



# St Michael's Parish

Incorporating the Churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

<b>PARISH PRIEST:</b>	<b>Fr. Minh Tran</b>			<b>Web Page Address:</b>	
<b>OFFICE:</b>	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215			<a href="http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au">www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au</a>	
	Phone: 5278 1343 - Email: <a href="mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au">bellpark@cam.org.au</a>			<a href="https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st">www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st</a>	
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm				
<b>PARISH SECRETARY:</b>	Bernadette Bilogrevic	Phone 5278 1343	Email: <a href="mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au">bellpark@cam.org.au</a>		
<b>PASTORAL WORKER:</b>	Sr Anne Lourey	Phone 5278 1343	Email: <a href="mailto:anne.lourey@mercy.org.au">anne.lourey@mercy.org.au</a>		
<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:</b>	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 Sheahan	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412	
	(Acting Principal)				

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Ingrid Weber; Domenico Servello; Marie Brown; Paul Rufus; Sr Anne McMillan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Nobby Da Costa; Walter Booth; Agnes Tuddenham; Carmel Torre-Ruys; Adella Resciniti, Mathildas Fernandes

**BAPTISMS:** James Carmody, Maya Walton

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Clare Magimuthan, Fr Philip Godsell, Cheryl Lambert, Paul Secon, Harry Howard



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

Children must be accompanied to the toilets by a parent of guardian at all times.

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in ordinary time

(Year B/1 - 19 September, 2021)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord upholds my life.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

**TODAY'S READINGS**    **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**1st** Wis 2:12, 17-20  
**2nd:** James 3:16 - 4:3;  
**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37

**1st:** Num 11: 25-29  
**2nd:** James 5: 1-6  
**Gospel:** Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

### 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 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.

## SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

### - a time to reflect and give thanks -

This weekend, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we invite all to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services, Victoria's 43 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities and beyond.

We call to mind the recent 2021/2022 Social Justice Statement - Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor-released by the Australian Catholic bishops, which reminds us of the social mission of the Church and which urges us to reflect on the bigger picture and to act together on social, economic, and ecological issues. Together, we all have a role to play in building a just and equitable society, where all have equal opportunities to flourish and prosper. For more information go to <https://socialjustice.org.au>.

### Prayer for Wonder and Awe

God of wonders,

you show us your beauty in all created things.

Help us to pay attention:

to the taste of the ocean on our lips,

the warmth of the sun on our hands,

the song of birds in the morning and evening,

the fragrance of the earth after rain,

and to the star that guides us.

Creator God,

we stand in awe of all that you have made.

Fill our hearts with gratitude for every good gift, great and small,

that feeds and forms us,

inviting and enabling us to become people who are fully alive in your amazing grace.

Amen.

## ST MICHAEL'S PARISH AT PRAYER

**PLEASE NOTE:** DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE WHICH ALLOW A MAXIMUM OF 20 AT RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS, THE WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOT RECOMMENCE UNTIL THIS NUMBER IS INCREASED. MASS WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIVESTREAMED SUNDAY MORNING AT 10AM.

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** COMMENCING FROM SEPTEMBER 13, DAILY MASS WILL NOW BE CELEBRATED ON MONDAY MORNINGS, 9.15AM AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH AND NOT ON THURSDAY MORNINGS.

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

**N.B. There is no longer a 9.15am Mass on Thursdays at Holy Family**

**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:

<b>Mon...</b>	<i>Rosary Prayer Group</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Holy Family Community Centre</i>
<b>Tues...</b>	<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>
<b>Fri.:</b>	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be closed on Friday Sept 24, due to the Public Holiday.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:** St Michael's Parish Safeguarding Committee works with the Parish Leadership Team to ensure policies, processes and practices are in place to protect children and young people. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children in our parish.
- ◆ **UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS:** Current restrictions for religious gatherings allow a maximum of 20 persons, the numbers are not workable to recommence our weekend Masses. Our midweek Masses will still be celebrated in the Parish and it is recommended that you book in for these Masses for the time being.
- ◆ **COVID CATCH UP:** Now that regional Victoria has come out of lockdown, it would be a nice time to catch up with someone by phone, text, or for a walk, you would normally see around the Parish or at Mass.
- ◆ **PARISH BULLETIN:** Please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 if you would like a copy of the weekly bulletin emailed or posted out to you. There will also be bulletins available to collect from the parish office or at the main entrance of Holy Spirit Church.
- ◆ **CRAFT AND CONVERSATION:** 'Lockdown blues getting to you?' Why not come along to the craft conversation group. BYO project or come along for a cuppa, chat and inspiration. NB: We do need to follow the Covid guidelines and yes, masks are required and QR scanning available. We will be meeting 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, 7, 14, 21 & 28; Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25; Dec 2 & 9 Dec (Christmas Break). **To book your seat**, please contact Debbie on 0409 416 945 as we do have a space limit to adhere to.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS —SPRING 2021: CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION!** In this edition, we celebrate the past, present and future of Catholic education in Australia. Copies are now available to collect from the parish office. We can also post a copy to you.

