



# 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:** Cora Gyger

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Daniel Kos; Walter Booth; Ron Sells; Kamala Kazzazi; Sulaiman Al-loos; Villie Jean Helder.

**BAPTISMS:** Aidyn Figuracion; Scarlett Martin; Jacob Wilkinson

**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.

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—10 September 2023)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

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

1st: Ezek 33:7-9	1st: Sir 27:30—28:7
2nd: Rom 13:8-10	2nd: Rom 14:7-9
Gospel: Matt 18:15-20	Gospel: Matt 18:21-35

### 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.

## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY (10 SEPTEMBER)



Child Protection Week is a national campaign held each year to raise awareness of child-abuse prevention in our communities. In 2023, the overarching message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme 'Where we start matters'.

In the Catholic Church, Child Protection Week is highlighted through Safeguarding Sunday, which falls this year on 10 September. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. At St Michael's we are committed to the protection of every person in our Parish. The

Child Safeguarding Committee has representatives from each of our churches and catechesis programs, supported by the Parish Priest, Staff and the Parish Leadership Team.

We are committed, through our actions to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and adults. As a Parish, we aim to provide a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually and in their everyday lives, affirming the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice.

*Through our behaviour we show we are followers of Jesus who cared for all—the children, the vulnerable.....*

## 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

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators

Lectors K Maddalena

Special Ministers K Maddalena\*\*\*\*

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

### HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Kroger

J McKenzie

M Drake-Bemelmans

L Fossey

F Kearney

### HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators A Scaddan

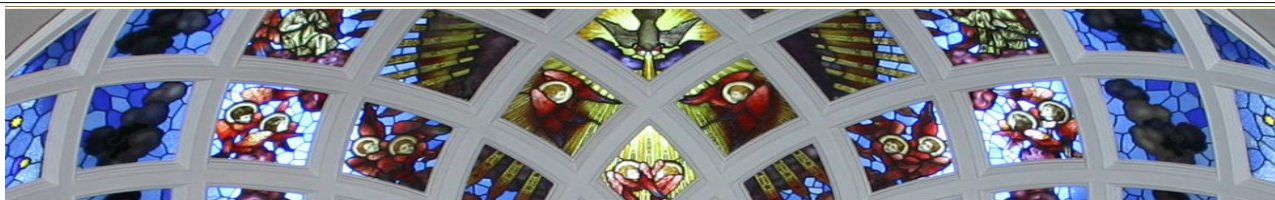
Lectors H Verdnik; T McMahon

Special Ministers M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri

Welcomers

Projectionist C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802



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

- 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:

- ◆ **COMMUNION SERVICE:** Fr Minh is away in Bathurst NSW for the week and there will be a Communion Service, in place of the daily Masses on Sept 12 & Sept 13. Fr Jude Pirotta will celebrate Masses in the Parish this weekend.

### 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.
- ◆ **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:** We invite all parishioners to catch up after the 11am Mass on the **1st & 4th Sundays of the month** for a cuppa & chat.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS - SPRING 2023:** In this issue, we look at 'Climate for change'! Explorations: A changing church? Let the world be. In shaping the world to meet humanity's needs, humans need to be mindful of the difference of dominion & domination. Please take a copy, now available in all churches.

### 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).
- ◆ **HOLY MASS & FELLOWSHIP AT DEAKIN UNI:** Catholic chaplain of Deakin Uni, Fr. Daryl Montecillo, invites all Catholic students to a Holy Mass followed by a fellowship on Sunday, 10 Sept from 3.30 pm at KE1.104 (Waurin Ponds campus). This will be an opportunity to meet fellow students and discuss future programs. Please contact Dr. Susanga Costa 0433 786 787 or Dr. John Long 0404 385 952 for more details.
- ◆ **MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** Come and show your support for the unborn. Join the March for the Babies on 7th October, 2023 at 12.30pm in the Treasury Gardens, cnr Spring & Wellington Pde. Wear blue or pink.
- ◆ **FORUM: 'THE FAIRNESS YET TO COME'.** Unfinished business in Australia's refugee policies. Thursday September 14, 7:15pm (for a 7:30pm start) Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St, Geelong. Speakers: Sr Brigid Arthur AO; Ben Goulding & Geetha Ramachandran, Asylum seeker with lived experience of the Fast Track system.
- ◆ **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 information, itinerary & application form contact [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or Ph: 8912 4818.

## Reflection by Richard Leonard:

When couples who are going to be married in the Church come to see me for the first time, I get them to fill out a brief questionnaire. The last two questions on the form ask:

‘What do you like best about your partner?’

‘What do you like best about yourself?’

The first question usually presents no problems, although it can hold a few surprises and sometimes a playful punch if the right answer is not forthcoming!

The second question seems to present all sorts of difficulties, especially for prospective grooms. Some of us find it hard to name the God-given qualities we value most in our character. Some couples try to pass it off, ‘That’s for others to say’ or, ‘I don’t want to blow my own trumpet.’ Others try to dismiss the question as being new age or trendy.

But the question does, in fact, cut to the heart of both today’s second reading and Gospel. ‘You must love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ We cannot say in the same breath, ‘I hate myself, but I am a good Christian.’ For St Paul, love of self was not indulgent, but the cornerstone of our mission to love as Jesus loves us. Paul knew the difference between self-love and self-adoration. Our love of God is expressed in the healthy and appropriate esteem we have for ourselves. Put another way, we cannot love anyone else if we don’t love ourselves. If we have poor self-esteem then often we need others to fill up this gap in our self-love. Most relationships cannot sustain such a demand.

The Church has to take some responsibility for this state of affairs. We used to be taught that mortification and self-denial were good Christian virtues, and indeed they can be. When properly understood they are never opportunities for self-hatred. The sanest spiritual writers in our tradition saw these virtues as paths of closeness with God and service of our neighbour.

One such writer was St Ignatius of Loyola who in the Spiritual Exercises saw that it was precisely as sinners that God loves us. He saw that one of the greatest gifts the Lord can give us is when we see our sinfulness for what it is, but are not overwhelmed by it, and that we experience the power of God’s love for us who calls us to walk as children of the light.

Jesus in today’s Gospel attends to this destructive side of our human nature. Jesus teaches us that those who do not love their neighbour as they should are to be treated with dignity and respect and offered every opportunity to seek forgiveness until it is clear they can no longer be a part of the Christian family.

The challenge and hallmark of the Christian life is the way in which we live out God’s love and forgiveness. And, although the Christian community should be the last group to exclude anyone, even we have to have our boundaries. Sometimes this involves holding others to account for what they say and do, especially if they claim to be a follower of Christ. The love and forgiveness of God does not mean that ‘anything goes’. It is a love that calls for constant conversion. We can witness to it only to the degree that we have experienced it, from God, from others, and in the way we love and forgive ourselves.

And we know when these qualities are taking deep root in us because answering a question like, ‘What do you really like about yourself?’ is a piece of cake!

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## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is difficult for leaders to call people to accountability. Such is the unenviable responsibility of pastors in the parish, coordinators of religious education, members of the parish council, principals in the school, directors of liturgical ministry, to name but a few. Disciples must also engage in the very difficult process of reconciliation. Differences of opinion, misunderstandings, and actual offences tend to alienate people. We see this happen in families, neighbourhoods, parish communities, workplaces. It is not enough to say that we must try to forgive from our hearts. The process of reconciliation requires significant movement toward the admission of guilt as well. Both the one offended and the offender must be willing to be transformed.

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