



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) Phone 5278 1343

**PASTORAL WORKER:** Sr Anne Lourey Email: [anne.lourey@mercy.org.au](mailto:anne.lourey@mercy.org.au) Phone: 5278 1343

<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:</b> 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](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Valda Atchison

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Milan Stante; Eileen Arnold; Joan Jess

**BAPTISMS:** Ruby-Quinn Bellinger

**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.

### **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (Year A/1—26 November 2023)**

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.



#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!  
Alleluia!

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

1st: Eze 34:11-12, 15-17	1st: Is 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8
2nd: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28	2nd: 1 Cor 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 11:9, 10	Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

#### **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.

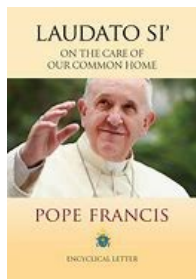
#### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:**

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:

<b>Tuesday:</b>	<i>Meditation Group</i>	5.30pm	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	10.00am	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<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

(1st Sunday of the Month)

#### Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

<b>Commentators</b>	M Carson
<b>Lectors</b>	P Balkin
<b>Special Ministers</b>	N Neeld,
<b>Welcomers</b>	
<b>Projectionist</b>	B Middleton
<b>Co-Ordinator</b>	M Gifford, 5229 1656

#### HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
M Kroger
L Fossey
L Coles



#### HOLY FAMILY

#### 9.00AM

<b>Commentators</b>	J Siketa
<b>Lectors</b>	M Bird, S Costa
<b>Special Ministers</b>	E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta
<b>Welcomers</b>	K McArthur
<b>Projectionist</b>	C Resciniti
<b>Co-Ordinator</b>	J Mann, 0488 784 802

## 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



### St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols

Thursday December 14, at 7pm

Holy Family Church.

A warm welcome to family and friends to attend a Christmas Carols evening of festive and spirited cheer to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Please come along and support this event featuring the many cultural groups in our Parish!



#### ST MICHAEL'S JESSE TREE CHRISTMAS GIVING-

This year there will be a Jesse Tree for each of our Churches. If you would like to support the annual St Vincent de Paul Appeal, a gift voucher (no food or presents this year) would be ideal. Please drop the vouchers in at the parish office or at Mass up until December 17.

#### VOLUNTEERS—CHRISTMAS MASSES:

To assist at our Christmas Masses as Lectors; Commentators; Special Ministers & Collectors. If you can assist, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 or email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au).

### St Michael's News:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: CHRISTMAS LUNCH**— at Pekish! Geelong Bowls Club, Ballarat Road, Monday 4 December 12.30pm. All welcome. See you there!
- ◆ **CWL Christmas Lunch:** The CWL Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday December 6th 12.30pm at the Shell Club, 76 Purnell Rd, Corio. Please confirm your attendance with Bernadette 0417 514 598 by Monday December 4th. Don't forget to bring a wrapped present to the value of \$10 for our Kris Kringle.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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:** This Sunday November 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 :

- ◆ **TAIZE PRAY PEACE: An invitation to people in the Bellarine and beyond to join together in prayer and worship as we celebrate the season of ADVENT,** Santa Casa, 33 Flinders St, Queenscliff, Saturday December 9, at 2.30pm followed by a cuppa at 3.30pm. Please arrive a little earlier so we can begin on time and contact Lizzie to register 0418 194 261 or via [santacasa@ismapng.org.au](mailto:santacasa@ismapng.org.au)
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friendship on Tuesday 12 December at 6pm. Venue: The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St Belmont. Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. Please RSVP to John Santospirito on 0409 165 943 or email [john.santospirito@bigpond.com](mailto:john.santospirito@bigpond.com) by December 9.
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL:** Please donate to the Caritas Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://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.

## PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:



Tuesday Nov 28	Lukesic, Tucak & Families
Wednesday Nov 29	Burt Family
Thursday Nov 30	Baldasso & Bisinella Families
Friday Dec 1	Frank Kennedy and all Family, Relatives & Friends

### Reflection by Richard Leonard:

The Roman Emperor Constantine was baptised in 337. He put it off for years. In the early Church Christians could only confess their sins once in their lives, so Constantine remained a catechumen until he was nearing the end. When he thought his death was imminent, and that he could probably sin no more, he asked for baptism, received Holy Communion and later confessed his sins. It was a watershed moment for the Church.

In 313 Constantine declared that Christianity was to be the new state religion. No one could hold any other belief. It was meant to unify the Empire as trade, law, taxation and Roman culture had done. I think we should admit that this move has been a mixed blessing for the Church ever since.

On the positive side of the ledger, it finally sealed the end of the persecution of the earliest Christians. The blood of the martyrs had been so eloquent that their witness caused even a few emperors to ask what sort of love would see so many followers be prepared to die for their beliefs. It also saw the Church become a significant player in shaping the values of society, especially in the West. There is no question that Christianity moderated, cultivated and humanised some of the worst Roman excesses.

On the cost side, the Church became very powerful very quickly. Bishops started to wear the purple robes of the senators. Churches took on the shape of the Roman basilicas, while the government of the Church mirrored that of the Empire. Our liturgy imported all sorts of practices that were popular in the Roman temples. Tragically, for the next few hundred years, conversions were demanded at the end of a sword. No religious dissent or pluralism was tolerated. It's in this context that Islam arises against Imperial Christianity in the 6th Century.

It cannot surprise us that after Constantine's conversion the image of Christ the King becomes one of the most popular ones used in religious art. Up to this time the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was the most represented. After 313, however, Jesus is dressed in royal robes, with a crown, sceptre and orb. Mary is often presented in similar dress and starts to be called the Queen of Heaven.

The problem with all this is not that imperial language was now being used in reference to Jesus. He described himself as a King. The problem comes in how Christianity starts to forget that Jesus also pointed out that his kingdom was 'not of this world' and that his courtiers could be recognised by how they feed the hungry, water the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit prisoners. Jesus' reign, and his courtiers, are of an altogether different order to that usually prized in worldly kingdoms.

That's why today's feast is so important. On the last day of the Church's year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true allegiance to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but the quiet revolutionary work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live.

To the degree that we do this we are co-heirs to the Kingdom Jesus lived, died and was raised for, and we are witnesses to the real meaning of Christ's reign in our lives.

© Richard Leonard SJ

### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

We have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that the kingdom of God is inclusive. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on the bonds of love and concern.

What we do for others, we do for Christ, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified.

Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong. He has turned the standards of the world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care.

© Dianne Bergant CSA