



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

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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](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Frederick Mahar; Noel Simpson; Eileen O'Callaghan; Edward Persic;



ANNIVERSARIES: Alfred May; Marianna Macarol; Peter Bordonaro; Rocco & Francesca Daniele; Iolanda Marruso; Robert & Nell Cummins; Eric Smith; Michali Sparsi; Connie Tolan; Lyn O'Keeffe (1st Anniversary); Carmela Caccamo (10th Year Anniversary);

BAPTISMS: Lachlan Gregory; Audrey & Annabel O'Toole; Philippa & Abraham Rau; Clementine Silk

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nicholas Teague; Mary Cudmore; Anthona Henderson; Daryl Squires; John Paton; Harry Howard; Helen Dean; Janet Johnson

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Ascension has always been a part of the joyful celebration of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost but was singled out for commemoration on the fortieth day (see Acts 1:3) toward the end of the 4th century.



The feast develops the glory of the resurrection by acclaiming the exaltation of Christ as Lord of heaven and earth. It serves to prepare the Church, toward the end of the season of Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

(Year A/1— 21 MAY 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God: praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia..



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Acts 1:1-11	1st: Gen 11:1-9
2nd: Eph 1:17-23	2nd: Rom j8:22-27
Gospel: Matt 28:16-20	Gospel: John 7: 37-39

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

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

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

F Kearney
J Fraatz
L Fossey
L Fossey
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY **9.00AM**

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



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 Kearney; Bernadette Bilogrevic; Marg Gifford or Joan Mann can be contacted on 5278 1343.

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.

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **2023 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** The Annual Mass Count in the Parish continues this weekend & next weekend
- ◆ **THANK YOU:** St Michael's Parish sincerely thanks Fr Gerry for covering Fr Minh over the past few weeks and we welcome back Fr Minh from his well earned break in Vietnam.
- ◆ **LITURGY: Sacrament of First Eucharist,** Congratulations to the children from Holy Family School, who will be making their First Eucharist over the next two weeks.
- ◆ **COMMENTATOR—HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH:** If you can help out as a Commentator on the 4th Sunday roster at the 11am Mass, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **HOLY COMMUNION MINISTERS** are needed at The Multicultural Aged Care Hostel (MACS). This is a very rewarding ministry and requires 1 hour, once a month of your time on a Sunday morning. If you are willing and would like to become involved at Culture (MACS), please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT** After the 9.00am MASS : Parishioners are welcome to catch up for a cuppa & chat each Sunday after Mass in the Parish Community Centre.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There are still quite a few sets of Thanksgiving Envelopes at the three churches. Just a reminder to collect your set of envelopes, which are in alphabetical order by name.

Community News:

- ◆ **PENTECOST—**An invitation to people in the Bellarine Peninsula to come together for prayer and worship as we celebrate *Pentecost: God's Spirit in and among* us.
Where:—Santa Casa, 33 Flinders Street, Queenscliff.
Date: Saturday May 27th. At 2.30pm followed by a cuppa at 3.30pm
Please arrive a little earlier so we can begin on time and please also contact Lizzie to register on 0418 194 261 or via santacasa@ismapng.org.au **Future gatherings in 2023: 5 August, 7 October and 9 December.**
- ◆ **MERCY PLACE RICE VILLAGE—**currently have Independent Living Units available to purchase. Please call Sally on 5247 2202. For more information or to organise a tour.
- ◆ **INFORMATION SESSION—PERMANENT DIACONATE: Saturday 3 June 10.00am** at the University of Divinity, Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne, there will be an information session on the Permanent Diaconate.
- ◆ **THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN,**—warmly invites all Altar Servers to participate in the **Guild of St Stephen Annual Mass. St Patrick's Cathedral, Friday 26 May 2023, 7.30pm.** Servers need to be in Year 7 or above to be eligible. For further information please contact Fr Joel Peart on 0410 273 705 or the Parish Office to register your name.
- ◆ **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND—**A 12-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land—**Petra, Bethlehem, Jericho, Sea of Galilee & Jerusalem.** 15-26 October 2023/. Still have room for 8-10 more people you are warmly invited to join us on this once in a lifetime experience. For further details please contact Mary Foster (Meredith Parish on 5286 1230 or Fr Joseph by phone or email.
- ◆ **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP** - An Australian Pilgrimage led by a Sister of Saint Joseph & the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Melbourne **17 Oct - 28 Oct 2023.** Bookings & Enquiries: For further information or to make an application, please contact the Australian Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator. Email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au. Or telephone 02 89124818. The Journey:
 - Starting in **Melbourne**, experience the early life of Mary and the MacKillop Family.
 - Continue the story by coach to **Hamilton, Portland & Port McDonnell.**
 - Spend 2 nights in Penola connecting with the Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods' stories.
 - Coach into South Australia, visiting **Robe** and then onto **Adelaide** where Mary professed her vows as a Sister of Saint Joseph immerse ourselves in the unfolding story of the Congregation.
 - Fly to Sydney and spend 3 nights at Mary MacKillop Place where Mary lived and died. Visit her burial site in the Memorial Chapel., before returning home.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. And though there is now a school of thought that holds that he was beaten to the summit by Tenzing Norgay, his Tibetan colleague, there was an aura around this New Zealander who had been to the top of the world.

Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time.

Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. While other denominations describe their liturgy as 'worship', we tend to use it only in a more secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.

In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

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