



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: John Hickey; John Healey (cousin of Sr Anne); Fr Des Panton; Eva Graham

ANNIVERSARIES: Harry Seales; Diane & James Horoba; Matthew Scheelings; Cosimos Mileto; Garry Dougherty; Nick Occhibove.

BAPTISMS:

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Anthona Henderson; Daryl Squires; 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.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1— 30 July 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, I love your commands.

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:: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 1st: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

2nd: Rom 8:28-30 2nd: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matt 13:44-52 Gospel: Matt 17:1-9

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

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

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

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!!



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:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch, Monday Aug 7, 12.30pm at The Great Western Hotel, Shannon Ave, Geelong West. See you all there!
- ◆ **CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL 2023:** Weekend of August 12 & 13. There will be an extra third collection taken up after Communion at all weekend Masses. We call on your generosity in supporting this important appeal. Envelopes are now available in the churches if you prefer to take one home to complete.
- ◆ **FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION MASSES—AUG 15:**
 - 9.15am Holy Family Church (Holy Family School students in attendance)
 - 12.00pm St Patrick's School
 - 2.00pm Holy Spirit Church (Holy Spirit School students in attendance)
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA—JULY–DEC 2023. Polyphonic Voices (leading Melbourne chamber choir) CLOUDBURST** Artist Director—Michael Fulcher. **This 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get together for food & friendship. Tuesday Aug 8, 6pm at The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St. Belmont. Cost: Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. Please RSVP to John Santospirito 0409 165 943 or email to john.santospirito@bigpond.com by Aug 7.

Reflection by Richard Leonard—July 30, 2023

After being nearly snowbound for two weeks, a Seattle man departed for his vacation in Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day at the conclusion of her business trip to Minneapolis. They were looking forward to pleasant weather and a nice time together. Unfortunately, there was some sort of mix up at the boarding gate, and the man was told he would have to wait for a later flight. He tried to appeal to a supervisor but was told the airline was not responsible for the problem and it would do no good to complain.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle's was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an e-mail, but due to his haste, he made an error in the e-mail address.

His message therefore arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's wife whose even older husband had died only the day before.

When the grieving widow opened her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream, and fell to the floor dead. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:

Dearest wife,
Departed yesterday as you know.
Just now got checked in.
Some confusion at the gate.
Appeal was denied.
Received confirmation of your arrival tomorrow.
Your loving husband.

P.S. Things are not as we thought. You're going to be surprised at how hot it is down here.

Old-time missionaries used to have a field day with today's gospel, or at least with part of it. While they may have liked the passages that suggested that heaven was *like* a treasure in a field or *like* a pearl of great price, they told us that hell *was* a furnace of fire where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some of those preachers seemed to know an awful lot about hell! It's as though they were travel writers who had visited the place several times just to warn us about what to expect when we got there. And do you remember how easy it was to get in? Many of us thought we had a first class ticket in our pocket most of the time.

Once, during a parish mission, where the visiting priest had given us an excruciatingly detailed description of hell, he told us, 'You could be dipping your hand in the holy water font as you leave the Church tonight and be struck down dead and sent to hell for eternity!' At the end of that session my cousin stood by the holy water font and watched everyone else dip their hand in, saying as they did, 'After you, after you.' She wasn't taking any chances!

All this is not to underestimate the reality of hell. If we believe in heaven and free will, it has to be logically true that hell exists and that, consistent with some people's free, knowing and serious rejection of God and of love all their lives, these choices will destine decisions made for, and by, them in the next world as well.

There are two major differences, however, between how we used to speak about heaven and hell and what we say now. Just as we know the treasure hidden in the field or the pearl of great price are metaphors for heaven, rich and wonderful ones at that, they remain images that enable us to grasp an unimaginable concept. So it is with hell. How can we imagine life without love and God? We have learnt that our guidebook regarding hell needs to be more circumscribed about what that destination or state of being holds. All we can confidently say is that hell is non-God.

The second change is that we are more careful about being so confident in regard to who is going there. Jesus tells us that God wants all humanity to be saved. We can't take that seriously and then have people slip into hell for a small infringement of the rules.

If we read today's Gospel in a different way it can be a commentary on what God has done for us. Humanity can be seen as the treasure in the field that God has sold everything to own. We are the pearl of great price that God has moved heaven and earth to possess and we are the fish caught up in the net of God's love.

Our God is the one who became one like us, in Jesus the Lord, so that we might know, love and serve him. That's what today's Gospel is all about.

Jesus reminds his disciples that in glimpsing the things of heaven they have to be like the master of a household. That's a rich image. In Jesus' day such a person would have provided protection, love, security and justice for all.

God has given us free will and treasures, both new and old, to help us protect each other, love each other, feel secure in the truth and act justly. But we need to know that the choices we make in regard to these things have implications for how we live now and in the life to come.