



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: Ivan Jurica

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Gallagher; Hanne Badran; Antun & Maria Ivelja; Ivelja & Jurica Families; Gaetano & Caterina Pino; Wasyl & Maria Dupnak; Damian Dougherty
3 months since death of Maria Sciarone.

BAPTISMS: Sol Grozdanovski; Poppy Mercouriou; Kristian Miletic; Amelia Richardson

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.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A/1—5 November 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ!
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Malachi 1:14 2:2, 8-10	1st: Wis 6:12-16
2nd: 1 Thess 2:7-9, 13	2nd: 1 Thess 4:13-14
Gospel: Matt 23:1-12	Gospel: Matt 25:1-13

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.

PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:



Tuesday Nov 7	Almeida; Feireira & Other Family Members
Wednesday Nov 8	Iannuzzi; Pitaro & Other Family Members
Thursday Nov 9	Macarol & Biviano Family Members
Friday Nov 10	Wawrzon & Leszczynski Family Members

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>	5.30pm	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	10.00am	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
Friday	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	3.00pm	<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

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	R Perera
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

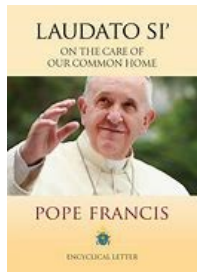
M Drake-Bemelmans
M Martin
L Fossey
L Fossey
R Martin



HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator	K Saunders
Lectors	D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers	J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers	C Marcantonio
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	J Mann 0488 784 802



YOU ARE INVITED TO A PRESENTATION, CONVERSATION AND PRAYER FOR PARISHES

'By Sr Caroline Vaitkunas RSM on Saturday December 2, 10am-1pm at Holy Spirit Church Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights.

On Pope Francis' Encyclical letter Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home.

To register, please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au by **Monday Nov 27**. This is a free event and a light lunch will be provided.



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

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:

- ◆ **ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASSES:** At all Masses this weekend, 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.
- ◆ **PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING:** St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening on **Thursday December 14 at 7pm**. Please come along and support this event featuring the many different cultural groups in our Parish.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for all contributors (including credit card etc) in all churches. They are in order alphabetically by **Surname**. If your pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact the Parish Office, on 5278 1343 or email: bellpark@cam.org.au. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start contributing to the Thanksgiving program. Thank you all for your continuing, regular support.
- ◆ **BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2024:** Lectors, your copy of Break Open The Word 2024 is now available from the sacristy where you are rostered at.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** We invite all parishioners to catch up after the 11am Mass this Sunday **Nov 5th**.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP Lunch Monday 6 Nov;** 'The Great Western' Shannon Avenue, 12.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** Tuesday Nov 7, due to the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday.
- ◆ **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:** 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 10 November.
- ◆ **VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REV PAUL GALLAGHER:** *Secretary for the Relations with States and International Organisations, Secretariat of State, Holy Sea*. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Vatican, Archbishop Comensoli is pleased to welcome His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher and the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia - His Excellency Most Rev Charles Balvo to Melbourne. Archbishops' Comensoli, Gallagher and Balvo, together with clergy of the Archdiocese, will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica—Thursday 9 November, 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.
- ◆ **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN):** Warmly invites you to 'Night of the Witnesses' on 22 November, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. 'Night of the Witnesses' is an inspirational evening of prayer, song, Adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with more than 220 million Christians worldwide who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside over the evening. To RSVP or for additional information, please visit www.aidtochurch.org/notw or contact 1800 101 201.
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL:** 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.
- ◆ **THE RIGHT TO LIFE AUST INC:** Conference and Dinner 2023. The Treacy Centre, Parkville Melb, Saturday 11 Nov. To register online: <https://righttolife.com/auconference-2023> or by phone (03) 9385 0100.

Community News cont'd :

- ◆ **LIFEBOAT GEELONG FOUNDATION—CLIENT SUPPORT OFFICER POSITION (part-time):** 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. 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.
- ◆ **Proclaim 2023: 'We are excited to announce the inaugural Archdiocesan gathering, Proclaim....'** Over three days (Nov 16-18) 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. 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 at: <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.

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

As we come to the end of the Church's year it's good for us to do some soul-searching. It has been a tough time for the Church and today's Gospel does not let us off the hook. In fact, it names one of the challenges before us. The last line of today's Gospel sums up what it has been like for many of us to hear about how some priests betrayed our trust, many victims were disbelieved and a few of our bishops have tried to cover up criminal actions. The exalted have been humbled and the humble exalted.

Jesus tells the crowds to listen to what the Pharisees teach, but not to follow their appalling example. The behaviour of the Pharisees has a name: hypocrisy, and it's one of the reasons we have received such a public pasting in recent years. Some of it has been justified. We have been seen to be a community more interested in our good name and public standing than in the damage done to those brothers and sisters of ours who were given into our care and became victims of physical and sexual abuse. We have been exposed as not practising what we preach.

The Church is in a bind here. We are not like other groups who can simply expel their worst members and move on. If we are going to be faithful to all of Jesus' teaching and the entire Christian tradition, then we have to comfort and heal the victims of abuse and call the perpetrators to the demands of the law, treatment and reconciliation. St Augustine summed this up in the 5th century when he said that forgiveness has two daughters: justice and compassion. We believe that the only way to healing is through forgiveness. True forgiveness never runs from the truth or minimises our sinfulness. It confronts the human condition with justice and compassion for *all* concerned.

The media may not like it, the public may be baying for blood and we might want an instant fix, so we put this tragic chapter behind us quickly, but forgiveness which is just and compassionate is the only way we can practise what we preach. It's going to take time.

On the other hand while some in our Catholic community have been exposed as hypocrites, some other truths remain consoling, or at least provide a context within which we can confront the sins of our fathers and mothers. For example, though there should never have been one case of child abuse in the Church, less than two percent of all Catholic priests have been convicted of this dreadful crime. An accusation is not a conviction and even priests and religious deserve the presumption and rights of innocence before they are proven guilty. Even though the public perception may be otherwise, nearly all Catholic priests are faithful servants of the Gospel, doing what they can to practise what they preach.

Against a prevailing misconception, Church-run institutions are not the places where children are most at risk. Tragically, it's the family home. Over 80 percent of all child abuse occurs there. This does not excuse one case of abuse in the Church but it does suggest that, if our wider society really wants to tackle this problem, we are all going to have to start by looking in our own backyards.

Furthermore, against those who claim that the Church is hypocritical, they cannot take away from us the fact that our community, in the name of Christ, remains the largest provider of education, healthcare and welfare both here and overseas. This often-heroic work will rarely make it to the front pages of newspapers, but it's the backdrop against which we face up to the criminal actions of a few and those who try to protect them from public scrutiny.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that, as hard as this time has been for us all, we are converted again by the forgiving, just and compassionate example of Jesus who calls us to leave behind any trace of triumphalism and arrogance and recommit ourselves to what we should do best: the self-sacrificing love of one another and the world.

© Richard Leonard SJ

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