



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: Yvonne Slee; Peter Kemp

ANNIVERSARIES: Gerard Gillett; Joze Matjasic

BAPTISMS: Myles Kosmetschke; Francesca Harvey

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT **(Year B—3 December 2023)**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Is 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

2nd: 1 Cor 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

2nd: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS—



CHRISTMAS MASSES...

December 24:

5pm Holy Family Church (Family Mass)
 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's Church
 8pm Holy Spirit Church

December 25:

9am Holy Spirit Church
 9am Holy Family Church

Christmas Masses in Croatian:

Dec 24 8pm Holy Family Church
 Dec 25 5pm Holy Family Church

2nd Rite Reconciliation:

Tuesday Dec 19...7pm at Holy Family Church

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:.. *Meditation Group* 5.30pm *Parish Community Centre*
Legion of Mary 10.00am *Parish Community Centre*
Friday *Divine Mercy* 3.00pm *Holy Spirit Church*

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

L Strzelecki
 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
Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802

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

Dec 3..... 1st Sunday of Advent
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.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: CHRISTMAS LUNCH**— at Pekish! Geelong Bowls Club, Ballarat Road, this **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.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** This Sunday December 3. We invite all parishioners to catch up after the 11am Mass.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** after the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2024:** Now on sale for \$10 at the Parish Office.
- ◆ **ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH NAMES:** The last parish bulletin for 2023 will be December 24 and the next bulletin for 2024 will be on February 4. If you wish to add any names to be prayed for in the Prayers of the Faithful during this time, please email details to bellpark@cam.org.au or contact the parish office on 5278 1343, up until December 20.

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
- ◆ **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 by December 8.
- ◆ **H.K.U.D. "LADO" GEELONG CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Presents its 16th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday December 17, 3pm at Ss Peter & Paul's Church, cnr Mercer & Malone Sts Geelong. All most welcome - Gold coin donation.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG;** Join us to welcome Jesus into our lives at a special Christmas gathering . Sat 9 Dec, 2-4.30pm, 2nd floor (accessed by lift), St Mary's Parish, 150 Yarra St. Faith & Light are welcoming communities formed by people with an intellectual disability, their families, friends and carers. Please bring a plate to share and a small gift for another. **Pre-booking is a must. Call or text your name to Tricia: 0414 672 267. RSVP by Fri 12pm, Dec 8.**



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS

Tuesday Dec 5 Juraga, Uroda & Mikin Families
 Wednesday Dec 6 Rotiroti, Pitaro Families
 Thursday Dec 7 Plunkett Family Members
 Friday Dec 8 Javni, Ramirez & Other Family Members

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS 2023:

HOLY FAMILY

Commentator J. Siketa
 Lector S. Costa, E. Siketa
 Special Ministers M. Giles, J Genova, P Ruggeri
 Projectionist H. Phan
 Collectors D Lunn *****

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY

F. O'Neill

 E Karachi *****
 J. Puche
 F. O'Neill, E Karachi *****

HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator *****
 Lector M. Kroger
 Special Ministers Mass Concelebrated
 Projectionist L. Coles
 Collectors L. Gleeson, *****

8PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY

L. Strzelecki

 L. Fossey
 R Martin
 J. O'Neill, J. Burt

Ss PETER & PAUL'S

Commentator M. Carson
 Lector M. Gifford
 Special Ministers P. McGlinchey, N. Neeld, M. Gifford
 Collectors J. Vecci, S. O'Shea, G. Booth, C. Brown, T. Stocks, *****

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE

*******PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ON 5278 1343 IF YOU CAN HELP.**

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might watch the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch out tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!