



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: Giuseppina Zuccala

ANNIVERSARIES: Joan & Ron Southall; Carmela Cammarere

BAPTISMS: Olivia Sciberras

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Pat Carson; Hugo Riedl; Daryl Squires; Cam Resciniti



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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—15 October 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Is 25:6-10	1st: Is 45:1, 4-6
2nd: Phil 4:12-14, 19-20	2nd: 1 Thes 1:1-5
Gospel: Matt 22:1-14	Gospel: Matt 22:15-21

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.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli's Visit

Schedule on Saturday morning October 28: Focus—Parish Community

9.30am: Meet with members of the Child Safeguarding Committee; Liturgical Ministries; Catechetical Ministries; CWL; Legion of Mary and other Ministries.

10.30am Morning tea with parishioners and ministries

11.00am Parish Forum (no clergy)

Opportunity for Parishioners to speak with the Archbishop about priorities, goals and challenges.

Questions posed:

Tell me where you find Jesus in the life of your Parish?

(What is evangelisation)

Think about how and where you would like to see the Parish in 5-10 years... and How are WE going to get there?

(What is Mission?)

12.30pm Lunch: BBQ with parishioners

All St Michael's Parishioners are most welcome to attend and as this is a catered event please place your name on the clip board provided at each church or RSVP to the Parish Office on 5278 1343; email bellpark@cam.org.au by Friday October 20.

St Michael's Parish at Prayer



WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

English...9.00am Sunday

11am Sunday

Saturday 5.00pm

Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

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

Lectors G Tolan

Special Ministers G Tolan

Welcomers

Projectionist B Middleton

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

Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802





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

- Oct 18-20.. Confirmations in the Parish
- Oct 27-29.. Archbishop Peter Comensoli— Visit to St Michael's Parish and our Schools. Celebrant at all weekend Masses.
- Nov 1..... All Saints Day - 9.15am Mass at Holy Spirit Church
- Nov 2..... All Souls Day - 9.15am Mass at Holy Family Church
- Nov 4-5... Annual Bereavement Masses
- Nov 7 Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon—Holy Spirit Hall
- Nov 17.... St Patrick's School Confirmations
- Dec 2..... Presentation, Conversation and Prayer for Parishes' by Sr Caroline Vaitkunas RSM—Holy Spirit Hall
- Dec 3..... Advent begins
- Dec 14.... St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening
- Dec 25.... Christmas Day



Congratulations to the Candidates from the Parish Group, Holy Spirit School and Holy Family School who will be Confirmed during the coming week. The Holy Spirit gives Life to the People of God.
 "The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church"..... Pope Francis.



MELBOURNE CUP DAY CHICKEN AND BUBBLY LUNCHEON: Holy Spirit Hall; Tuesday 7 November. Cost \$25.00 per head, BYO other drinks. Limited tickets are still available. We are seeking **donations of salads and desserts for the day.** Please record your assistance on the clip board at each church. For any queries 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.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **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.** N.B. The next catch up will be **on Sunday 29 Oct** which coincides with the Archbishop's Visit.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS:** Will hold a stall after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church next Sunday October 22nd. Produce; craft items and much more will be available to purchase. Please support this event as all proceeds go to the needy!
- ◆ **WORLD MISSION DAY 2023:** The 2023 Catholic World Mission Sunday Appeal will take place next **weekend, October 21 & 22.** Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the international Pontifical Mission Societies. Support of Catholic Mission ensures the Church can grow in even the most remote areas. Your support of this Catholic Mission Church Appeal will help continue vital Church-run mission programs around the world. There will be a leaving collection taken up at all weekend Masses. Envelopes will also be available in the churches.
- ◆ **LEGION OF MARY:** The group meets after Mass every Tuesday at 10am. We meet in the St Michael's Parish Meeting room, next to Holy Family Church and we would love you to visit our meeting and see what we do. All are most welcome.

Community News

- ◆ **ST VINCENT De PAUL CONFERENCES:** The three previous St Vincent de Paul Conferences have now amalgamated to form the **St Michael's—Bell Park Conference.** The Conference meets at the Parish Community Centre, Separation Street, Bell Park on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4pm. If you are interested in assisting those who are less fortunate than ourselves, then you are most welcome to attend.
- ◆ **VINNIES:** Our Vinnies South Geelong Op Shop store is looking to welcome some new volunteers. We love seeing our volunteers enhance their skills and connect with our community. Free police check. We are very flexible regarding various days and times For more information, please ring Allison 0418 577 112 or email : geelong.centre@svdp-vic.org.au
- ◆ **AN INVITATION FROM ST BERNARD'S PARISH- CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC GROUP:** Now that we are able to meet again for prayer and praise, we are meeting on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 10.30am, St Bernard's Church, Fryers Rd Belmont. You are invited to join us. Our next meeting is on 17th October 2023 - the feast of St Ignatius of Antioch."

