



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: Linda De Federico

ANNIVERSARIES: Rocco Ciccone (5th year anniversary); Michael Sharry; Josip Dubrovic (Snr); Domenico Mileto; Robert Neeld; Vitorina Gomes; Maria De Abrue; Vitorina De Jesus;

BAPTISMS: Edward Bello-Hernandez; Audrey & Lili Gleeson; Marceline Steer; Penelope Counsel; Sage & Wren Ferrington; Millie Phelan-Cooper; Spencer Spiteri; Alexander Verlaan

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nicholas Teague; Helen Dean



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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—19 February 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God
 Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st Lev 19:1-2, 17-18	1st Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7
2nd 1 Cor 3:16-23	2nd Rom 5:12-19
Gospel: Matt 5:38-48	Gospel: Matt 4:1-11

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 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

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

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

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators A Henderson
Lectors G Tolan
Special Ministers A Henderson; G Tolan
Welcomers
Projectionist B Middleton
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Burn
J Fraatz
L Fossey, L Vannata
L Fossey
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators M Lukesic
Lectors F O'Neill; P Gizycki
Special Ministers D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti
Welcomers: V Resciniti
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802

Lent 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. **Thursday evenings during Lent at 7pm starting on 23 February** 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.

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 this Mon 20 February and the program begins on Sunday Feb 26. To enrol or enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.

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.
- ♦ **PASTORAL CARE APPEAL 2023—** Last weekend, we conducted the annual Pastoral Care Appeal in our parish. Thank you to all who supported this Appeal, \$1138.35 was generously donated. If you still wish to donate or would like more information about the Chaplaincy Services, please visit www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.
- ♦ **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 of any body who may be interested, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 so that we can provide a more detailed job description.

Community News:

- ♦ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT** - meetings will be held 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.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023** - World Youth Day is a way for our Church to offer a life-changing adventure for your people and a powerful opportunity for them to encounter Jesus Christ. Archbishop Comensoli is inviting youth across the Archdiocese, ages 16-35, to journey with him and more than 500 others from Melbourne to Lisbon, Portugal, in August. Many young people have already registered to join the Archdiocesan pilgrimage. Registrations close in mid-March. We are delighted to host an extra information session **Thursday 23 February 2023, 7.30pm-9pm**. Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Enquiries 9926 5761 or at wyd@cam.org.au. Perfect for parish leaders, priests, parents and, of course, young people.
- ♦ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** - will be held on **Fri 3 March 2023 at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong at 11am**. The theme of the Service is **'I have heard about your faithy'** prepared by the people of Taiwan. Our Guest Speaker is Captain Jim Weymouth from the Salvation Army who has spent some time in this part of the world. Everyone is most welcome. Further info, please ring **Sue O'Donoghue 0429 794 331**
- ♦ **2023 SVDP FESTIVAL MASS** - will be held on Thurs **March 9, Nazareth Church Grovedale at 7pm**, followed by commissioning of presidents & volunteers and presentation of service awards. A key feature of the night will be the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Grovedale Conference. Former members of Grovedale Conference are particularly invited to attend. The night will conclude with supper and an informal gathering.
- ♦ **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2023** - Fr Joseph Sebastian at Meredith Parish is conducting a pilgrimage trip to the Holy Land in October this year. There will be an information session with Rajesh from Magi Pilgrimages on Sunday March 5 where he will present the proposed itinerary and you are cordially invited to join us at 12 midday, St Mary Mackillop Church, Bannockburn. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office on 5286 1230.
- ♦ **CLONARD COLLEGE OPEN DAY 2023** - Wednesday March 15 until Friday March 24. There will be multiple information and tour sessions. Bookings are essential via www.clonard.vic.edu.au. Enrolments for Year 7 close on Friday 5 May 2023.
- ♦ **SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL** - Bishop Robert Rabbat's Syrian Earthquake Appeal. Contributions can be made by donating to: MCF DGR Account; Ref: Syrian Appeal; BSB 062 784; Account 100011493. Donations are tax deductible and for a receipt please email: mcf@melkite.org.au or contact 02 9750 5514 for more information. We also ask for your thoughts and prayers for all who are impacted by the devastating earthquake, as well as volunteers and emergency workers assisting them in their needs at this challenging time.

Project Compassion Sunday 18 & 19 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and ***For All Future Generations***.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.



As St Pope John Paul II said, **“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

At times it seems we have rewritten the ‘Golden Rule’ to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today’s reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.

© Dianne Bergant CSA.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Warfare and the Church

‘Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.’ Is Jesus advocating rather static fault-less-ness? Not very appealing! No, the Greek word is closer to the idea of a perfect wine – one that has matured and has reached its full potential. So, Our Lord is saying, ‘Be a person who is everything you are capable of being.’

Our Lord gives a striking example of the challenge. God does not withhold life-giving sun and rain from people because they are bad or dishonest, nor extinguish the life of human beings because they are evil, because they are enemies.

What are the implications for Church teaching on capital punishment or warfare? Note that Jesus’ command: ‘You must be ...’ is directed to *You* in the plural. It is communal, social. The Church community must listen. Is the Holy Spirit moving us in a direction not experienced since its first three centuries?

We could pause for a moment to pray on behalf of those who want to do us harm, the better to hear: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers.’

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