



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: Milenko Zivkovic

ANNIVERSARIES: Anna Menchise; Legion of Mary Legionaries and Spiritual Advisers; Klara Van Slooten; Teresa De Luca; 1st anniversary of Domenico Del Vecchio; 1 month since death Carmela Cammarere

BAPTISMS: Thomas Bilic; Noah Collins; Harvey Furze; Hazel, Charlotte & Louis Napoli

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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A/1—12 November 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready;
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Wis 6:12-16
2nd: 1 Thess 4: 13-14
Gospel: Matt 25:1-13

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
2nd: 1 Thess 5:1-6
Gospel: John 15:4, 5

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.

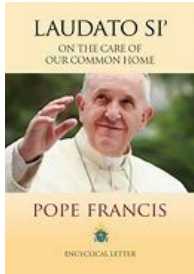
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

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.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A PRESENTATION, CONVERSATION AND PRAYER ON POPE FRANCIS ENCYCLICAL LETTER LAUDATO SI': ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME.

Saturday December 2, 10am—12.30pm. This event is presented by Sr Caroline Vaitkunas RSM, St Columbans Mission Society Peace Ecology and Justice Office.

Key themes of the morning will be Pope Francis teachings and how the Church is responding to cries of Earth and people experiencing poverty.

“Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society (Laudato Si, n91).”

As this event will be catered, please RSVP to the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or bellpark@cam.org.au by Nov 27.

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

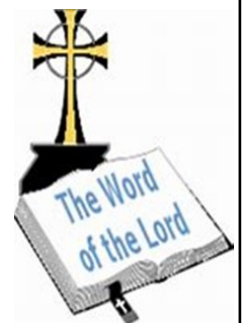
(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	
Lectors	K Maddalena
Special Ministers	K Maddalena
Welcomers	
Projectionist	
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Kroger
J McKenzie
M Drake-Bemelmans
L Fossey
F Kearney



HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators	A Scaddan
Lectors	H Verdnik; T McMahon
Special Ministers	M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri
Welcomers	
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	J Mann 0488 784 802



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

- 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:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **MASS FOR THE SOULS OF DEPARTED LEGIONARIES AND SPIRITUAL ADVISERS:** Holy Family Church 9.15am Mass on Tuesday Nov 14. In special Memory of Joyce Archer, Fr Mick Fitzpatrick, Fr Rafter and Mon. Murray.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL THANK YOU!** - Thank you to parishioners for supporting the recent Catholic Mission Appeal. \$1200.90 was kindly donated.
- ◆ **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:** Sunday Nov 26. We invite all parishioners to catch up after the 11am Mass.
- ◆ **LITURGY MEETING:** The next Parish Liturgy Meeting is next **Tuesday November 14, 4pm** at the Parish Office.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** The next PLT Meeting is next **Tuesday November 14, 7pm** at the Parish Office
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2024:** Now on sale for \$10 at the Parish Office.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS—SUMMER 2023:** In this edition, the topic centres on Explorations - 'Music and the Church.' Many musicians talk about why singing in the church and at school liturgy events is so important. Please take a free copy, now available at all churches and 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** A Christian community for people with disabilities, their carers, families and friends. You are warmly invited to come to our next monthly meeting on Saturday, Nov 25; 2pm-4.30pm (room open from 1.30pm). Venue is St Mary's Pioneer Room, Level 1 (by lift), 150 Yarra St. Geelong. Please RSVP by Thursday Nov 23 to Tricia 0414 672 267 or Kevin via kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au. For further information go to www.stmarysgeelong.com.au/faithandlight.
- ◆ **GROWING VITAL PARISHES:** 'Vision, leadership and collaboration' hosted by Ron Huntley, international coach of parish clergy and leadership. Open to all clergy, parish leadership teams and interested parishioners. Western Region Tuesday November 21, 7-9pm. Hosted by Fr Jim Clarke and St Mary of the Angels Parish, Geelong. Pioneer Room 150 Yarra St. Geelong. Bookings are essential, go to www.trybooking.com/CMUOP.

PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:



Tuesday Nov 14	Marcantonio Family and other Family Members
Wednesday Nov 15	O'Neill & Wallace Family
Thursday Nov 16	Fiorillo, De Lorenzo & other Family Members
Friday Nov 17	Millns and McGlinchey Families

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

One Sunday a pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1000 cheque on the plate.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly, saintly spinster at the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the altar. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and, in thanksgiving, asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the congregation and said, 'OK Father, I'll take him, him, and him.' Now that's a different take on a wise virgin!

In one sense the parable of the wise and foolish virgins could be considered the first known oil crisis in the east. It is, however, about planning for the future and pacing oneself to see that one has a future to enjoy.

In Christian theology this is called 'discernment'. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, wrote a lot about discernment and one of his teachings is that the Holy Spirit allows us to prepare for our future without living it.

Think for a moment of the times when we are going to have a difficult interview or a conversation we would rather not have. We play out in our mind how the interaction will run. It rarely happens how we imagine and we find that our anxiety and fear has often been misplaced. What is curious is that on the next occasion we go through this same process of trying to live the future all over again. Tragically, some people are so anxious about their future that they try and control it, and everyone associated with it. It's always a disaster.

St Ignatius was suspicious of this process. Ignatius seems to have understood today's Gospel very well. The early church thought Jesus would return quickly. There was a crisis of faith when he didn't. Some Christians lived as though this imminent return was a fact. We are still waiting. Matthew tells us then, that the Christian life is about wisdom, right judgment and reading the signs of the times.

St Ignatius tells us the best way to prepare for the future is to let go of the unhealed past, as best as we can, and live in the here and now. The Holy Spirit helps us see what needs to be done today and what preparation is necessary for tomorrow. This is such simple and sound advice and yet many of us don't heed it. For some of us it takes nothing to feel the hurt and pain of our past or to be consumed by the future.

Alcoholics Anonymous sums it up neatly when it tells us to take life 'one day at a time' which is another way of saying what Matthew's community came to see, 'keep awake because you know not the time or place'.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The early Christians thought that all their questions about death had been answered with the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, when loyal Christians began to die, not only did their old questions come back, but also they were plagued with new and difficult ones. Was it possible that those loyal Christians had not been loyal after all? Or worse, were the promises made by Jesus empty promises? No! Paul assures us. It is all true. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again, and all the faithful will be joined with him. *How* it will happen, we do not know. *When* it will happen, we do not know. *That* it will happen, we are sure.

The wisdom that we have culled from life becomes the treasury from which we draw the prudence and insight needed to negotiate life's paradoxes. It throws light on our strengths and on our weaknesses; it enables us to discern what is important and what is not; it directs us to bring extra oil in our lamps. Life and the wisdom that we have acquired through it, have taught us that we can indeed trust the promises of God. They have been fulfilled in the past, and wisdom assures us that they will be fulfilled in the future. It is wisdom that cautions us to be vigilant, to be ready to adjust our plans. It is wisdom that prepares us for the night watches of life. It is wisdom that instructs us to be ready at all times.

© Dianne Bergant CSA