Proclaim 2023: 'We are excited to announce the inaugural Archdiocesan gathering, Proclaim....'

Over three days (16-18 November) join together with parishes from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be inspired, engaged and equipped to go out and proclaim the joy of the Gospel into our local communities. Hear inspiring local and international speakers, encounter Jesus through prayer, music and fellowship and participate in workshops to equip ourselves for mission! The standard ticket price for the gathering is \$100 per day (including all keynote speakers, workshops, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) however for those from the Archdiocese of Melbourne Parishes registration will be discounted to just \$70 per day.

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1131232> and use the discount code: parishmember to access the special rate for parishioners. Enquiries: (03) 99265761 or proclaim@cam.org.au.

Proclaim is an initiative of Proclaim: the Office for Mission Renewal, on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, and inspired by Take the Way of the Gospel.

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

These days young couples ask for their children to be baptised for a variety of reasons. Initially, it's clear that for some, baptism is an elaborate naming ceremony, or the ritual preliminaries to having a 'we've had a baby party'. For others, while they don't quite know why they want baptism, they just know they do. And for some parents it's clear that they wish to pass on to their children the life of Christ that has nurtured them.

At the baptismal ceremony, I always begin by saying that for the first three centuries of the Church's history, this sacrament was celebrated at dawn on the Easter Vigil not only because the rising sun symbolised Christ's light dawning in our lives, but because baptism was always done in secret. For 300 years Christians who took the waters of baptism at dawn could be dead by lunchtime. For them, baptism was no social day out; it was a life and death commitment.

In the parable of the King's banquet, Jesus foreshadows the days when those whom one would expect to be Christian would reject the invitation to faith, and those thought least likely to respond to God's call would flock into the Church.

Since the earliest days of Christianity, the Wedding Banquet was seen as a metaphor for two things: the Eucharist and Eternal Life. Curiously, this parable, while using the imagery of the Banquet, is less concerned about the meal and more about who's in and who's out, and why!

We can see this through the tenants who turn down the opportunity to go to a Royal Wedding – still an almost unimaginable thing to do. It's seen in the poor who recognise the gift and the giver, get dressed up and have somewhere to go. And it's seen in the impostor who is not correctly dressed for the occasion and is speechless when called to account.

This last character is clearly the one in the earliest Christian community who has taken the waters of baptism, but was betraying St Matthew's persecuted community. When discovered, people like this guest were thrown out. In Matthew's time, impostors cost lives.

So what does all this have to say to our own time? It's not about how one dresses for Mass or for Eternal life! It's not about the fear of being found wanting in being able to mouth the right words when called to account. It is about being poor enough to recognise the gift of God in the invitation to faith and about being generous enough to respond completely. For taking care about what we say and do, the values by which we live our lives at home, at work, at play and in the way we relate to each other is how we show that we mean what we profess. It is also how others legitimately judge whether we are really genuine about our faith or just another impostor.

Like the earliest Christians, when we were baptised we were clothed in a white garment – a wedding robe. Like theirs, our baptismal day was no naming ceremony and no social day out. It was the day we were issued with a standing invitation to the feast of life in Christ where people act as they profess, and where frauds are spotted a mile away.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

As incredible as it may seem, some people turn down the invitation to the eschatological banquet. This is the case, both in the parable and in our world today. This invitation seems much less interesting than a sports event, the latest movie, or some social affair. So much of our time and energy is spent either climbing the economic ladder or just trying to keep our heads above water. Even if we are interested in the banquet, we do not seem able to afford the time and energy that it might require. And so we send our regrets: I cannot come. What a shame! We seem to have forgotten that everything is tending toward the end; all of our plans, interests and distractions will cease. Only the banquet will remain. All God asks of us is that we receive the blessings that have been prepared for us. We need not work for them. In fact, we cannot work for them on our own. All we can do is enjoy them. Enjoyment of the eschatological time of fulfilment is open to all, but guaranteed to none.

One theme seems to connect all of the readings for this Sunday, our total dependence on God. God spreads the banquet table and invites the guests; God punishes those who are indifferent to or antagonistic toward the eschatological banquet; God supplies whatever we need in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We do not have to bargain with God, or make reservations. All we have to do is accept what God has to offer.

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