



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

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

PARISH SECRETARY: Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: bellpark@cam.org.au Phone 5278 1343

PASTORAL WORKER: Sr Anne Lourey Email: anne.lourey@mercy.org.au Phone: 5278 1343

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	Luke Sheehan	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Shirley Smith

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Colley-Johnston; Milan Stante

BAPTISMS: Rosie Cleary; Lani Godycki; Isaac Ivisic; Allie Palmer; Bodhi & Ryder Pekin

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Helen Dean; Cam Resciniti



St Michael's Parish is committed to upholding the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. Through our behaviour we show we are followers of Jesus who cares for all the children, the vulnerable.... If you have any questions or concerns, the parish safeguarding committee of Louise Iacobaccio; Bernadette Bilogrevic; Marg Gifford or Joan Mann can be contacted on 5278 1343 or 0408 823 274.

A REMINDER: Children must be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian at all times!

We acknowledge the living culture of the Wathaurong People, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in this region.

SECOND SUND OF ADVENT

(Year A/1—4 December 2022)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!



TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 11:1-10

2nd: Rom 15:4-9

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

2nd: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

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 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS—



CHRISTMAS MASSES...

December 24:

5pm Holy Family Church (Family Mass)
5pm Ss Peter & Paul's Church
8pm Holy Spirit Church

December 25:

9am Holy Spirit Church
9am Holy Family Church

Christmas Masses in Croatian:

Dec 24 8pm Holy Family Church
Dec 25 11am Holy Family Church

2nd Rite Reconciliation:

Tues Dec 13... 7pm Holy Family Church



ST MICHAEL'S

JESSE TREE CHRISTMAS GIVING—

This year there will be a Jesse Tree for each of our Churches. If you would like to support the annual St Vincent de Paul Appeal, a gift voucher (no food or presents this year) would be ideal. Please drop the vouchers in at the parish office or at Mass up until December 18.



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS

Tuesday Dec 6	Mairos & Madeiros Family Members
Wednesday Dec 7	Lukesic & Tucak Family Members
Thursday Dec 8	Vanjek Family Members
Friday Dec 9	Wawrzon Family Members

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	A Don
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

L Strzelecki
M Martin
L Vannata
L Fossey
R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator	K Saunders
Lectors	D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers	J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers	C Marcantonio
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	J Mann 0488 784 802



St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols

Sunday December 11, 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Holy Family Church.

A warm welcome to family and friends to attend a Christmas Carols afternoon of festive and spirited cheer to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



St Michael's News

- **PART TIME POSITION:** St Michael's Parish is looking to employ a Parish Mission and Committees' Coordinator to join the Parish Team in February 2023. The role is for 12 hours per week, with negotiable days and work periods. If you know of anybody who may be interested, please ask them to contact the parish office on 5278 1343 so that we can provide a more detailed job description.
- **PLT & CHILDSAFEGUARDING COMMITTEES:** There are currently vacancies on both committees and we invite new members to join our teams and would love to hear from you. The committee position would be for a minimum period of two years and attendance at three or four meetings per year. The committee role is very straight forward with just a few procedures involved. Please contact the Parish Office on 5278 143 for more information.
- **ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH NAMES:** The last parish bulletin for 2022 will be December 25 and the next bulletin for 2023 will be on January 29. If you wish to add any names to be prayed for in the Prayers of the Faithful during this time, please email details to bellpark@cam.org.au or contact the parish office on 5278 1343, up until December 21.
- **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Monday December 5, 6.30pm at R.S.L. Belmont. Please R.S.V.P. to Liz by November 30 on 0411 243 382. Look forward to seeing you all there!
- **CWL:** The CWL will be selling raffle tickets for a Christmas hamper at Mass for the next three weekends. Proceeds will go to the charities we support here and overseas.
The Christmas lunch for the CWL will be held on **Wednesday December 7, 12noon** at Moorabool Valley Chocolates, 320 Ballarat Road, Batesford. Please confirm your attendance with Tricia 0413 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598 by Monday December 5. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of \$10 for our Kris Kringle lucky dip. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** Now on sale for \$10 at all Churches and the Parish Office
- **CUPPA & CHAT AFTER THE 9.00am MASS SUNDAY:** Parishioners are welcome to catch up for a cuppa & chat after Mass in the Parish Community Centre.

Community News:

- **ST BERNARD'S CHURCH** will be screening Pope Francis' film **'The Letter'** to launch the St Bernard's Laudato Si' Action Plan, on **Wed 7 December 7.00-9.00pm**. [View trailer: Official Trailer](#) | The Letter: Laudato Si Folm. All welcome, free screening.
- **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together of food and friends for our Christmas Dinner. **Tuesday, 13 December 2022 at 6.00pm** at **The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, Cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Road, Belmont**. Purchase of **meals and drinks at your own cost**. If you wish to come to the dinner, please phone or text Michael 0431 959 584 or Joan 0429 215 111 by Friday, 9 December.
- **FRIENDS OF FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG, CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2022:** A special Christmas gathering on Saturday, December 10, 1.30 - 4pm at the Hibernian Room, St Mary's Parish, 150 Yarra St Geelong. Afternoon tea served and small Christmas gifts exchanged. Pre-booking is a must. Call or text your name to Tricia on 0414 672 267 to book (RSVP by Friday noon, December 9).
- **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS (SIMBANG GABI):** St Francis Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio from December 16 until December 24 at 5.30am every morning. For more information, please contact Adela Buaya on 0409 135 589. All are most welcome.

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS 2022:

HOLY FAMILY

Commentator A Scaddan
Lector S Costa, E Siketa
Special Ministers M Giles; P Ruggeri; J Genova
Projectionist ****
Collectors M Scaddan, L Kelly, F Pellizzeri

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9.00AM CHRISTMAS DAY

F O'Neill
M Scaddan; T McMahon
D Lunn, **** ****
A Bird
D Lunn, M Scaddan, **** ****



HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator T McShanag
Lectors M Kroger
Special Ministers Mass Concelebrated
Projectionist L Coles
Collectors T McShanag, ****

8PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY

M Burn
F Kearney
L Fossey
B Bilogrevic
J O'Neill, ****

Ss PETER & PAUL'S

Commentator M Gifford
Lectors G Tolan
Special Ministers P McGlinchey; A Henderson; N Neeld
Collectors P McGlinchey, N Tuddenham; J Vecci; S O'Shea; G Booth; C Brown.

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

******PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP.**

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Even in Church circles these days it is quite common to engage a management consultancy company to help find people for a particular diocesan job. This is a good idea and often these companies find excellent people for the task.

I recently saw a consultancy profile, however, for a diocese seeking a lay chancellor. We all know these people must be upright citizens, but I am convinced that Jesus himself may have been challenged to fill this job description! Apart from having degrees in civil and canon law, the desired applicant had to have 'outstanding Catholic faith, an exemplary moral character and have nothing in his or her background that could cause the Church embarrassment or scandal in the future.'

A couple of days later I came across a tongue-in-cheek summary of a management consultant's report on those who had applied to lead the earliest Christian Church:

'John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and picks fights in public with religious leaders.

'Peter: Has a bad temper, even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive. A loose cannon.

'Paul: Powerful, CEO type of leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

'Jesus: Has been popular at times, but once when his following grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and it dwindled down to some faithful women and his best friend. Seldom stays in one place very long.

'Judas: His references are solid. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. Great possibilities here.'

In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much.

Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility.

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.'

If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again.

May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'

@Richard Leonard.