



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
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Web Page Address:
www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Barry Carter; Irene Bodnar

ANNIVERSARIES: Colleen Carroll; Reg Doherty; Teresa Bahl; Haberman Family Members; Josephine Matthews; Jozef & Anna Kot; Jozef Lichtenfeld; Molly Lourey; Bruno Stranieri (1st year Anniversary); Ingrid Weber (6 weeks since death).

BAPTISMS: Tilly Davis

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Clare Mathimugan; Fr Philip Godsell; Cheryl Lambert; Paul Secon; Harry Howard;



MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED THIS SUNDAY AT 10AM



St Michael's Parish is committed to upholding the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

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

Thirtieth Sunday in ordinary time (Year B/1- 24 October 2021)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Jer 31:7-9
2nd: Heb 5:1-6
Gospel: Mk 10:46-52

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st: Deut 6:2-6
2nd: Heb 7:23-28
Gospel: Mk 12:28-34

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 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.

RECOMMENCEMENT OF WEEKEND MASSES ON NOVEMBER 6 & 7 AT ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

Dear Parishioners,

As outlined in last week's parish bulletin, and in accordance with the proposed government roadmap out of lockdown, delivering the national plan with 80% of 16 years & over vaccinated, we are finally, happy to advise that our weekend Masses will recommence on the weekend of **November 6 & 7**, for all **fully vaccinated attendees 16+ years and those who hold a valid exemption.**

It is important and necessary that you present a copy of your vaccination or exemption status, either by hard copy or via the app on your mobile, to the covid marshal before entering the church.

Unfortunately, without this necessary 'proof', you will not be permitted to enter, as the parish risk **fines of possible further lockdown**, if we are not 100% adhering to this rule.

Naturally, we are very reluctant to be in a position of refusing entry to those who are not fully vaccinated. However, the **alternative** is to continue with the live streaming of Mass each Sunday and limit weekday Mass attendance to 20 people, whose vaccination status is unknown.

Fr Minh has kindly introduced a new weekly 5pm Mass at Holy Family Church, beginning on Sunday November 7, for parishioners with an 'unknown vaccination status'. Please note, a maximum of **20** can attend and this is for St Michael's Parish Parishioners only. It is necessary that you book your attendance each week and if demand is high, there will be a roster system in place.

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion with Fr Minh, please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343 to book a time.

The Archbishop & other faith leaders continue to consult with the Government re: the management of these restrictions and we will keep you informed, as we know more.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these trying times and may God Bless you.

Fr Minh & Parish Staff.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER

WEEKEND MASSES: DUE TO CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE, OUR WEEKEND MASSES ARE CURRENTLY CANCELLED. MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK AT 10AM ON SUNDAY MORNING.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family: 9.15am Mon & Tues (Followed by Novena to St Anthony),
8.45am (Rosary before Mass on Mon & Tues)

Holy Spirit: 9.15am Wed, 9.15am Fri. (Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

Reconciliation after Friday Mass each week.

BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish for new bookings

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Tues...	<i>Meditation Group</i>	<i>5.30pm</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
Fri.:	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

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.



SAFETY
FIRST

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CHILDREN'S WEEK: 23 - 31 October 2021** is a national celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children and presents an opportunity to consider the conditions in society which affect the lives and future of our own children. The theme this year is: *Children have the right to choose their friends and safely connect with others.* To celebrate Children's Week, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is taking this opportunity to reach out to parents, carers and children in our parishes to raise awareness to the issue of online safety. In doing so, we hope to support the efforts of parents and carers to better understand online safety. As children connect to activities in their parish, with peers and family. For more information see the Catholic Archdiocese website.
- ◆ **REMEMBRANCE MASS 2021** - The Annual Remembrance Mass will be livestreamed on Friday November, 5th at 7pm.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING MEETING:** Wednesday October 27, 2pm - Parish Community Centre.
- ◆ **LITURGY MEETING:** Tuesday November 9, 7pm - Parish Community Centre.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Wednesday November 10, 7pm - Parish Community Centre.
- ◆ **CRAFT AND CONVERSATION:** We meet at Holy Family Community Centre Thursday afternoons, 2-4pm. It is most Thursdays so keep an eye on the dates. Naturally if another lockdown/stay at home order occurs, we are cancelled. Dates are: Oct 28; Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25; Dec 2 & 9 (Christmas Break). **To book your seat**, please contact Debbie on 0409 416 945 as we do have a space limit to adhere to.

