



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: Fr Gerard Dowling OAM; Gregory Vaughan; Gemma Salvo

ANNIVERSARIES: Sr Dominica Fernando; Boris, Eva & Andrew Uroda; June Smith; Manuel & Vitorena De Jesus; Wassela Al-Sakkal; Majed Karakchi; Antoinetta, Salvatore & Rosa Valentino; Antonio & Maria De Angelis; Tony, Tilly & Lou Past; Almor Mairos; Jose Madeiros; Madalena Ferras & Family; Lorraine Stacey; Myrtle McDonnell; 3 months since death of Nat Caruso

BAPTISMS: Lilah Pereira; Jamie Roberts; Ned, Frankie & Sid Gough; Xadie Rivera; Harvey Lee;

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Pat Carson; Hugo Riedl; Daryl Squires; 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Year B—17 December 2023)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16
2nd: Rom 16: 25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



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

Christmas Mass in Lithuanian:

Dec 25 9.30am Ss Peter & Paul's 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

(4th Sunday of the Month) - December 23 & 24

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

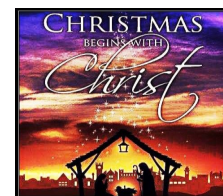
T McMahon

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 C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator J Mann 0488 784 802

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

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 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 or contact the parish office on 5278 1343, up until December 20.
- ◆ **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Thank you to all who attended and supported the annual Christmas Carols Evening. The positive feedback is greatly appreciated. A special note of thanks goes to Louise Kearney, our MC on the night and for the many hours she dedicated to organising and co-ordinating this event. Lastly, a big thank you to the talented groups in the parish who showcased such diversity through their performances and all who assisted with setting up and other behind the scenes tasks to make this evening such an enjoyable one.

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.
- ◆ **H.K.U.D. "LADO" GEELONG CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Presents its 16th Annual Christmas Concert today, 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:** There is a free lunchtime organ recital this Monday, Dec 18 at St Mary's Church Geelong from 12.30 - 1.15pm and featuring Frank De Rosso.
- ◆ **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS (SIMBANG GABI):** Saturday, Dec 16 until Dec 24, with 5.30am Mass each morning, at St Francis Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio. For more info, please contact Adela Buya 0409 135 589. All are most welcome!
- ◆ **Mass on New Year's Eve & Solemnity of Mother of God:** Thank the Almighty God for 2023 and welcome 2024 in the presence of the Lord. Eucharistic Adoration starts at 11pm on December 31, followed by Mass at St Mary McKillop Church, Bannockburn. There will be a cuppa after Mass and all most welcome!



Wishing our St Michael's Parishioners a Safe and Happy Christmas & the best for 2024! The Parish Office will close on December 22 and reopen on Monday January 29, 2024.

Commencing from Friday February 5, the Parish Office opening hours will slightly change and are as follows:- Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm; Friday 9am - 3.30pm.



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS

Tuesday Dec 19 Seales, Williams & other Family Members
 Wednesday Dec 20 Trinder, Richardson & Attiah Family Members
 Thursday Dec 21 Caccamo & Genova Family Members
 Friday Dec 22 Sells, Welsh & 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, M Scaddan *****

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY

F O'Neill
 T McMahon, M Bird
 E Karachi *****
 C Resciniti
 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
 Kearney
 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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS *from the Archbishop*

Dear friends,

Christmas blessings to you and your family!

In these Advent days of preparation, we are being invited to open our hearts and make a home within us for the child Jesus. In a world that longs for light and hope, the infant Jesus comes to us as a sign of God's nearness, just like he did 2,000 years ago. He is *Emmanuel*- 'God with us'.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. For almost two years now they have been immersed in a war that seemingly has no end in sight. During our visit we attended the funeral of a fallen soldier at the Garrison Church of Sts Peter and Paul in Lviv, where they host upwards of 12 funerals a day. The image that has stayed with me from that experience is that of three generations of women who surrounded their loved one: a mother who had lost her son, a wife who had lost her husband and a daughter who would never see her father again.

There are no winners in war, only families torn apart. Sadly, this is the painful reality facing so many in our world at this time.

What might we do to offer a sense of hope to those who suffer? The head of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand, Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, has asked the Church in Australia to continue to pray for his people back home and for any support we can provide. While they can be assured of my prayers, I will also be providing financial aid to those who have been displaced and in need of practical assistance and relief. I invite you to offer what you can and, together, may we too be a sign of God's nearness to those who need it most.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, *pray for us.*

Yours in Christ.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne.



Donations to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund are intended to provide assistance and relief to those who remain in their homes in Ukraine, who are internally displaced in Ukraine, or who have been externally displaced to Australia and other countries.

Please take a card and envelope or donate online: melbournecatholic.org/adventappeal.