



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: Connie Vilanti; Ana Jerkovic; Peter Fusea

ANNIVERSARIES: Nina Croce; David Grant; Ante Jurica; Antonio Bagnato; Bernard Tolan;
 Alison & Ida Da Costa; Mario Siketa; Ida Radnic; Rosolino Spitale; Angelina De Palma;
 Antonio Cicero (10th Anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Reuben Adams; Bobby Davis; Mitchell Ellett; Abigail Noonan



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—5 February 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 58:7-10

2nd: 1 Cor 2: 1-5

Gospel: Matt 5:13-16

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Sir 15:15-20

2nd: 1 Cor 2:6-10

Gospel: Matt 5:17-37

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 at Prayer



WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English...9.00am Sunday

Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

Slovenian.12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Gee-

Saturday 5.00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family: 9.15am **Tuesday & Thursday** (Followed by Novena to St Anthony),

8.45am (Rosary before Mass on Tues & Thurs)

Holy Spirit: 9.15am **Wednesday**, 9.15am **Friday**. (Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

Reconciliation after Friday Mass each week.

BAPTISMS: Please contact the Parish for new bookings

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Tuesday:.. Meditation Group 5.30pm Parish Community Centre

Legion of Mary 10.00am Parish Community Centre

Friday Divine Mercy 3.00pm Holy Spirit Church

STATUE OF OUR LADY:

If you are interested in having the statue in your home, please phone Cristita on 0435 780 716

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	B Middleton
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

Lord our God,

Keep us in your Spirit. Surround us with your protection,
so that in body and soul we may praise your might and be joyful even in a world full of evil.

Shine into our hearts, that we may discern what is right and good and eternal.

May you do more than we can ask or understand for those who still walk in darkness far away from you. May your eternal mercy enfold them, and may the earth be filled with thanks to you,
the Creator and Father of us all. Amen.



Liturgy at st Michael's

- ♦ **PARISH LITURGY MEETING:** Thursday Feb 23, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.
- ♦ **SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** This program is for children Gr3 or above who attend non-Catholic primary schools but are Catholic. The course will run over 4 Sunday morning sessions, from 8.45am—10am. Enrolments close on Mon 20 February. To enrol or enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ♦ **CATHOLICCARE VIC—PASTORAL CARE APPEAL 2023:** Next weekend **Feb 11/12** is the Pastoral Care Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes, so that the vital work of the Catholic Chaplains can continue. The Chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres, Your gift can help people find comfort and hope, as they go through some of their darkest times of their life. There will be an extra 3rd collection taken up after communion, or please donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.



St Michael's News

- ♦ **CUPPA & CHAT AFTER THE 9.00am MASS SUNDAY:** Parishioners are welcome to catch up for a cuppa & chat each Sunday after Mass in the Parish Community Centre.
- ♦ **PART TIME POSITION:** St Michael's Parish is looking to employ a Parish Mission and Committees' Coordinator to join the Parish Team. The role is for 12 hours per week, with negotiable days and work periods. If you know or any body who may be interested, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 so that we can provide a more detailed job description.
- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch, Great Western Hotel, Shannon Avenue; 12.30pm Monday 6th February. See you There!

Community News:

- ♦ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT:** We will start our year of meetings on Saturday February 18 and then every third Saturday. We welcome people with a disability, family and friends to our time of Sharing; Gospel activities; Prayer and Fiesta fun. Venue: St Mary's Hibernian Hall, 150 Yarra St, Geelong. Meet at 2pm-4.30pm. Enquiries— Tricia O'Keeffe 0414 672 267; www.faithandlight.org international
- ♦ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our first dinner for 2023. On Tuesday February 14; 6pm at The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Rd Belmont. Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to attend, please ph or text Michael 0431 959 584 or Joan 0429 215 111 by Friday Feb 10.
- ♦ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA CONCERTS:** Sunday February 26. 3pm; Stephen Marsh— baritone, Kym Alexandra Dillon—piano. **THEN AND NOW at St Joseph's College Performing Arts Centre**, 135 Aphrasia St, Newtown (entry via Gate 4, Queens Rd) Tickets \$45/\$40. Sunday March 26, 3pm: **EASTER CONCERT** Windfire Choir
- ♦ **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 visit our Parish Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or Oh: Fr Bill Edebohis 0427 879 733.
- ♦ **CATHOLICCARE VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED:** Qualified and experienced Volunteer Tutors are needed to assist newly arrived refugee students in Years 11 & 12 at Northern Bay College, to support and improve their study in the following subjects: **General Maths; Chemistry; Physics; English; Biology.** This opportunity may suit retired teachers or university students studying these subjects, or anyone with expertise in one of these areas. Training sessions will be provided about the school curriculum and working with students who have English as a second language. This provides a rewarding volunteer experience within Refugee settlement and Education environments. Location & School: **VCE Centre, Northern Bay College, Goldsworthy Road Campus Corio.** Thursday afternoons (3.15-4.30pm) during school terms Contact details:-(03)5337 8926; Email Madi.Hyland@catholiccarevic.org.au



