



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: Antonio Vitelli; Joy Grubb

ANNIVERSARIES: Frano Skratulja; Joe Vanjek Jnr; Tony & Ivan Fantella; Guiseppina Battaglia (1st Anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Michael, Tommy & Ivy Newbold and Reception into the Church of Emma Newbold

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!

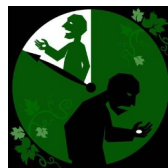
We acknowledge the living culture of the Wathaurong People, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in this region.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—24 September 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever..



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Is 55:6-9	1st: Eze 18:25-28
2nd: Phil 1:20-24,27	2nd: Phil 2:1-11
Gospel: Matt 20:1-16	Gospel: Matt 21:28-32

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.



Celebrating Migrant and Refugee Sunday:

This Sunday is World Day of Migrant and Refugees and the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's event is ... "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay". In his message, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of ensuring that the decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not. It is an opportunity to honour those who have come to Australia seeking a new life and to tell their stories.

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: 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

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	P Balkin
Special Ministers	N Needl
Welcomers	
Projectionist	
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
G Wright
L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators	9.00AM 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

"At the heart of who we are is not all the buildings but the person of Jesus Christ, who enters into our lives and who we then share with others".... Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.



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 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 next **Friday Sept 29 due to the public holiday**. The parish bulletin will be printed on Thursday morning, 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.
- ◆ **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 **this Sunday Sept 24**.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch, Monday Oct 2nd, 12.30pm at 'The Spinx', Thompson Road. See you all there!
- ◆ **CWL:** The Annual General Meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held on Wednesday Oct 4th, 1.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights. Our guest speaker is Anna Krohn AO, General President, Catholic Women's League of Vic and Wagga Wagga. All St Michael's parishioners are most welcome to attend. For more information and transport please call Bernadette 0417 415 598.
- ◆ **COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE:** 150 books issued and to date, 102 returned. Balance of 48 books to be returned by **Sunday Oct 8th**. Thank you for your co-operation. David Lunn.

Community News

- ◆ **DAYLIGHT SAVING:** Begins next **Sunday October 1**. Just a reminder to move your clocks **forward 1 hour**.
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S Emergency Appeals—Morocco / Libya:** Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support **Caritas Australia's emergency appeals**. **DONATE at www.caritas.org.au**
- ◆ **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 or Ph: 8912 4818.
- ◆ **CATHOLICARE:** We are looking for **Volunteer Tutors** to assist newly arrived refugee students at Northern Bay College in Years 11 & 12 to support & improve their study in the following subjects: **General Maths; English; Biology; Legal Studies; Bus Management**. If you're a university student studying one of the above subjects, a retired teacher, or someone with expertise in the above, this volunteer role will be a rewarding experience for you!. Training sessions will be provided to tutors about the school curriculum and how to work effectively with students who have English as a second language. **Location:** VCE Centre, Northern Bay College, Goldsworthy Road, Campus, 3/25 Goldsworthy Rd, Corio. **Thurs 3.15-4.30pm during school terms**. More Info contact: **Jaclyn Fraser / Volunteer Program Coordinator, M: 0499 001 022 / E: Jaclyn.fraser@catholiccarevic.org.au**

Reflection by Richard Leonard

The film *Forrest Gump* was once described as the ‘battler’s triumph’. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off.

Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God’s first name?

Forrest answers straight away, ‘Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T – Today and Tomorrow.’ St Peter replies,

‘That’s not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?’ ‘I think the only answer can be twelve.’ ‘Twelve?’ St Peter asks. ‘Shucks, there’s gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .’ ‘Hold it’, interrupts St Peter, ‘I see where you’re going with this. Let’s go to the final question.’ ‘Sure’, says Forrest, it’s Andy!’ ‘Andy?’ exclaims an exasperated St Peter. ‘OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God’s first name?’ ‘Shucks, that was the easiest one of all’, Forrest replied. ‘I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.’ St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, ‘Run Forrest, run!’

In today’s Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn’t reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal.

We would cynically call the afternoon workers, ‘Johnny-come-latelies’ and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation we would be with the complainers.

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus’ Kingdom as well.

We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn’t how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That’s why those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, *Things You Get for Free*, argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it’s not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let’s thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.

© Dianne Bergant CSA