



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

## OFFICE HOURS:

Mon -Fri 9am-5 pm

## PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

## PASTORAL WORKER:

Sr Anne Lourey Phone 5278 1343 Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@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

## Web Page Address:

[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)

## Facebook Address:

[www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

## RECENT DEATHS:

Paul Fernandes, Marcelina Munoz, Rosalia Puglia

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Antonio Rizzo

## SICK:

Veronica Werzek, Josica Markov, Giuseppa Forestieri, Julita Aquino, Fr Philip Godsell, Theresa Vickers, Cheryl Lambert, Brian Grubb

## BAPTISMS:

Xander Diamond, Lillian Budge & Arlo Schmock

## 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 You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



*Welcome*

*We welcome and pray for the children receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist this Sunday and we also pray for grade 6 students from our three parish primary schools who will be Confirmed this coming week!*



## St Michael's News:

- **CHANGE OF TIME FOR MIDWEEK MASSES:** Please note the permanent change to the starting time of both midweek Masses at Holy Spirit Church to 9.15am. Adoration on the Friday will follow Mass.
- **WEEKEND MASS AT HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH:** Please note, commencing next Sunday December 6, the Sunday Mass will return to the original time of **11am**.
- **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Tuesday December 1st, 7pm at the parish office.
- **LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the **2021 Break Open the Word** is now available. Please collect from the parish office when you can.
- **CWL CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** Wednesday December 2nd, 12noon at Pekish, City of Geelong Bowls Club, 7-9 Ballarat Rd, North Geelong. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of \$10 for our luck dip Kris Kringle. We need to have accurate numbers so if you plan to attend please call Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 515 598. Looking forward to seeing all our friends again.
- **2021 COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** Available to purchase for \$9 from the parish office
- **LIVESTREAMING OF MASS:** Today is our last Sunday for livestreaming of Mass.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Year B– 29November, 2020  
Is 63:17-17, 64:1, 3-8  
Cor 1:3-9  
Mk 13:33-37

## Registration for Weekend Masses:

- Mass times:- Saturday 5pm at Ss Peter & Paul
- Sunday 8am at Holy Family
- Sunday 11am at Holy Spirit (Commencing from Sunday Dec 6)

To book your place, please contact the parish office on Monday or Tuesday, either by telephone on 5278 1343 or email [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) to register your contact details and preferred Mass. Confirmation of your booking will be made by Thursday. You can also preregister for mid week Masses or on the day before Mass begins.

Please note, you can only book for the Masses for that current week.

If you are feeling unwell or circumstances do not allow you to attend, please contact the parish office .

Entrance to each church will be via the main entrances where your name will be marked off, and please ensure that you sanitise your hands before entering. At Holy Spirit Church, you may enter via the side entrance also. Masks to be worn during Mass.

At Communion time, sanitiser stations will be set up just before the altar, you must sanitise your hands again before receiving Communion.

## Reflection by Richard Leonard

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might even sit by the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?