



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: Marija Juric

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Pollard; David Bird; Ana & Nadia Siketa; Francesco Bocchicchio; Jason Keepen; Michael Degoldi; Catherina, Guerrino & Francesco Jerman; Olly & Kath McDonald; Rosalyn Connolly; Almor & Jose Mairo; Judite da Rosa & Family; Rosina & Francesco Abate; Nick Occhibove; Angela Malaspina (1st Anniversary)

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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1— 20 August 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O God, let all the nations praise you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom,
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Is 56:1, 6-7

1st: Is 22:19-23

2nd: Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

2nd: Rom 11:33-36

Gospel: Matt 15:21-28

Gospel: Matt 16:13-20

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:..	<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>
Friday	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

STATUE OF OUR LADY:

At no cost! Visits homes in the Parish. Our Lady's statue is ready to be taken to your home when you call Cristita on 0435 780 716 or Vickie on 0401 213 505. we will collect Our Lady's statue, when you ask us.

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

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

◆ **COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE 2023:** Please see me for your Raffle book **AFTER MASS TODAY**. 10 Tickets in each book; \$2 per ticket of which \$15 per book, goes to support KUYA in the Philippines. An envelope will be supplied with each book, for the return of ticket butts and \$20. Raffle Books must be returned by **Sunday 8 Oct**.

Thank You David Lunn.

1st Prize 2023 Kia Picanto 'S' valued \$19890.00

2nd \$5000 Gift Card

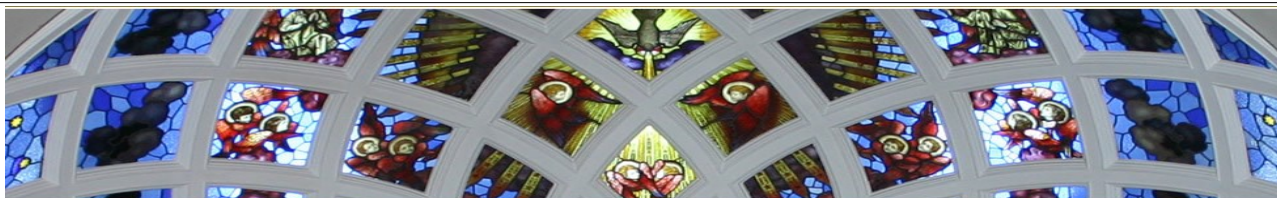
3rd \$3000 Gift Card

4th & 5th \$1000 Gift Cards

6th & 7th \$500 Gift Cards

Drawn Saturday December 2nd. Thank you David Lunn 0408 378 982.





ST MICHAEL'S PARISH incorporating the churches of Holy Family Bell Park, St Peter & Paul Geelong West and Holy Spirit Manifold Heights

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

- Sept 3.... Father's Day
Sept 29... St Michael's Parish Feast Day
Oct 18-20.. 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

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ Please keep in your prayers the children from the Parish Sacramental Program as they begin their lessons today in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **SCAM ALERT:** If you receive a text(s) from Fr Minh Tran, regarding Amazon or something else, please **delete and DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS AS IT IS A SCAM.**
- ◆ **LEGION OF MARY:** Meets after Mass every Tuesday at 10am. We meet in the St Michael's Parish Meeting room. We would love you to visit our meeting and see what we do. All are welcome.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Wednesday Aug 23 at 7pm.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **INTRODUCING CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** Commencing from Sun Sept 3 we invite all parishioners to catch up after the 11am Mass on the 1st & 4th Sundays of the month for a cuppa & chat.
- ◆ **FATHER'S DAY:** This year to celebrate and remember our fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles and other important men in our lives, we would like our parishioners to provide a photo of these special persons to form part of a power point presentation at the weekend Masses of Sept 2 & 3. Please email the photos to bellpark@cam.org and the church Mass you will be attending. Also, over the next few weeks, Hoa will attend our Masses and will ask if you would like your photo to be taken to be part of the presentation.
- ◆ **PRIEST'S RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY APPEAL:** Weekend of Sept 2 & 3. Extra 3rd collection to be taken up after Communion.

Community News

- ◆ **CATHOLIC MISSION —Reach out. Give life. Gratitude for your Support!** We extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous backing of this year's Appeal for the Propagation of the Faith. Through your help, Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses have been able to share the Good News within their local communities. Thank you for contributing to the amount of \$1,502.90 which was raised by St Michael's community for Catholic Mission. Your support this year will enable Sr Carolina to continue to provide life saving treatment and access to resources on health and well-being. Your gift also supports mission programs around the world that reach out and give life to those in most need.
- ◆ **CATHOLICARE THANK YOU: Thank you for supporting CatholicCare Victoria's Sunday Appeal!** CatholicCare Victoria is deeply gratefully for the support of our parish during last weekend's Sunday Appeal. \$1475.05 was generously donated by Parishioners. Because of the generosity of our community, CatholicCare Victoria can continue to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families in our community have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need!
- ◆ **PASTORAL HEALTHCARE NETWORK - GEELONG:**...invites you to an afternoon of pampering & pastoral healthcare, at
- ◆ **St. Bernard's, 74 Fryers Rd, Highton 3216**supporting carers and anyone else who feels they could do with some uplifting and pampering. **Saturday, Aug 26** from 1pm-3pm. **Bookings essential** (at least 3 days before the event - for catering) Please phone Rod on 0410 471 005. **Cost:** Free, but a donation is always appreciated.

Reflection by Richard Leonard—Aug 20, 2023

One bright Sunday morning, everyone in the town got up early and went to the local church. Before Mass started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking about their lives, their families.

Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the devil incarnate. Soon everyone was evacuated from the Church, except for one elderly lady who sat calmly in her pew, not moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Satan was in her presence.

Now this confused Satan a bit, so he walked up to the older lady and said,

‘Don’t you know who I am?’

The woman replied, ‘I sure do.’

Satan asked, ‘Aren’t you afraid of me?’

‘No, certainly not’ said the woman.

Satan was a little perturbed at this and queried, ‘Why aren’t you afraid of me?’

The woman calmly replied, ‘Because I’ve been married to your brother for 48 years.’

Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus’ day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God’s vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still hear this line from some people today.

The Syro-Phoenician woman considers herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn’t for the woman’s courage and persistence, she would never have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

Again it is the woman’s quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else’s life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don’t know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world’s table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God’s children to the places of honour which everyone deserves.

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant—Aug 20, 2023

The overarching theme derived from today’s readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus’ openness to ‘the other’ finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God’s embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God’s plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

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