



# 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:** Stasys Valaitas

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Berislav & Nikoleta Kovacev; Maria, Antonio, Joanne, Anna & Lidia De Angelis; Teresina Minicucci; Carmel Torre-Ruys; Adela Resciniti; Maria Sciarrone (1 month since death)

**BAPTISMS:** Ronan Laker; Annabelle Dando; Isla Harding

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Pat Carson; 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—17 September 2023)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

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

1st: Sir 27:30—28:7	1st: Is 55:6-9
2nd: Rom 14:7-9	2nd: Phil 1:20-24, 27
Gospel: Matt 18:21-35	Gospel: Matt 20:1-16

### 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:** 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

(4th Sunday of the Month)

#### Ss PETER & PAUL'S 5.00PM

**Commentators** A Henderson

**Lectors** G Tolan

**Special Ministers** A Henderson; G Tolan

**Welcomers** L Fossey

**Projectionist** B Middleton

**Co-Ordinator** M Gifford, 5229 1656

#### HOLY SPIRIT 11AM

T McMahon

J Fraatz

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

**Co-Ordinator** J Mann 0488 784 802

### Community News:

- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA GOES COASTAL:** Featuring five FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS in Queenscliff, Drysdale, Point Lonsdale, Torquay and Barwon Heads.
  - Monday October 9, 12.30-1.00pm,** St George the Martyr Anglican Church, Cnr. Mercer & Hobson Sts Queenscliff. **Barney Ellis-Bassoon, Frank De Rosso—Organ.**
  - Tuesday October 10, 12.30-1.00pm,** St James Anglican Church, 47-55 Collins Street Drysdale. **Wondrous Merry.** A Capella singing group.
  - Wednesday October 11, 12.30-1.00pm** St James Anglican Church, 1 Albert Street, Point Lonsdale. **Beverley Phillips—harpsichord.**
  - Thursday October 12, 12.30-1.00pm** St Luke's Church, 17 Pride Street, Torquay. **Tom Healey—Organ**
  - Friday October 13, 12.30-1.00pm,** All Saint's Anglican Church, 61 Hitchcock Ave, Barwon Heads. **Jim Minchin—piano; Lyndon Green—tenor.**



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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

### St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** Please note, the Parish Office will be closed on **Friday Sept 29 due to the public holiday**. The parish bulletin will be printed on Thursday, and we request that you provide any notices; recent deaths & anniversary of death names by 11am on Wednesday morning.
- ◆ **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. The next catch up will be on Sunday Sept 24.
- ◆ **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

- ◆ **DAYLIGHT SAVING:** Begins **next Sunday October 1**. Just a reminder to move your clocks **forward 1 hour**.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** Christian community for people with a disability, families & friends. You are invited to our next Gathering on Saturday 23 September from 2-4.30pm at St Mary's Parish Offices, 1st floor, 150 Yarra St. Geelong. Lift. Open 1.30pm. Theme: Our community reflects. Sharing, prayer, fiesta afternoon tea. Prepare for Melb. Conference. Enquire to Coordinators TRICIA O'KEEFE 0414 672 267 or KEVIN MARK.....**RSVP by Friday Sept 22. Kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au.**
- ◆ **SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY CSSV:** Within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. The day is an opportunity to keep in our thoughts and prayers the dedicated staff and volunteers of organisations working to stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

## Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Charged with the rape and murder of a young woman, it only took the jury twenty minutes to return a guilty verdict for the three men in the dock. The courtroom erupted in cheers as the verdict was read out.

As the men were being led out of the courtroom the mother of two of them ran toward the dock yelling, 'I think what you've done is despicable, but I want you to know that I love you.'

Outside the courthouse, the media were expecting the parents of the victim to advocate capital punishment for the criminals. Instead, they said they wanted to forgive the perpetrators of this vicious crime. Everyone listened in disbelief.

No one at that courthouse was running away from the heinous nature of the crimes, nor from the punishment the men deserved, but the parents involved chose to focus on love and forgiveness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us we should forgive each other seventy-seven times. Numbers are not randomly used in the Bible. One, three, seven, twelve and forty all have specific meanings. To number something as seven is to describe it as being perfect. When we hear Jesus use this phrase we recall the story in the Book of Genesis of the seven days of creation where, on the seventh day, God looks at the result of his creative love and sees that it is very good. Jesus, using some shorthand, says that not only is forgiveness good, but that it is a creative act that gives life to the world and gives glory to those who exercise it.

In the 5th Century St Augustine said that forgiveness was like a mother who has two wonderful daughters named justice and compassion. In using such a metaphor Augustine knew that forgiveness was not a once-off event, it was a process that involved other virtues as well. Jesus teaches a similar lesson in today's Gospel, where he uses the image of the King settling his debts. Because the King is just, compassionate and forgiving, he rightly expects that, in turn, his steward will be so as well.

It's easy to be forgiving in the big picture. We can preach strongly about war, peace and reconciliation. It's quite another to forgive those closest to us. Sometimes the hardest place to be compassionate and just is our own home. If we are not speaking to a husband, wife, child, parent, sibling or friend then today's Gospel has a strong challenge right where we live.

Part of the problem is that we could have accepted the film *Love Story's* motto, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry'. This idea is many things, but it's not Christian. For followers of Jesus the exact opposite is true. We seek opportunities to forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Jesus doesn't tell us that forgiveness is easy, just necessary. To forgive someone in our family, our workplace, our circle of friends or in our Church is not to pretend that a sinful situation did not occur, but to face it head on and demand justice with compassion.

For when we stand before God with the weakness and sinfulness of our own life, God will not settle old scores, take revenge and exact retribution. Rather God, will be perfectly just and completely compassionate. When we choose forgiveness over revenge, and love over hate we begin to glimpse God's creative goodness coming to perfection in us, because forgiveness is a participation in the very heart of God.

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## Reflection by Dianne Bergant

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentment, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.

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