



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: Gerard Willis; Valda Atchison; Sr Margaret Sheehan

ANNIVERSARIES: Antun & Marija Fantella; Mary Sells; Rosemary Richens; Rosalia Puglia; Kevin Craven; Grace Liliyan; Kata Risek (1 year anniversary); Pasquale Carzo (1 year anniversary);

BAPTISMS: Maxwell Blythe; Lenny & Hazel Harper; Sebastian Hizon; Ari Serra; Zachary Simpson

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



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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A/1—19 November 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place..



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1st: Prov 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 1st:Eze 34:11-12, 15-17

2nd: 1 Thess 5:1-6 2nd: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matt 15:4, 5 Gospel: Mark 11:9, 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.

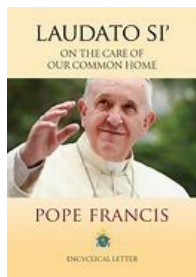
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

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.



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. Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights.

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 (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

Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802



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

- 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 St Patrick's School who were Confirmed on Friday. The Holy Spirit gives Life to the People of God. "The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church"..... Pope Francis.

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.
- ◆ **LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS:** We are currently looking for more Readers; Commentators & Special Ministers to assist at our weekend Masses. Training will be provided and we would love to hear especially, from the youth in the Parish. Please contact the parish office for more information.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** A big 'Thank You' to our volunteers for their time and effort, to once again make our Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon such a wonderful social event. Special thanks goes to David Lunn, Noella Duggan, Michael & Anne Scaddan, Marguerite Giles, Carol Hullin, Alberto Keogh, Noreen Haberman, Lane Kelly, Parish Lillico and all other helpers who went above and beyond to make this day such a success. Our big thank you also, to all who assisted with the catering on the day. The selection of salads and desserts supplied, were delicious. The amount of \$1870 raised from the day will help support the Kuya Centre in Manila.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 :

- ◆ **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 21

Wednesday Nov 22

Thursday Nov 23

Friday Nov 24

Groher & Hajer Families

Lynch, McDonald & Johnson Families

Bauer & Radojevic Families

Webb Family

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

As Catholics we have no problem with the time-bound nature of the Bible. In fact, we appreciate it, believing that the scriptures deserve to be read within their context, and also need careful interpretation. And while the Catholic Feminist Association may not choose to have today's first reading as the opening text at their next convention, we would be mistaken to hear it only in terms of our world today.

The Book of Proverbs is a distillation of sayings and teachings which had grown up over hundreds of years, most probably from Rabbis and Scribes. Its world is a vastly different one to ours. This is clearly seen in the tasks of the 'capable wife'. She is praised for her work with wool, flax, in the vineyard and in real estate. It's only in the context of an agrarian society that the power of this text makes sense.

Until quite recently, women in Palestinian society, and in wider society for that matter, were considered the 'possessions' of their husbands. They could be bought, sold, divorced, or killed without any appeal to the law. Wives in this society had no legally recognised human rights. They were expected to serve and shut up.

By contrast, then, this text from the Book of Proverbs, which can seem so old-fashioned to us, was a liberating text in its day. A woman's right to work is not only defended, but also extolled. She is praised for her creativity, wisdom, goodness, strength, sense of justice, generosity, joy and faith. In any age and for either gender this is not a bad list of virtues toward which we should all aspire.

And these days of course, through the ongoing revelation of the Spirit, we believe that what the Book of Proverbs expects and praises in a capable wife, we should equally look for in a capable husband.

It is almost possible that Jesus had women in mind when he shared the parable of the talents in today's Gospel. What can often get lost in the debates about who should be ordained in today's Church, is that women have always and still 'lead' the Church in powerful and long-lasting ways. From the extraordinary abilities of religious and lay women in Catholic welfare, education, healthcare, overseas missions and theological reflections, to wives and mothers whose daily witness to the fidelity and goodness of God, this all reveals in innumerable ways the power of the parable of the talents. The reality is that if it were not for women's leadership, commitment and faith, it would be hard to see how the Church could survive. We would not be able to continue almost all of our ministries.

None of this minimises the pain and hurt some women have experienced at the hands of the Church. Some feel as though their particular contribution to the life of the Church has not been fully realised.

All we can hope and pray for is that we may find ways to use everyone's talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God, and that we may see that everyone's contribution, irrespective of gender, is precious and worthy of praise.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is not enough that we wait patiently. We are expected to be industrious as we await the advent of the reign of God. We have all been entrusted with talents that really belong to God, and we must use these talents to the best of our ability in the interim between the Lord's departure and his final return. The ideal wisdom figure in the first reading is a model of such industriousness.

Fidelity to the reign of God requires that we be willing to take risks. We do not know the time of the Lord's coming, and so there will have to be a kind of tentativeness to all of our plans. We will never be able to be certain that they will be brought to fruition. We must spend and be spent without the assurance that we will be able to reap the rewards of our investment. To refuse to risk is to refuse to trust.

If we have been wise and have industriously employed the Lord's talents, which were entrusted to us, we will be richly rewarded. However, if we have not realised the potential that is possessed by our talents, and if we have not employed them as they were meant to be employed, we will be punished. The foolish man in the gospel knew that the householder was exacting. He had some idea of what to expect. He made his choice and he had to accept the consequences of that choice.

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Sunday 19 November 2023 the seventh edition of the World Day of the Poor will be held. The initiative, proposed for the first time in 2017, was strongly desired by Pope Francis to urge the Church to 'come out' of its own walls to encounter poverty in the multiple guises in which it manifests itself in today's world.

Loving God,

You hear the cry of each of your children, and especially those who are poor and suffering.

We pray that we too might hear the cries of people in need:

the family crying out for food...

The migrant child crying out for his mother...

the youth crying out for education...

The farmer crying out for rains for his harvest...

the trafficked and abused, crying out for freedom...

All who are poor and vulnerable, crying out for help...

Lord, open our hearts that we may hear the cries of the poor

as you do and respond as your hands and feet on earth. In your name we pray.

Amen.