



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) Phone 5278 1343

**PASTORAL WORKER:** Sr Anne Lourey Email: [anne.lourey@mercy.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Michaela Resciniti; John Pikines

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Iolanda Tortoreto; Zlatko Lehpamer; Vjekoslav Pogacic; Fr Hugh McDonald (RAN); Theresa Radojevic; Giuseppe Sciarrone; Jarrod Mills; Antonia Grgurevic. Maria Mileto (20th anniversary).

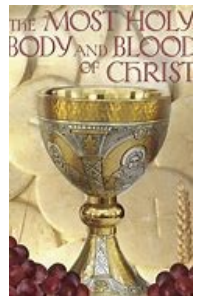
**BAPTISMS:** Olive Tuccio; Oscar Waller

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nicholas Teague; Anthona Henderson; Daryl Squires; John Paton; Harry Howard; Helen Dean; Hugo Riedl



## THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

This feast, originally Corpus Christi, arose in thirteenth century Belgium, in response to debates about the real presence and as a result of an upsurge in Eucharistic piety. It's extension to the entire Western Church was first decreed by Urban IV in 1264. The feast celebrates the mystery of the nourishing and enduring presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.



### **THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

(Year A/1— 11 June 2023)

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.



#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

#### **TODAY'S READINGS      NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st: Deut 8:2-3, 14-16 | 1st: Exod 19:2-6       |
| 2nd: 1 Cor 10:16-17    | 2nd: Rom 5:6-11        |
| Gospel: John 6:51-58   | Gospel: Matt (:36—10:8 |

#### **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:

|                   |                         |                |                                |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday:..</b> | <i>Meditation Group</i> | <i>5.30pm</i>  | <i>Parish Community Centre</i> |
|                   | <i>Legion of Mary</i>   | <i>10.00am</i> | <i>Parish Community Centre</i> |
| <b>Friday</b>     | <i>Divine Mercy</i>     | <i>3.00pm</i>  | <i>Holy Spirit Church</i>      |

### 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 WEEK**

(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

M Martin

L Fossey

R Martin

### **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



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:

- ◆ **CONGRATULATIONS:** To the grade 4 students from St Patrick's School who make their First Eucharist this weekend.
- ◆ **MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** Nominations from parishes are now being accepted for the next online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. **Starting 28 June..** This engaging 5 week online program includes weekly Zoom classes and many enjoyable interactive elements. In addition to the practical training needed for this ministry, it provides formation on the history and theology of the Eucharist and ministry. Participants independently observe and engage with their local community throughout the program which culminates in a local training session. Further details can be found online at: [www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoraltraining](http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoraltraining).
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED—PUBLIC HOLIDAY:** The Parish Office will be closed this Monday June 12 due to the King's Birthday long weekend.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP:** Our next Parish Leadership team meeting will be held on **Thursday 22 June, 7pm**, in the Parish Community Centre.

## Community News:

- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** A Christian community for people with disabilities (especially intellectual disability), their carers, families and friends. You are welcome to come to our next monthly meeting on Saturday 24 June. We have a sharing news time, gospel reflection with songs and prayers, and a fiesta afternoon tea. **Theme:** Pentecost Gathering. From 2pm-4.30pm, hall open 1.30pm for preparation. Our Venue is St Mary's parish, Pioneer Room, level 1 (by lift), 150 Yarra Street. Enter via Little Myers Street. **RSVP Thursday 22 June.** If you would like to know more, please contact the Joint Coordinators. **Tricia O'Keeffe on 0414 672 267 or Kevin Mark: kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au** **Faith and Light is a worldwide organisation, began in Lourdes, in 1971.** [www.faithandlight.org](http://www.faithandlight.org)
- ◆ **MenALIVE: Corio & Lara Parish is hosting a MenALIVE Mens' Weekend** over the second weekend of **8-9 July**. It will be held in the Parish Hall at St Francis Xavier, Corio and is mostly on the Saturday, but will continue on Sunday morning, concluding with the regular Sunday mass. Please collect a brochure for further information.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS—WINTER 2023:** In this issue we look at You, me and us; Culture and identity and how cultural communities contribute to the Church. Please take a copy, now available at all Churches.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship. **Date:** June 13, **Time:** 6pm **Venue:** The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High Street, Belmont. **Cost:** Purchase meals & drinks at you own cost. If you wish to attend the dinner, please phone or text John Santospirito **0409 165 943** or email: [john.santospirito@bigpond.com](mailto:john.santospirito@bigpond.com)
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS:** Give a helping hand this season at Red Cross in Victoria, volunteers are the heart and soul of your local Red Cross Shop. They are there to give to the community, make new friends, improve language skills and build confidence. Everyone is invited to give the gift of being a Red Cross Shop volunteer and your local Red Cross Shop in **Geelong** invites you to be a part of their volunteering team. To apply please call **VIC HUB** on **0467 778 125**
- ◆ **INNER HEALING: 'Meditation on Jesus'** Prayer & Meditation through gentle postures and breathing in the Holy Spirit, heals body, mind and soul). Retreat begins with dinner at 6pm Friday June 30, and concludes at 4pm on Sunday 2 July. Guided by **Fr Gilbert Carlo SVD**, **Cost: \$210 (live-in) \$150 (live-out).** **Contact: Janssen Spirituality Centre, 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia.** **RSVP Tel: 03 9762 6625 or [gilbertcarlo@gmail.com](mailto:gilbertcarlo@gmail.com)**
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 [natio.al.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:natio.al.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au). Or telephone 02 89124818.

