



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: Joyce Archer; Helen Dean



ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia (Pat) McMahon; Angela & Maria De Luca; Anna Rezelj; Matilda Matjasic; Loyska & Vinko Jager; Peter Javni (Jnr); Isabel, Gilacio, Silvestra & Generosa Ramirez; Felix Gravador

BAPTISMS:

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Anthona Henderson; Daryl Squires; Harry Howard; 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!

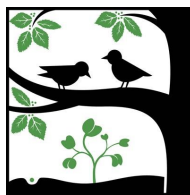
We acknowledge the living culture of the Wathaurong People, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in this region.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1— 23 July 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name,
O Lord, for it is good.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

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:: Wis 12:13, 16-19	1st: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
2nd: Rom 8:26-27	2nd: Rom 8:28-30
Gospel: Matt 13:24-30	Gospel: Matt 13:44-52

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

5th Sunday of the Month—1st Sunday of the month roster

Ss PETER & PAUL'S 5.00PM

Commentators

M Carson

Lectors

P Balkin

Special Ministers

N Neeld,

Welcomers

Projectionist

B Middleton

Co-Ordinator

M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson

M Kroger

G Wright

L Fossey

L Coles

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators

J Siketa

Lectors

M Bird, S Costa

Special Ministers

E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta

Welcomers

K McArthur

Projectionist

C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator

J Mann, 0488 784 802



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – July 23, 2023

“His mercy is from age to age” (Lk. 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly .

Pope Francis proclaimed the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July each year – July 23 in 2023. The Day is marked near the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

Virgin Mary, Mother of faith and hope,
an example for this humanity bent by indifference,
make me as willing as You to accept the will of God, to magnify and praise His Mercy.


Amen!



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:

We Need Your Help  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 to 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 on 0408 378 982. Many hands make light work!!

- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be held on Wednesday August 2 at 1.30pm, Holy Spirit hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights. All St Michael's parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ST MARY'S PARISH FEAST DAY & FAREWELL FOR FR JAYCEE:** Sunday Aug 6, 10.30am-12.30pm. Come and celebrate at any of the Sunday Masses at the Basilica and afterwards pop over to the Parish Office Centre (150 Yarra St - outside Café Light) for a free BBQ. This is a time to come together socially and give our regards to Fr Jaycee... and eat a bit of farewell cake as well. If the weather is inclement, we will move it indoors to the Café & Pioneer Room areas.
- ◆ **TAIZE-PRAY-PEACE:** An invitation to come together for prayer and worship as we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Saturday August 5 at 2.30pm followed by a cuppa at 3.30pm. Venue: Santa Casa, 33 Flinders St Queenscliff. To register, please contact Lizzie on 0418 194 261 or via santacasa@ismapng.org.au. Future gatherings on Oct 7 & Dec 9 in 2023.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Today's Gospel gives us both a parable and then an interpretation of that parable. I'm very grateful for this pattern in the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. It indicates to us that not everything that Jesus says should be taken literally. Clearly the disciples were sometimes confused and needed some private coaching to bring them up to speed with what Jesus was on about.

As much as I respect the faith of our fundamentalist Christian brothers and sisters, it is at this point, on the way we interpret the Scriptures, that we cannot agree. The catholic community has always taken the process outlined in Matthew's gospel very seriously. We have always held that the full richness of the scriptures needs careful study and tested interpretations.

Unfortunately, in previous generations, the anxiety over people's private interpretations of the scriptures led Catholics to be suspicious of the Bible and the private reading of it. To read the Bible was often seen as a 'very protestant thing to do'. Given that Jesus, Mary, the apostles and the disciples are all recorded in the New Testament as reading, meditating on, or hearing the scriptures, nothing could be further from the truth. To be a Christian is to ponder the Word of God.

That's why the Second Vatican Council encouraged us all to return to regular private reflection on the Bible. Along with this encouragement they also reminded us, however, that as strong as the feelings and revelations we experience in our private scriptural prayer may be, these may have little or no consequence for the wider community of faith. We believe that the whole Church has the task to discern where the Word of God is leading us.

To help this discernment, it's scholars who pay great attention to the history and the literary, textual and cultural issues in and around the Bible have always aided the catholic community. They look at how various interpretations and approaches of the Scriptures have helped or hindered the Church over the centuries. We place great weight on the 'here and now' of the faith community who listens to the Word of God and lives it out.

Our approach is a long way from those who hold that the entire truth of the scriptures is found in the text itself. Fundamentalist interpretations of the scriptures dismiss the importance of studying the scriptures by reducing it to a book of facts. In doing so they tie themselves up in all sorts of textual knots whenever the scriptures seem to contradict themselves.

We hold, however, that the scriptures are not books of facts, though they contain historical information. We believe we have seventy-three sacred books that 'cannot err in leading us to the truth about God'. The Word of God is for us the pathway to faith, a series of revealed and inspired portraits of God and a distillation of God's saving love for us and our response to him.

When there are inconsistencies or differences in any two scriptural texts, rather than unsettle us, we see these differences as examples of the varying rich approaches to the truth of our salvation in and through Christ. This is nicely summed up in the verse, *The Bible in 50 words*.

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

At this Eucharist let's give thanks that Jesus often used stories to communicate his truth and that he explained their meaning to those with ears to hear. Let's be grateful that we are inheritors of this intelligent legacy.