## Community News:

- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINER'S CLUB:** Due to Covid restrictions the CDC Club dinners have been suspended until further notice. Please stay safe. As always, please don't hesitate to phone me at 0425 785 277 or email me at [maryflatt01@gmail.com](mailto:maryflatt01@gmail.com) regarding any issues. Take care until next time. Mary Flatt.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG UPDATE:** Although COVID restrictions have eased somewhat we have decided it best not to hold our next meeting at St Mary's scheduled for September 18th. We do hope to be able to meet on Saturday 16th October. Details will be provided closer to that date. Faith & Light provides Christian fellowship and support for those with a disability. For members and interested parishioners, further information and updates, please contact Tricia O'Keeffe on 0414 672 267 or by email [patriciaok65@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaok65@gmail.com). Thanks.



“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you;  
and now he is living at your side everyday to  
enlighten, strengthen and free you.

POPE FRANCIS

“At the heart of who we are is not all the buildings but  
the person of Jesus Christ, who enters into our lives  
and who we then share with others.

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI

### **Reflection by Richard Leonard:**

It's hard to see what the disciples don't get when Jesus tells them in fairly plain language that because of the way he lives and what he says he will be put to death by the power barons of his day. The disciples seem to think the Passion is going to be an event out of *Boy's Own Annual*, where the ensuing campaign will see greatness thrust upon them. In this context, Jesus takes the smallest and most vulnerable of people in their society and teaches the disciples that greatness comes through care of the least.

This is a powerful lesson. Greatness in the world – power, connections, wealth, influence, reputation and learning – only counts for something in the Kingdom of God when put at the service of the most vulnerable of our society. Greed, riches and pride are so alluring, so seductive for us in the Church, as much as for those outside it, that we need to regularly examine our consciences to assess the motivations and results of what we are doing, and why we are doing it. When I read today's Gospel, however, I also feel sad. I cannot help but reflect on how unintentionally prophetic Mark was being in linking the prediction of Jesus' passion with the status of a child.

The safeguards now needed in response to the criminal and scandalous behaviour of a very few leaders in the Church, means that many bishops, priests, religious and teachers can no longer follow Jesus' example and take children in our arms. I fully understand why this is the case, but the fact that we have to be so careful about the care of our children and have strict protocols and legislation that covers such behaviour toward children is a necessary and, nonetheless, tragic moment. It's also a moment for us to remember the passion of those who have had to endure the trauma of destructive behaviour. As the Jews say of the Holocaust, 'to forget is to commit the same mistake again'. At its most basic level the latter part of today's Gospel reveals what we would expect of Jesus – he likes children and they like him.

It's amazing how a couple of pieces of information can sometimes change the way a scriptural story is read, and its importance for our lives today. We know from other documents of the same period as the New Testament that children in first century Palestine had no rights. They were possessions of their fathers, and they could be bought and sold, exploited and even killed without any recourse to the religious or civil law.

One way in which a child was publicly claimed in this society was that only their immediate family could touch them. The story, then, of Jesus embracing the child in public was in itself a social challenge to accepted customs. But it's much more than that. In taking the children in his arms, Jesus declares that they are possessions of no one, but they belong to us all as gifts. In the family of God, children are accorded the dignity and respect we would give to God.

Today's Gospel tells us that those who deserve our attention and esteem are the ones who are the least, the most at risk or those who put their talents and gifts at their service by making the world a better place for them. Just as he did in the market place of Galilee when he took the children in his arms, Jesus has a habit of turning our world's values upside down.