'bulletin', which might take a variety of forms, such the usual print version for people to collect from outside the church, or weekly website and/or email updates.

20 per cent of parishes have sent at least one letter by mail to everyone on their database.

29 per cent of parishes have systematically phoned their parishioners. Some are regularly phoning elderly people who live alone, in some cases more than once a week. Others are phoning parishioners they don't have an email address for, in order to improve their database for online communications

Websites and Facebook

The parish website is seen by many priests as a crucial 'front door' to the parish—both for parishioners and for others curious about the parish.

Over coming weeks, parishes could ask themselves:

Before the crisis, what would we have considered essential?

During the crisis, what have we done without?

After the crisis, what do we need to leave behind?

After the crisis, what will be essential for mission in our parish?

*Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the
earth. Amen!*