



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

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

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Timothy Shaw; Dorothy Carr; Ignac Loncar.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bozo Cacic; Tindara Rao; Michele (Mick) Vannata; Madalena Ferraz; Jose Medeiros & Family.

BAPTISMS: Audrey Boyar; Florence Di Cello; Claudia Kunovic; Riah & Hugo Nelson; Elena Stephenson

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Anthona Henderson; Daryl Squires; Harry Howard; Helen Dean; Hugo Riedl.



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.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1— 9 July 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Zech 9:9-10	1st: Is 55:10-11
2nd: Rom 8:9, 11-13	2nd: Rom 8:18-23
Gospel: Matt 11:25-30	Gospel: Matt 13:1-23

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

(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

F O'Neill

J McKenzie

L Fossey

F Kearney

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators A Scaddan

Lectors H Verdnik; T McMahon

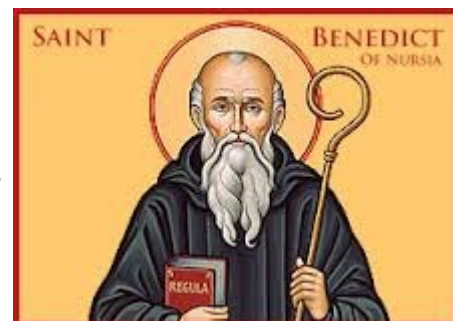
Special Ministers M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri

Welcomers

Projectionist C Resciniti

11 July 2023 Saint Benedict.

Born at Norcia (Italy) about 480. Died at Mont Cassino about 547.
After studies in Rome he became a hermit at Subiaco where many sought his counsel and then founded the monastery at Monte Cassino.
Remembered for his widely influential monastic rule combining work and prayer and for his charity and moderation .



Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **PROPOGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL 2023** : The annual Catholic Mission Appeal will take place in the Parish this **weekend**. A special feature of the work of Catholic Mission this year is our partnership, through the Salesian Sisters, with the people of Timor-Leste. There will be a third collection to be taken up at all Masses, after Communion. Envelopes are in the churches this and donations can also be made online at catholicmission.org.au/timor.
- ◆ **CONGRATULATIONS:** To the grade 4 students from Holy Spirit School who make their First Eucharist next Friday.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **WELCOME:** To Hoa Phan who has joined the team and is helping at the Parish.
- ◆ **PARISH VOLUNTEER CHILD SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP: MONDAY AUGUST 7, registration from 11.00am** and the workshop from 11.30am-1pm. Venue: Parish Community Centre, Separation St, Bell Park. Rosemary Teed, Child Safeguarding Officer, from the Western Region at the Archdiocese will run this workshop for any volunteers who have not yet completed the training. If you are able to attend, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343. Bernadette will also contact volunteers in the next few weeks who have not yet completed the training. Morning tea/light lunch will be provided. The safeguarding training can also be completed online at www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org.
- ◆ **SCAM ALERT**—If you receive a text(s) from Fr Minh Tran, regarding Amazon or something else, please delete and not click on any links, as it is a SCAM!!
- ◆ **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.

Community News:

