



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

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: Ivan Dzida; Joyce Archer; Elena Hammond

ANNIVERSARIES: Martin Simic; Lucy Murphy; Hilda Smith

BAPTISMS: Samantha Catindig; Henry Krizek; Harriete Poole; Joey Slattery

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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1— 16 July 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Is 55:10-11
2nd: Rom 8:18-23
Gospel: Matt 13:1-23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Wis 12:13, 16-19
2nd: Rom 8:26-27
Gospel: Mat 13:24-30

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

Lectors G Tolan

Special Ministers G Tolan

Welcomers

Projectionist B Middleton

Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

T McMahon

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

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC NEWS:

'PILGRIMAGE, AND SURVIVING WINTER THE BENEDICTINE WAY'

This coming Sunday is the Commissioning Mass for Melbourne's World Youth Day Pilgrims at St Patrick's Cathedral. Gathering in full force, our young people will be blessed and sent forth by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, ready to begin their pilgrimage to Portugal. As the days count down, we hear about how some of our local parish and school communities have also been blessing their pilgrims and preparing to send them on their way, and about their hopes for World Youth Day 2023.

Also, as the cold weather closes in, we reflect on how the *Rule of St Benedict* might inspire us to establish habits that can sustain us not only through the depths of winter but in every time and season of our lives.

For more, visit the Melbourne Catholic news and stories page at <https://melbournecatholic.org>





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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—EVENTS IN THE PARISH OVER THE COMING MONTHS

- Aug 7.... 11.30am Child Safeguarding Training for volunteers at St Michael's Parish Community Centre
- Aug 15... Feast of the Assumption
- Sept 29... St Michael's Parish Feast Day
- Oct 18-21.. Confirmations in the Parish
- Oct 27-29.. Archbishop Peter Comensoli— Visit to St Michael's Parish and our Schools. And will be the main Celebrant at all weekend Masses. More information on this visit to be provided in the lead up to this date.
- Nov 1..... All Saints Day
- Nov 2..... All Souls Day
- Nov 4-5... Annual Bereavement Masses
- Nov 7 Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon—Holy Spirit Hall
- Nov 17.... St Patrick's School Confirmations
- Dec 3..... Advent begins
- Dec 14.... St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening
- Dec 25.... Christmas Day

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL:** Thank you to the Parish Community for your tremendous support of the recent Catholic Mission Appeal. \$1523 was raised.
- ◆ **HELP REQUIRED!** The Parish Leadership Team is keen to hold several functions in the second half of this year, to give Parishioners the opportunity to gather socially: Planned Events are—Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon; AFL Grand Final Afternoon Tea; Movie Nights. All proceeds from these events would go to supporting our Philippines Partnership. If you can assist in helping to organise these events or help out on the day, please contact David Lunn 0408 378 982. Many hands make light work!!
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT** after the 9.00am MASS : Parishioners are very welcome to catch up for a cuppa & chat each Sunday 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.
- ◆ **SACRED HEART COLLEGE CIRCLE OF MERCY EVENING:** Thursday July 27 at 7pm in the Celies Dining Room, titled "Called to be Witness: Seeing Through Another's Eyes" presented by Fr Richard Leonard. There will be a webinar link for those who cannot attend in person. **RSVP via: trybooking.com/CJGEB.**
- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA—JULY–DECEMBER 2023. Polyphonic Voices (leading Melbourne chamber choir) CLOUDBURST** Artist Director—Michael Fulcher. **Sunday 30 July, 3pm.** Featuring recent works dealing with environmental and social sustainability and two Australian premier performances. Tickets \$45/\$40 from www.trybooking.com/CFCJA. Children and school students— free.
- ◆ **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 please email or phone the Parish office to express your interest in attending. Dmin@stmarysgeelong.com.au or Ph: 5222 1977.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

A newcomer to a city known for its wind and rain arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young child and, out of despair, asks, 'Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?' To which the child replies, 'How should I know? I'm only six.'

With the three readings we have just heard, we could easily celebrate Environment Sunday today. Rain, snow, seeds, sowers, fertile soil and a labouring creation giving birth to the fruits of the Spirit, are all rich ground upon which we can reflect on the importance of our earth's ecology.

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit.

If this means we must limit our consumption, change our priorities in regard to energy and trade and show the third world the way in developing eco-friendly industries, then all the better for us. Most of us know that we cannot keep going as we are, with ever increasing unsustainable demands on our planet. There is no point any of us crying over the demise of our environment in the future, if we are doing nothing to help it now.

Every small thing we do from being conscious of the issues, to recycling and using our cars less, is not unimportant. Some of us are in positions to do a lot more than these things as well and we should take our Christian responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

One creative reading of today's Gospel is that it parallels how we can respond to the news of the degradation of the environment.

For some of us the facts and figures about the planet's ecosystem fall on rocky ground. We are not receptive to hearing anything that might demand a change in our lifestyle or a lessening of our comfort.

For others of us, recent debates fall among the thorns. Competing with other issues for our attention and action, the plight of the earth is not able to take root in our consciousness or sympathies. We think it can all wait for another generation who will have the ability to fix the problems then.

For some of us, however, recent surveys and our own sense of environmental changes means that what experts are saying falls on fertile soil. We want to do whatever we can to see that the earth continues to bear fruit for as many generations as God intends.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with the importance of our relationships to the earth. In the book of Genesis humanity is told to care for and subdue the earth, not wreck it. We cannot be irresponsible about the world's finite resources in the hope that we will find solutions in the future. Avarice is not one of the seven deadly sins for nothing.

We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?

Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.

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