



# 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:** Claudio Callegher; Paola Tartaglia.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Chris (Max) Lunn & 2 months since death of Carmela Cammarere.

**BAPTISMS:** Raven Baker; Scarlett Dillon; Ava & Jye Zorkau; Nya Cukusic; Oliver Bonifacio; Ivan Marinovic; Salvatore Panebianco; Lina Saldukas-Taylor.

**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.

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** *(Year B—10 December 2023)*

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

1st: Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
2nd: 2 Peter 3:8-14  
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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

1st: Is 61: 1-2, 10-11  
2nd: 1 Thes 5: 16-24  
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28



#### **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

(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  
M Martin  
M Drake-Bemelmans  
L Fossey  
R Martin



### HOLY FAMILY

#### 9.00AM

#### **Commentators**

A Scaddan  
**Lectors** H Verdnik; T McMahon  
**Special Ministers** M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri

#### **Welcomers**

#### **Projectionist**

J Puche

#### **Co-Ordinator**

J Mann 0488 784 802

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

Dec 14.... St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening  
Dec 25.... Christmas Day  
Jan 27-28.... Celebrate Australia Day at our weekend Masses  
Feb 14... Ash Wednesday  
Feb 18... 1st Sunday of Lent



### 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. Also, there are Gift Cards, valued at \$54, available to purchase at all Vinnies Stores at a cost of \$40.

### **St Michael's News:**

- ◆ **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:** The next catch up is on Sunday January 7, 2024.
- ◆ **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 up until December 22.
- ◆ **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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) or contact the parish office on 5278 1343, up until December 20.
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:** The Parish Office will close for the holiday break on Friday December 22 and reopen on Monday January 29, 2024.

### **Community News :**

- ◆ **ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE:** In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has launched a special Advent Appeal. Funds raised will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and who are without basic supplies, especially the sick and the elderly. To make a donation, please go to [melbournecatholic.org/adventappeal](http://melbournecatholic.org/adventappeal).
- ◆ **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 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.
- ◆ **WINDFIRE CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Music at the Basilica invites you to our annual Christmas Concert on Friday Dec 15, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Geelong. This year the Windfire Choir, orchestra and soloists will present the **Christmas Oratorio** by Saint-Saens and **Fantasia on Christmas Carols** by Vaughan Williams. Tickets \$50/\$45/\$40 from [www.trybooking.com/CFGTN](http://www.trybooking.com/CFGTN) Children and school students free. There are also free lunchtime organ recitals on Monday Dec 11 - David Macfarlane & Monday Dec 18 - Frank De Rosso, 12.30 - 1.15pm.
- ◆ **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS (SIMBANG GABI):** Begins on Saturday, Dec 16 until Dec 24, with Mass every morning, 5.30am at St Francis Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio. For more info, please contact Adela Buya 0409 135 589. All are most welcome!



## PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS

Tuesday Dec 12	Ferreira, Silvestre & other family members
Wednesday Dec 13	Duggan & Killian family members
Thursday Dec 14	Mairos, Medeiros & other family members
Friday Dec 15	Ruggles, Humphrey & 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	M Lacreole
Collectors	D Lunn, M Scaddan *****

### 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE

### 9AM CHRISTMAS DAY

F. O'Neill
T McMahon, M Bird
E Karachi *****
J. Puche
F. O'Neill, E Karachi, K Tantanouvong, *****

### HOLY SPIRIT

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

### 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, N Tuddenham

### 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE

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

## Reflection by Richard Leonard:

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.