READERS ROSTER

6 & 7 November 2021 (Church opening)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators C O'Brien
Lectors G Podbury
Special Ministers N Neeld, P McGlinchey
Welcomers
Projectionist
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
G Wright,
L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators R Allum
Lectors V Pavlovic
Special Ministers J Bartolo, Peter McBride
Welcomers K McArthur, L. Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

J Siketa
M Bird, M Scaddan
E Karakchi, B Kline, Horoba
M& E Hoffman
C Resciniti
J Mann, 0488 784 802

Sunday 24 Oct 2021

REFLECTION by Richard Leonard

One Monday, three priests, a Franciscan, a Dominican and a Jesuit were having a hard time on the golf course. The golfers in front of the priests were the slowest and worst they had ever seen. Golf balls were going everywhere. Against golfing etiquette, the group never asked the priests to 'play through'. By the 18th hole the priests were furious. At the clubhouse, just as they were going over to blast the group, they were told that the men were blind.

The Franciscan, moved with remorse at how they had spoken about the group, said to the Dominican and the Jesuit, 'I am going to say Mass every day that God may grant them a miracle and restore their sight'. The Dominican, equally filled with regret, told the Jesuit and the Franciscan that he was going to get the blind men an appointment with the best eye surgeon in town. The Jesuit, however, looked at the Franciscan and the Dominican and declared, 'I can't see why they don't play at night!'

To have any type of disability in first century Palestine not only meant financial hardship, but social segregation. Because Jesus' contemporaries did not understand the causes of disability and illness they assumed it was, to some degree, a curse sent by God in punishment for sins. They also thought the curse could be caught. So the blind, the lame, the crippled, the leper and the bleeder were desperately poor and socially outcast. Incredibly in our day, with all our supposed sophistication, some Christians have made similar statements about God cursing gay people with AIDS. Given the way Jesus acts toward those he encounters with illness, we know that God never sends disease as a curse for sin.

Bartimeaus is, however, a desperate man and in the story he acts desperately, calling out until he is heard. And in one of the strangest questions in the Gospel, Jesus asks a blind man what it is he wants. Maybe Jesus wants Bartimeaus to name his deepest desire. Maybe Jesus knows that it is, often, the unseen hurt that is the most diseased and needs healing first. Whatever of his motives, Jesus' question gives the man dignity.

American dramatist, Michael Moynahan, has written a moving play entitled *Bartimeaus* which centres around that pivotal question, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. The action of the parable, as we have it in the Gospel, freezes when Jesus puts the question.

As Bartimeaus considers his options, he hears the voices of those he might have to look at if he regains his sight. The poor remind him that, 'once before you could see and what you saw disgusted you'. The hungry ask, 'do you have the courage to experience and share my hunger?'. The elderly inquire whether he wants to see those 'put away because we remind you of the frailty of life'. The captives challenge him to see those 'unjustly bound and oppressed'. And finally the Self wants to know, 'Are you willing to look inside yourself to see your beauty and ugliness, darkness and light?'. It's a gripping scene.

It reminds us all that sight, and the insight that can come from what we see, bestows on us the dignity of having options and the responsibility to do something about what we behold. We are in the position of making choices about what we look at. Not everything in the world needs to be seen. There is enough violence and abuse of human dignity in real life to discourage us from seeking out most fictionalised portrayals of it. We cannot, however, let ourselves off the hook in regard to seeing the world as it is and doing something about creating a better vision of humanity for everyone, everywhere.

Michael Moynahan's play finishes, like the Gospel story, with Bartimeaus requesting from Jesus the gift of sight. But in the play, in a powerful twist, as Bartimeaus follows Jesus on the path, he stops, turns and sees the human faces behind the challenging voices. He goes back, embraces them and together they walk the Christian path.

In this Eucharist, then, the same question is put by Jesus to us, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. And if our answer is to have sight or insight, then let's also pray for the courage to shoulder the responsibility that comes with every gift.

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