



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: Sheila Collins; Elsie Rasmussen; Joyce Hoare; Daniela Lusetic; Maria Linh.

ANNIVERSARIES: Vincenzo, Elisabetta & Giuseppe Pitaro; Elsie Gillett; Salvatore & Tonino Rotiroti; Pietro Torre; Giuseppe Rao; Mary Smith; 1st Anniversary of Maria Rosa Marafioti & Frank Atchison

BAPTISMS: Sienna Andreatta; Juniper, Romilly & Zipporah Gist; Remi Broom; Hudson Braddock

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nicholas Teague



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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—12 February 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st Sirach 15:15-20	1st Lev 19:1-2, 17-18
2nd 1 Cor 2:6-10	2nd 1 Cor 3:16-23
Gospel: Matt 5:17-37	Gospel: Matt 5:38-48

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: long West:

English...9.00am Sunday 11am Sunday
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday
Slovenian.12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

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 or June on 0432 257 568

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators
Lectors K Maddalena
Special Ministers K Maddalena ****
Welcomers
Projectionist
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Kroger
J McKenzie

L Fossey
F Kearney

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators A Scaddan
Lectors H Verdnik; T McMahon
Special Ministers M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri
Welcomers
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802

PROJECT COMPASSION 2023

Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity

The theme of Project Compassion is **For all Future Generations**. It reminds us that what we do today can have an impact **For All Future Generations**. This message invites us to step up for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival and those whose needs at this time are far beyond ours. By putting compassion into action, we can make a difference today. **For All Future Generations**. Project Compassion boxes will be available in the churches from next weekend.

Liturgy at st Michael's

- ♦ **ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES- FEBRUARY 22**
9.15am... Holy Spirit Church (Whole school in attendance)
9.15am... Holy Family Church (Whole school in attendance)
- ♦ **St Michael's Lenten Program 2023**—An invitation goes out to those who would like to be involved in a small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. **When: Thursday evenings during Lent at 7pm starting on 23 February** in the sun room at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. To be part of this, please contact the **Parish Office** on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au
- ♦ **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:** This weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing, illness, pain, loneliness, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or 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.

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
- ♦ **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 Fr Michael Tate

Truth-Telling

We have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ... instead let your "yes" mean *yes* and your "no" mean *no*. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is our privilege as adopted children of God to *use* God's name in that way. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an *abuse*.

Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two-tiered way of speaking the truth.

Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person *truthes*.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. As a Church, we need to heed this passage and listen to the epistle of St James recalling this passage almost verbatim. (James 5:12-13)

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church herself heeds the Great Commission: 'Teach them to keep *all* that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus continues to instruct the disciples in the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The readings for today focus our attention on the nature of true wisdom. It is this true wisdom which prompts us to choose the right course of action. It is true wisdom that directs us in our interpretation of the law.

The longer we live, the more we realise that life experiences open up for us a series of choices. With these choices we chart the path that we will take. Circumstances might be thrust on us, but we can still make choices about how we will deal with them. Obedient people do what they are told; wise people choose what good they will do. True wisdom calls us to choose life and whatever enhances life. If we are truly wise, we will come to realise that what was acceptable and life-enhancing in one situation may not be appropriate in another. Life is fluid, and our thinking and acting must be flexible enough to adapt when necessary.

True wisdom, which comes to us through the Spirit, will enrich us with insight into life in ways we never thought possible. We will realise where and how we fit into the vast and interrelated ecosystems of the universe, and we will be overawed with the majesty and intricacy of its workings. We will understand once and for all that the value of anything is determined by its capacity to enrich life, and we will commit ourselves to and cherish every manifestation of that life.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.