



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) Phone 5278 1343

**PASTORAL WORKER:** Sr Anne Lourey Email: [anne.lourey@mercy.org.au](mailto:anne.lourey@mercy.org.au) Phone: 5278 1343

<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:</b> 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](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Maria Sciarrone; Karlo Smilovic; Margaret McCarthy.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Damiano Fazio; Giuseppe, Maria Teresa & Vincenzo Pitaro; Francesco & Serfina Lecchino; Salvatore & Tonino Rotiroti; Francesco Alteri; Rosa Valentino; Rosa De Angelis; Giuseppe & Matio Natale; Pat McGlinchey (Snr); Carmelo De Luca; and one month since the death of Giuli Nesci;

**BAPTISMS:** Vincent Occhibove

**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 FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1— 27 August 2023)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Ave mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it..  
Alleluia!

### TODAY'S READINGS      NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Is 22:19-23	1st: Jer 20:7-9
2nd: Rom 11:33-36	2nd: Rom 12:1-2
Gospel: Matt 16:13-20	Gospel: Eph 1:17, 18



### 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.

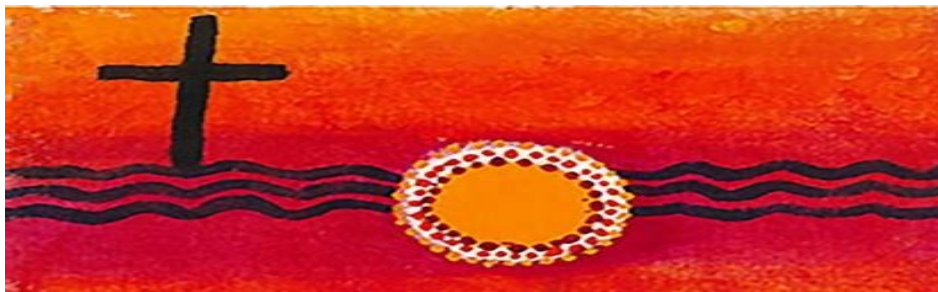
### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

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.



## **SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2023-2024—LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE**

*A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*

### **TOGETHER WITH LOVE**

We, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, invite members of the Church to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in this year of great possibility.

We hope for an end to the pain, the hurt and the injustice that has burdened the First Peoples of this land for far too long.

Let us commit ourselves to fostering a civilization of love in Australia. Let's come together in friendship and love to show all that love can not only change individual lives, but that it can change society for the better.

We urge every Catholic and all people of goodwill to take every opportunity to join with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in dialogue about their hopes and dreams for the future and about whether the Voice proposal could help to bring about change for the better. Listen and learn from what you hear. Let love guide you in making a decision that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to find justice.

### **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:** Our Lady's statue is ready to be taken to your home call Cristita: 0435 780 716 or Vickie: 0401 213 505. we will collect Our Lady's statue, when you ask us.

### **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY —(1st Sunday of the Month)**

#### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S -**

**5.00PM**

#### **HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM**

**Commentators**

M Carson

C Nielson

**Lectors**

P Balkin

M Kroger

**Special Ministers**

N Neeld,

G Wright

**Welcomers**

L Fossey

**Projectionist**

B Middleton

L Coles

**Co-Ordinator**

M Gifford, 5229 1656

#### **HOLY FAMILY**

**9.00AM**

**Commentators**

J Siketa

**Lectors**

M Bird, S Costa

**Special Ministers**

E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta

**Welcomers**

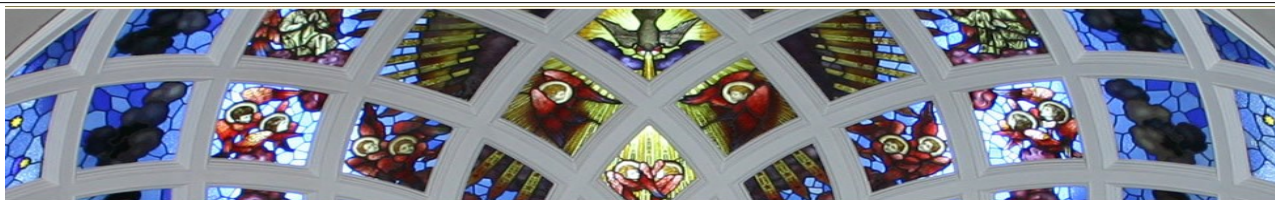
K McArthur

**Projectionist**

C Resciniti

**Co-Ordinator**

J Mann, 0488 784 802



**ST MICHAEL'S PARISH** incorporating the churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss 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

### *Next Weekend - Celebrating Father's Day at Mass!!*

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. You still have to time email the photos to [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) and the Church Mass you will be attending, and please send by Thursday Aug 31 at the latest.