## Reflection by Richard Leonard

Some years ago, Pope John Paul II went to Lima, Peru. There he was met by a massive crowd of two million people. Instead of the usual greetings from the President and the Cardinal, two people from a shantytown stepped forward to the microphone. Their names were Irene and Viktor Charo. As the huge crowd went quiet, they begin to speak to the Pope.

'Holy Father, we are hungry, we are sick, we lack work, our children die before their time. Yet we believe, Holy Father, we believe in the God of life. And we hunger for bread.' Before a hushed crowd, the Pope replied in his best Spanish. 'You tell me you hunger for bread.' 'Yes, yes', the millions yelled in reply. 'You tell me you hunger for God', said the Pope and again the crowd swelled with an emphatic 'Yes! Yes!' 'I want this hunger for God to remain; I want your hunger for bread to be satisfied.'

The Pope then turned to the generals and the wealthy politicians gathered there – many of them devout Catholics – and said very starkly, 'I won't simply say share what you have. I will say give it back. Give it back – it belongs to the poor.'

As extraordinary as the Pope's words were that day, Jesus' words about the Eucharist in today's Gospel are even more so. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel many people were so horrified by the claims Jesus makes for the reality of his presence in the Eucharist, they stopped following him. John clearly links Jesus giving himself for the sake of God's kingdom and our redemption, with the communion we share with Him in every Mass.

When we receive the Risen Christ in communion it's not a symbol of his presence or a sign of his life to which we say 'Amen'. It is Christ who hosts us, who gives us himself so that we might be transformed into His image and likeness. In modern language Christ says to us at every Mass, 'Here I am, broken and poured out in love for you. Take me. I'm here for you.'

The danger with all gifts, and most especially with this gift, is that we can think it's just for us, an intimate moment between each of us and Christ. It is that, but it's also much more. St Augustine in a sermon on the Eucharist on 9th August 413 wrote that the Mass was about three things: goodness, unity and charity. Augustine taught that if we were not better people, working for unity and loving each other away from the Eucharist, it fails to achieve its purpose.

Hence, like the Pope in Peru, many people have linked the reception of the Bread of Life here with the giving of bread which sustains life away from here. On average in our world 26,000 die every day of starvation. John F Kennedy observed in 1961, 'The only thing standing between us and the elimination of hunger is our desire to see it.' We could feed all the world's poor. We choose not to.

In a talk on the Eucharist, the then Jesuit General, Fr Pedro Arrupe said, 'while there is hunger in the world then our Eucharists are incomplete'. By this he didn't mean that when we gather for Mass anything is wrong. Rather he meant that when we gather around this holy table for this sacred meal while people still starve in the world, then something vital is lacking. There's an emptiness.

Yet it's an emptiness that invites us in. The God who comes to us at every Eucharist as real food is the same God that asks, 'When I was hungry, did you feed me?' This question says that just as God feeds us, so we too should and can feed each other.

May this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ give us the strength of our convictions. May the real food and drink we provide away from this sacred table prove to the world the power of the Eucharist to change us into a people that are good, unifying and loving. And may we not just share with the poor from our excesses, but give them back the food that is rightly theirs.

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## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

This feast harkens back to the celebration of Holy Thursday. By way of the metaphors of food and drink, its readings provide us with a look at the mystery of divine presence. They first provide a picture of a God who feeds us. In the past God set a table in freedom, and then provided food that enabled our ancestors to survive. God fed those who were needy, not those who were worthy. Jesus offered sustenance to the crowds that gathered around him. It was not manna from heaven that he offered but his own flesh and blood as food and drink. This food and drink are the pledge of eternal life.

Those who eat this bread and drink this cup are caught up in a profound unity with God, a unity not envisioned in the wilderness experience. There is a new overlay of significance. Jesus' claim to give his flesh and blood was a bold one, Paul's seems even bolder. He states that partaking of the bread and the cup not only joins us with Christ, but actually makes us participants in the body and blood of Christ. Humanity and divinity are joined as one. The Eucharist is a sign of unity in another way. Joined to the body and blood of Christ, we are joined to each other. We are one body and that body is Christ. The Eucharist is truly a celebration of thanksgiving: thanksgiving for our transformation and thanksgiving for our unity.

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