REFLECTION by Richard Leonard

Doctors and dietitians would have some difficulty with the first part of today's Gospel. Jesus does not seem to know that salt is bad for hypertension and cholesterol! Just as health professionals are encouraging us to be careful in using salt, Jesus is telling us to keep it up. Salt in Jesus' day, and for centuries before and after, was the primary preserving agent for food. That day-to-day usage gives us a clue as to the challenge being laid before us.

We are told that if salt has lost its taste it's good for nothing. So the challenge is to keep it fresh so it can keep doing its job. Jesus suggests that, in the same way, we have to be on guard to make sure that our faith remains fresh so it's able to do its job as well.

The fifth and sixth chapters of Matthew's Gospel are devoted to describing the elements of Christian faith. At the start of the fifth chapter we have the Beatitudes that tell us that the presence of God can be discovered in all of life's situations. It reminds us that as Christians we can find God wherever we want to. The rest of these two chapters go on to give us specific directions about the dangers and aides to faith.

Jesus tells us that a hollow attachment to the letter of the law, unbridled anger, an inability to forgive, being unfaithful in marriage, seeking revenge on our enemies, not being true to our word and being enslaved by money are all examples of bad faith. Think for a moment of people you know who are trapped by any of these vicious forces. It's sad to see the energy it takes them to remain angry, greedy, legalistic, fraudulent and unforgiving.

More positively Jesus tells us in these chapters that prayer, being generous to the poor, being discerning about whom we spend time with and what we see and hear, and going without things we often consider essential are helpful to living a faith-filled life. Think for a moment of people you know who live lives like this. Their detachment, sense of generosity and ease with others stands out in our stress-ridden world.

My professor of liturgy used to say 'Good liturgy enlivens faith and bad liturgy deadens it.' This is the same message Jesus gives us today about faith in general. It's crazy for us to keep spending time with people and doing things that deaden our faith. We know the impact of these people or activities by the bad taste they leave in our mouths. After an encounter with them or it we usually tell ourselves that we must not go back for more, but the bad spirit seduces us into repeating the entire episode with frightening frequency. St Ignatius Loyola tells us that in these situations we have to deal with the bad spirit quickly and consistently and learn a new pattern of behaviour that will lead us away from darkness into the light.

The job of faith is to enable us to live out and build Christ's reign of justice and love in this world as a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. May this Eucharist enable us to seek out the people and places that will see the saltiness of our faith remain fresh and interesting so that we will have every chance of preserving our faith in the dryer times, and of our faith in Jesus preserving us in the face of the trials and tests that come our way.

© Richard Leonard SJ

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We live in a world where appearances frequently matter more than they should. Contrary to this predominating tendency, Jesus teaches us that what we do flows from who and what we are. We can enlighten the world with the message of the gospel, because our lives have been transformed by that gospel and now we ourselves are light for others. We can serve others in various ways, only because we have been saved by God's grace and now we are agents of that grace in the lives of others. Our own renewal becomes the means through which God renews the world.

This may sound grandiose, but it isn't. It is the truth about the way God works. Extraordinary things are accomplished through ordinary people. Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter; some of the apostles were fishermen; Paul was a tentmaker; we are clerks and teachers, bus drivers and doctors, bank tellers and engineers. Like Paul we come to ministry in weakness and fear and much trembling. It is the Spirit and power of God that work the wonders, and God works them through mundane elements of life such as light and salt.

As children, many of us learned the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. We learned that we can practise them in every walk of life. Today's readings remind us of this. We may not be asked to perform extraordinary feats, but all disciples of Jesus are called upon to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.

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