



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: Nilola Baljak; Rosemarie Brandon; Raelene Herr; Stanislaw Piatkowski

ANNIVERSARIES: Francesco Marafioti; Francis Murphy; Ercole Iezzi; Jakov Juraga

BAPTISMS:

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 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.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—29 October 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the Hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Ex 22:20-26
2nd: 1 Tess 1:5-10
Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Mala 1:14—2:2, 8-10
2nd: 1 Thes 2:7-9, 13
Gospel: Matt 23:9, 10

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.



*A warm welcome is extended to **ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI** who is currently visiting our Parish this weekend There will be time to catch up with Archbishop Peter at morning tea this Sunday after Mass at Holy Family & Holy Spirit Churches.*

“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 at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

English...9.00am Sunday
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

11am Sunday

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.

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.

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 B Middleton L Coles
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
G Wright
L Fossey



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



LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE TICKETS: MELBOURNE CUP DAY CHICKEN AND BUBBLY LUNCHEON: Holy Spirit Hall: Tuesday 7 Nov. Cost \$25.00 per head, BYO other drinks. Limited tickets are still available. For tickets or any queries, contact David Lunn 0408 378 982.



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

- 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
- 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 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

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **ALL SAINTS DAY & ALL SOULS DAY:** Wednesday Nov 1, we celebrate 'All Saints Day' and Thursday Nov 2, we remember the souls of those departed. There will be the normal 9.15am daily Mass on these days.
- ◆ **ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASSES:** On the weekend of November 4 & 5 at all Masses, the focus will be "*Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones*". As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "*In Loving Memory of*". On the day of the Masses, your leaflets will be collected by members of the bereavement team and placed at the foot of the Cross on your behalf.
- ◆ **WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION EVENING:** An invitation to our busy mothers and young women for a special evening of recollection. Conducted by Ms Bernadette Samuel from Vincentian Retreat Centre, Melbourne. Saturday Nov 11 from 2-5pm at Holy Spirit Church hall. For more details and registration, please contact Sr Concepta 0421 470 490.

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 **this Sunday 29 Oct** which coincides with the Archbishop's Visit.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP Lunch Monday 6 November** at 'The Great Western' Shannon Avenue, 12.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be held on **Wednesday November 1, 1.30pm** at Holy Spirit hall, Bostock Ave, Manifold Heights. Membership fees are due at this meeting. Membership \$35, membership plus Horizon \$70, diary \$10. All St Michael's parish ladies are most welcome. For transport, contact Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **LITURGY MEETING:** The next Parish Liturgy Meeting is on **Tuesday November 14, 4pm** at the Parish Office.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** The next PLT Meeting is on **Tuesday November 14, 7pm** at the Parish Office.

Community News :

- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends for our dinner on **Tuesday 14 Nov 6pm**. **The Bistro, Belmont Hotel**, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Road, Belmont. Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to come to the dinner please phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday 3 November.
- ◆ **LIFEBOAT GEELONG FOUNDATION—CLIENT SUPPORT OFFICER POSITION (part-time):**
The 'Lifeboat Geelong Foundation' has been established for ten years and provides practical and pastoral support for victims of church-related sexual abuse. We wish to employ a part-time 'Client Support Officer' (12hrs per week) to provide personal support to individual clients in Geelong and regional Victoria—through both personal contact and by phone. The appointee will need to have an appreciation of the plight of those who have suffered sexual abuse from church personnel, and its many harmful, lifelong negative effects such as PTSD, compromised education and employment potential, self-esteem issues etc. Applicants should indicate any professional or experience-based qualifications, availability, and motivation for this particular work. Hourly-based remuneration, by agreement, in accord with Human Resources practice. Please send applications by email, with supporting information and referees to: cath@lifeboatgeelong.com.au by November 8. Enquiries 0439 199 400.
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL:** An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health and psychosocial needs. Please donate to the Caritas Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413. With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Nguyen Van Mah is one of eight sons. In 1978 his poor farming parents had to decide which one of their twelve children would be sent on a boat from Vietnam. They knew there was a great risk that they would be sending their son to his death on the South China Sea.

At 4.00 am, a knock on the door of the family home came and Mah said his goodbyes. He has not seen his parents since. Mah was blindfolded and travelled in the back of a truck for eight hours. He was led through the jungle to a beach where the blindfold was removed. Mah told me that sometimes at this moment people are shot by evil traders who collect the money without any intention of dispatching a boat. That families never hear from their children is no surprise.

Mah told me, 'We were lucky, we made it off the beach.' There were 29 adults in a boat built for ten. Inadequately prepared for the two-week trip, all the boat people were sick, hungry and exposed. Thai pirates attacked their boat, executed three men and raped all the women on board. They were to bury another six people at sea who died from the effects of the journey.

On sighting land, the remaining twenty people in Mah's boat thought hope had arrived. But the Malaysian Navy, under orders to fire on all Vietnamese boats, forced it to return to international waters. Mah told me, 'At this point I almost lost my faith in God and human beings. I was going to die.'

The boat began to take water and was noticed by a Dutch trading ship which rescued them and deposited them in the Philippines. Mah migrated to Australia twelve months later and is now the local doctor in an outback community that could not get a doctor for two years.

Isaiah tells us today 'You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.' Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the love of God is fulfilled precisely in as much as we love our neighbour.

No pressing issue in the Western World, it seems to me, invites such hysteria as does immigration. Until recently, most western countries have been good in offering hospitality to people who have chosen to leave or have had to flee their country of birth. Given our comparative wealth this hospitality is entirely appropriate. And it is also appropriate for our countries to have a threshold number for the sake of the common good.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus does not promise us that the love of God and neighbour is going to cost us nothing. Jesus' law of love involves sacrifice for us individually and as a nation. Through the acceptance of this teaching we are committing ourselves to being our neighbour's keeper. In another part of the same Gospel, Jesus tells us that 'those to whom much has been given, much will be required.' Sadly, many of us want the good life for ourselves, while doing very little to help other countries become more liveable, and then we can reject people who want to share in the blessings we have worked for and inherited.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus being forced to flee Israel for Egypt as refugees. If the Holy Family were coming our way these days, they might be sent back to King Herod. May this Eucharist see in us a change of heart that enables our faith to act justly toward all people everywhere. May our goodness and hospitality mirror on earth the welcome we hope to enjoy from Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the kingdom which is promised to all, irrespective of where any of us has been born.

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AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we consider the needs of your family.

Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people,

Each of us loved by You and call to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering.

We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.

Help your people find a way forward. Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home. God of wisdom, come to our aid.

Amen.

By Michael McGirr / Caritas Australia

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.*