



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: Fr Joseph Hynan; Raymond Tremul

ANNIVERSARIES: Lorraine Stacey; Myrtle McDonnell; Peter O'Shea; Salvatore & Maria Modica; Salvatore & Rosa Valentino; Antonio & Maria De Angelis; Boris, Eva & Andrew Uroda; Vincenzo Cammarere; Francesca, Rocco & Salvatore Danieli. Stjepan Majstorovic; Magdalena Lehpamer; Domenico Del Vecchio (1 month anniversary); Joao Henriques (6 month anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Oscar Blaszczyk; Lucy Rhodes; Serephina Larmah-Aseno; Sadie Boyd; Saith Bourke; Persephine Krieger; Macy & Lenny Sheringham.



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A/1—18 December 2022)

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!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 7: 10-14

2nd: Romans 1: 1-7

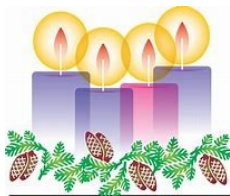
Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd: Hebrew 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

Christmas Mass in Lithuanian:

Dec 25 9am Ss Peter & Paul's Church

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS 2022:

HOLY FAMILY

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

5.00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9.00AM CHRISTMAS DAY

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

HOLY SPIRIT

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

8PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY

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



Ss PETER & PAUL'S

Commentator M Gifford
Lectors G Tolan
Special Ministers P McGlinchey; M Gifford, 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.**



Wishing our St Michael's Parishioners a safe and Happy Christmas & the best for 2023! The Parish Office will close on December 23 and reopen on Wednesday January 25, 2023.



St Michael's News

- **THANK YOU!THANK YOU!** A special note of thanks to Meg Kroger, participants and all who helped organise the Parish Carols Event last Sunday. A job well done!
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** The normal 11am weekend Mass at Holy Spirit on December 25 is cancelled.
 - **ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH NAMES:** The last parish bulletin for 2022 is next Sunday December 25 and the next bulletin for 2023 will be on January 29. Names to be given to the office by December 21. If you wish to add any names to be prayed for in the Prayers of the Faithful after this time, please speak to the Mass co-ordinator prior to the start of Mass.
 - **CWL: Christmas Raffle,** 1st Prize John Clova, Bell Park, 2nd Prize Ryan & Laura Allison, Charlemont. Amount raised \$415. Thank you for supporting our raffle.
- 2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** On sale for \$10 at all Churches and the Parish Office up until December 23.
- **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:

- **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.
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS:** Thank the Almighty God for 2022 and welcome 2023 in the presence of the Lord. There will be Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass at **St Mary MacKillop Church, Bannockburn at 11pm on 31st December.** All are welcome! A cuppa and a fellowship will follow.
- **ANNUAL GEELONG SINULOG FIESTA CELEBRATION OF THE INFANT JESUS: STO. NINO** (also known as the Infant of Prague). You are invited to attend -
 - **9 day novena** at 6pm on the **5-13 January 2023** at **St Francis Xavier Corio.**
 - **Feast Celebration procession** followed by mass on **14 January at 10am, St Francis Xavier Corio.** There is Filipino cultural dances, and fellowship with all the different parish communities in Geelong and Melbourne. Please contact Robert/Lina at 0411 839 827 for more info.
- **NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?** If you need to dispose of a vehicle either from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, please consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Geelong Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status which for nine years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims/survivors of church-related sexual abuse.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", please contact Fr Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360, or frkdillon@outlook.com.au) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605, or adamkaali@hotmail.com).
- **PARISH SVDP:** Vinnies have a supply of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) to give away. To collect a box of (5) tests please pick up from the Parish Office.
- **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th-28th April 2023. if interested please visit our Parish Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr Bill Edebohis 0427 879 733.

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli's Christmas Reflection:

In his Christmas Wish for 2022, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli reflects on the God who came to dwell with us and for us, touching the earth with the bare soles of his feet. He invites us to 'Stand barefoot with Jesus', encouraging us this Christmas and in the year ahead, 'To come before him barefoot in our frailties yet alive in the wonder of our humanity - made in his image - ready and willing to live as the people of God he has created us to be—fraternally, loving, caringly; generous, forgiving and hopeful.

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

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, "Auntie 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.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA:

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

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