There will also be a special morning tea after the Sunday morning Masses at Holy Family in the Parish Community Centre & Holy Spirit in the Hall. We invite all parishioners and visitors to attend and whilst there is no cuppa after Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church, we extend an invitation to you too.

### **St Michael's News:**

- ◆ **MELBOURNE CUP DAY CHICKEN AND BUBBLY LUNCHEON:** Holy Spirit Hall; Tuesday 7 November. Can you organise a table for 6 or more people?. Cost \$25.00 per head, BYO other drinks. All profits to support our Philippines Partnership. For tickets, please contact David Lunn 0408 378 982; Carol Hullin 0491 703 880; Michael Scaddan 0410 780 985 or Marguerite Giles 0417 707 276. Thank you for your support.
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be lunch on Wednesday 6 September, 12.30pm, Fyansford Hotel. Any St Michael's Parishioners who wish to join us are most welcome. Please confirm your attendance with Bernadette: 0417 5147 598 by Monday 4 September.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch, Monday 4 September, 12.30pm at 'Pekish' Geelong Bowls Club Ballarat Road, See you all there!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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**

- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship. : 12 September, 6pm The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St, Belmont. Purchase meals and drinks at your own cost. Please advise John Santospirito by 10 September Ph: 0409 165 943 or email: [john.santospirito@bigpond.com](mailto:john.santospirito@bigpond.com).
- ◆ **MARY MACKILLOP AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE 17-28 OCT 2023:** The Sisters of St Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage 'In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop' commencing in Melbourne 17 Oct, journeying through Victoria and South Australia and ending at Mary Mackillop Place, North Sydney 28 Oct. for more info, itinerary & application form contact [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or Ph: 8912 4818.

## Reflection by Richard Leonard - Aug 27, 2023

A furore broke out in a country diocese some years ago about the retreat style of priest who was taking Catholic students in their last year of high school or who were attending university away for weekend retreats. On the Friday night of the retreat this priest would tell the young people that by the end of the weekend they should make a decision about their Christian faith.

Some parents were shocked that their young people were given an ultimatum that included the possibility of rejecting their faith. The priest replied that Catholic youth have to make all sorts of decisions regarding career, lifestyle, residence, studies and relationships. Religion, he contended, often fell by the wayside, either not important enough on which to make a decision, or relegated to the personal shelf of neglect to be possibly taken down and dusted off years later for a hatching, matching or dispatching.

The priest argued that this wasn't good enough. After 12 years of Catholic education or many years of catechetics the Church had to take the risk of calling for a personal decision for faith. Some of the young people consciously chose membership in the Church. In making such a profession of faith many reported having a deep encounter with God and an experience of their faith in Christ. Other students made decisions against belonging to the Church, which is, of course, never irrevocable.

The entire retreat process was based on the question in today's Gospel: 'Who do you say that I am?'

The disciples, reflecting on their experiences with Jesus, offer various possibilities, but it is Peter who says that Jesus is the revelation of God for the world. This is the great profession of faith and the basis on which the Church comes into being.

And what was true then, is true now. At some point, if we want our faith to move from being a code of law, a concept, or some excellent ideas to something we can experience, we must take the faith of the Church, which has nurtured us up to now, and make it our own. In doing so, when we encounter Christ, we contribute to the re-founding of the Church in our generation.

Just being part of the 'Catholic crowd' is hardly the challenge Jesus presents to the disciples in today's Gospel. We are commissioned like the disciples to bear witness to Christ's personal love in the workplace, with our friends and in our families.

It's always helpful to be reminded that we might be the only face of Catholicism, or even Christianity, that another person may encounter. The way in which we bind them up or set them free might be the measure by which they judge if the Church is the face of Christ in today's world and whether they could find a home with us.

And it all hinges on that great question which is asked of each of us today: 'Who do you say that I am?' How we answer this question reveals so much, including whether Christ is an idea we like, or the object of our passion.

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## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA - Aug 27, 2023

The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

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