



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 - Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic Phone 5278 1343 Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

PASTORAL WORKER:

Sr Anne Lourey Phone 5278 1343 Email: anne.lourey@cam.org.au

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	John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Web Page Address:
www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Mirko Dabicic, Bernie Moloney, Beryl Warren

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jozef Gwizdek, Richard Tolkin, Teresa & Bill Hogan, Angelo Negro, Josie Mullavey, Anne McGlinchey, Kitty Millns

BAPTISMS:

Darcy Bishop, Hugo Manier, Xavier Rudzki

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Stanhope; Fr Philip Godsell; Cheryl Lambert; Jenny Maloney; Carl & Jennifer Stewart; Paul Secen



St Michael's Parish holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the Church. We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

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

- 5th Sunday of Easter -
(Year B/I- May 2, 2021)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, Alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
2nd Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10
Gospel: Jn 15:9-17



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.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators M Carson
Lectors
Special Ministers P McGlinchey
Welcomers
Projectionist B Middleton
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

L Strzelecki
M Martin
V Trinder, L Vannata
L. Fossey
R Martin



HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators K Saunders
Lectors F O'Neill
Special Ministers R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
Welcomers C Marcantonio, L Allum
Projectionist R Allum
Co-Ordinator L Kelly, 0409 291 138

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdnik, E Glynn
V Resciniti, E Glynn
C Resciniti
J Mann, 0488 784 802

COVID SAFE INFORMATION:

- ◆ **QR REGISTRATION:** Please note, it is now a requirement that attendees at all Masses and Church Services must check in on their mobile phone by scanning the QR code located at all entry points. If you do not have access to a mobile, a volunteer will scan you in. Please arrive early.
- ◆ To access this App, please search Services Victoria or visit service.vic.gov.au/check-in.
- ◆ If you require assistance to set up the App on your mobile, help will be provided. Whilst masks are no longer mandatory, please remember to sanitise your hands on entering; continue to adhere to the 1.5m distancing rules, especially when seated in the church, entering & exiting and proceeding to the altar to receive communion.
- ◆ During the 'Sign of the Peace' hand shaking is still a big 'No No' and definitely not permitted. *A wave, smile or friendly gesture is best!*

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

West:

English... 8am and 9.30am Sunday

Croatian... 11am Sunday

Slovenian.. 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong

5.00pm Saturday

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family:

9.15am Tues (Followed by Novena to St Anthony), 9.15am Thurs
(8.45am Rosary before Mass on Tues & Thurs)

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:

Mon...	Rosary Prayer Group	11.00am	Holy Family Community Centre
Tues...	Meditation Group	5.30pm	Holy Family Community Centre
Fri...	Divine Mercy	3.00pm	Holy Spirit Church

Prayer Room is open Mon-Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

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.



Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **2021 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** The Annual Mass Count in the parish begins this weekend & continues on 9th, 16th & 23rd of May.
- ◆ **COMMUNION MINISTERS TO THE SICK:** Meeting for all who minister to the sick at the Parish Community Centre on Tuesday May 4th at 2pm.
- ◆ **RECRUITMENT OF LECTORS, COMMENTATORS, PROJECTIONISTS & SPECIAL MINISTERS:** The parish is currently looking to recruit more volunteers to assist at our weekend Masses. Some of these roles may be on a regular basis or to cover when needed. We would love to hear from you and training & guidance will be provided. Please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 if you are interested or would like more information.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE GRADES 4 & 5 STUDENTS FROM OUR PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST DURING MAY AND JUNE.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL FLOWERS:** Special flowers will be available to purchase next **Sunday May 9th**, at the 8am & 9.30am Masses, Holy Family Church. Money raised will go to help the Missions.
- ◆ **CWL: Our May meeting will be lunch at Pekish**, City of Geelong Bowls, Club, 7-9 Ballarat Road, North Geelong at **12.30pm on Wednesday May 5th**. We need to have accurate numbers so if you plan to attend please call Bernadette 0417 514 598 **by Monday May 3rd**. Hope to see you there.



Community News:

- ◆ **ST BERNARD'S ANNUAL BOOK FAIR:** Sunday 2nd May 8am-2pm, Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Rd Belmont. 1000's of books of all genres at bargain prices; Trash & Treasure stall; Cash sales only.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINER'S CLUB:** Come join us for a two-course evening meal, an interesting guest speaker and the opportunity to meet new friends. This month our guest speaker will be Rebecca Kay from Bapcare speaking about Homecare Packages and My Aged Care. This includes how the process works and how to sign up for care. We are open to members of all faiths. Appetisers begin at 6:15 pm on **Tuesday, 11 May**, followed by a delicious meal and dessert for only \$33 per person at 6:45 pm. We meet at **Capri Receptions** located at **258 Pakington Street, Geelong West**. For more information and reservations, please phone or text **Michael Belleville** at 0431 959 584 by **Friday, 7 May**, the deadline for catering purposes.
- ◆ **ENROLMENTS APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7 2022**, at Clonard College, Sacred Heart College, St Joseph's College and Saint Ignatius College **close on Friday May 7th**.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer.

The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world.

Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.

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