- ◆ **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY INTO THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE EVENT:** St Bernard's Parish Belmont Outreach & Engagement team would like to share this event with you. This presentation consists of two sessions which looks at the journey into the second half of life, from age 40+.
Date: Saturday July 22—presentation on Zoom.
Time: 11am-12noon—*Looking Back*, 30 min lunch break 12.30-2pm —*Looking forward*
Program includes: Input, Quiet Time, Prayer, Sharing if you wish.
Presenter: Dr. Susie Hii NBBS< FRACP.
- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BESILICA** JULY–DECEMBER 2023. **Polyphonic Voices (leading Melbourne chamber choir) CLOUDBURST** Sunday 30 July, 3pm. Tickets \$45/\$40 from www.trybooking.com/CFCJA. Children and school students— free.
- ◆ **SAMARITAN HOUSE:** Since commencing our services over 10 years ago, Samaritan House has helped over 1,000 men through their challenges. To help more men, we need your support. Samaritan House receives no government support, and we operate each year thanks to the support of our amazing Geelong Community. We would greatly appreciate your consideration of a donation to this year's Winter Appeal. Donations are fully tax deductible, can be made through our website.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship on Tuesday July 11; 6pm at The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, Hight St Belmont. Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. Please advise your attendance to John Santospirito 0409 165 943 or john.santospirito@bigpond.com by July 10.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG** : You are invited to our next Gathering on Saturday 15th July From 2 - 4.30pm. Venue St Mary's Parish Offices, 1st floor, 150.Yarra Street. Lift available. Theme: Our community at prayer. Fiesta afternoon tea. "Persons with disabilities come to the meeting as people who are waiting for that special moment of gathering, fellowship, prayer and sharing." Fr. Louis. www.faithandlight.org. For enquiries please contact Coordinators, TRICIA O'KEEFFE 0414 672 267 or KEVIN MARK kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au.
- ◆ **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**
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ALPHA EXPLORE LIFE FAITH MEANING** : St Mary's Parish Geelong is hosting an Alpha Course starting in July 2023. Alpha is for anyone who is considering the BIG question that seem unanswerable. The program is based around the Australia Catholic Context series. It begins on Thursday, July 20 from 7-9pm at the Pioneer Room (150 Yarra St, Geelong). For further information or to express your attendance contact us visa email or phone before July 14, 2023. Parish office: Dmin@stmarysgeelong.com.au or 5222 1977.

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Before I said my first Mass an old priest gave me two great pieces of advice. 'You know when the congregation is filled with optimists. After a long series of announcements at the end of Mass and then you say, "and finally..." people take out their car keys!' The second was, 'Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.'

I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace.

Now all this 'come and rest a while' talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality.

Today's Gospel, however, came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus' death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens. They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ.

No wonder they held so strongly to the words, 'Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' And they found consolation in Jesus' example, 'take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.' Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it.

Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and this parish Community, as with every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile.

What we celebrate here each Sunday is that God will have the last word, a just, joyous, loving and peaceful word, in this world and when we enter our final rest.

Jesus didn't come to us as a divine magician, waving a wand over our problems to wipe away all our tears. Rather, he accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life's burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties.

This type of spiritual sanity reminds me of the story of the nun who was teaching the communion class, and drew an analogy about how food is essential to life. She asked the class,

'What's small and furry and eats nuts?' To which there was bemused silence. So Sister tried again. 'What's small and furry and eats nuts?' There was now stony silence. Sister then picked out Billy and asked him for the answer. After several awkward moments, Billy tentatively replied, 'Sister, I know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, because the answer to all your questions is always Jesus but, I have to tell you, it sounds like a bloody squirrel to me.'

Sometimes the answer is not simply 'Jesus'. As we all know, for some of our difficulties, there is no spiritual quick fix. There is no cheap grace. The answer is not simply Jesus.

In confronting issues, however, it is necessary for spiritual and mental health to take time out, to be as gentle with ourselves as possible, to know that the burden of life is shared so that we can make the decisions that will ease the situation. I don't underestimate the burdens some of you have walked into this church with today. Whatever burden you may have brought with you, may you know a moment's rest, the companionship of fellow travellers and the gift of Christ's peace.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for today engage us in a reflection on the nature of the Trinity, as well as the ways that we are enriched by each of the divine Persons. The gospel acknowledges the sovereignty of God. This is followed immediately by mention of the handing over of all things to Jesus, making him a kind of vice-regent of God. Paul speaks of the Spirit, clearly a divine reality, but different from Jesus and the one called God. According to Paul, this Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus and the Spirit of God, implying that somehow both Jesus and God claim the Spirit. It is this Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, and it is this same Spirit who dwells in Christians.

The grace of this Triune God touches our lives in some ways that are tangible and other ways that demand faith. The most tangible manifestation of God is Jesus himself. God has been revealed to us through this Jesus. While Jesus was a tangible person, our accepting of him as the manifestation of God requires faith, and this faith is no easier today than it was at the time of Jesus himself.

The overriding disposition of these readings is humility. Jesus, the human manifestation of the divine, is meek and humble, and the true disciple is called to be humble. A second disposition is placed before us – grateful praise. In the psalm we praise and bless God; we extol God's holy name. In Jesus we have known the tender touch of God, and we are grateful.

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