



# 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:** Giuseppe Amato; Alice Cahill; Anka Knezevic

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Joseph, Catherine & Felix Capicchiano; Charles & Marjorie McShanag; Peter Bahl; Ray Gurrie; Nell McFarlane; Tony Langerano; Sr Philippa McDonald; Doris Moreno; Gabrielle Shanahan; Katina Cikoratic; Frank McCarthy.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** 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.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Year B—24 December 2023)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

**TODAY'S READINGS**

1st: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16  
2nd: Rom 16: 25-27  
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1st: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3  
2nd: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

### **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—**



**December 24:**

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

**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**

5th Sunday of the Month—3rd Sunday of the Month to cover

**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**

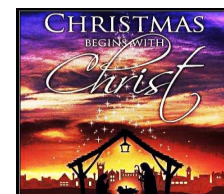
M Kroger

J McKenzie

M Drake-Bemelmans

L Fossey

F Kearney



**HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM**

**Commentators** A Scaddan

**Lectors** H Verdnik; T McMahon

**Special Ministers** M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri

**Projectionist** C Resciniti

**Co-Ordinator** J Mann 0488 784 802

## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2023



Dear parishioners and visitors:

We are eager to celebrate Christmas, together we rejoice that God, so loved us, that he joined humanity in the way we all have, through a woman. Pope Francis says, "Man's heart desires joy; every family, every person, aspires to happiness." During Advent, we prepare ourselves as we make room, to welcome Jesus Christ into our hearts and families. Therefore, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day but the whole year. This joy and light are to be shared with the world that is suffering from catastrophic war and natural disasters. Jesus Christ is our saviour and will stay with us in happy and hard times. He is one with us always. All the readings of the Christmas Masses proclaim this mystery; Jesus enters our lives to be with us, culminating into eternal life. Whatever the occurrences of our lives right now: struggle or success, grief or joy, faith or doubt, Jesus has lived it himself, and he longs to live it with us. Choose life with Jesus and stand with God! Let him be born again in our hearts.

Dear friends, I take this opportunity to thank all parishioners for their commitment to the parish this past year. The giving of your time, treasure, and talent to the Lord, continues to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God here among us. I extend my gratitude to the parish staff and all who worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful, meaningful and uplifting! Thanks to all who were involved in decorating our churches and setting up for the different liturgies this season and throughout the liturgical year. And a special thank you to the devoted parishioners of the various ministries in our parish, and especially to those who work quietly behind the scenes. May God bless you all.

In conclusion, I wish you all a holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. May the joy, peace, love, and blessings of Christmas be in your hearts and your homes.

With love and peace,

Fr. Minh Tran.

### St Michael's News:

- ◆ **2023 PARISH DONATIONS:** \$2,000 Feed Me Geelong; \$15,000 Archbishop's Advent Appeal for Ukraine. Due to your ongoing generous, financial support, this makes it possible for our Parish to give a helping hand to those who need it most. Thank you and God Bless everyone of you
- ◆ **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.

### Community News :

- ◆ **CCPR RAFFLE RESULTS FOR 2023:**

Kia Picanto Auto	25450 Drysdale
\$5000 Coles/Myer Voucher	26548 Lifeboat Geelong
\$3000 Coles/Myer Voucher	16925 East Bentleigh
\$1000 Coles/Myer Voucher	09756 Mt Waverley
\$1000 Coles/Myer Voucher	07033 Keysborough
\$500 Coles/Myer Voucher	09505 Mt Waverley
\$500 Coles/Myer Voucher	55483 Dallas
- ◆ **NO ROOM AT THE INN:** A senior Catholic lady who has no family support is seeking temporary accommodation (2 to 3 weeks) in the Geelong region, over the Christmas/New Year period. She currently has a number of medical challenges, including a broken arm, and is facing investigative medical procedures this week. It is a 'complicated story' but it has left her with no reliable accommodation. She is more than prepared to 'pay her way', and is an honest decent person who has fallen on multiple unfortunate challenges. Not of her own making. If you might consider helping and would like a bit more information please contact Fr Kevin Dillon Ph: 0421 777 360 or email: frkdillon@outlook.com.au.
- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **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 and 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.**

## HOMILY by Richard Leonard

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better computer programmer.

Eventually they agree to hold a contest with God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours; lines of code streaming up the screen. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes and takes out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, 'I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out.' 'Very well, then,' says God, 'let us see if Jesus fared any better.' Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, 'But how? I lost everything, how can Jesus' program be intact?' God chuckles and says, 'Ah – because Jesus saves.'

On this final Sunday of Advent the Church moves our gaze to the Annunciation. The whole scene hinges around one word: 'Yes.' Mary's fiat sets in motion the entire Christian drama. In his film *Jesus of Nazareth* Franco Zeffirelli pictures the Annunciation this way: Mary is asleep at night when a gust of wind opens a high window. Afraid at all the commotion Mary gets up and starts to pray. As she prays, we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window to the moonlit sky and simply says, 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.

In recent years successive popes have reminded us that the best devotion to Mary is one that leads us to do what she did: say 'yes' to Jesus. Mary is not a stop on our journey of faith; she is a guidepost that always sends us on to Christ. Mary does not save us, for we believe she needed to be saved by Christ as well. That's why she could say yes in the first place. Mary recognised the gift and the giver and became the bearer of God for the world.

In this final week of Advent let's keep reminding ourselves of this simple but life-changing fact: Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from death. Jesus saves us from living lives devoid of purpose and meaning and Jesus saves us from ourselves.

We don't save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation by good works or prayers or penance. And, as difficult as it is to hear, we cannot save anyone else. That includes our children, spouse, grandchildren, parents or friends.

Our prayers, good works and faith are the responses we make to the salvation of Christ we claim here and now. And how we live is the way by which those we love will find the gift of God's salvation for themselves.

In the midst of this frantic final week before Christmas when so many other things can distract us from what this grace-filled feast is really all about, let's take a moment to join Mary in accepting into our lives and hearts the greatest of all gifts – our undeserved salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord. © Richard Leonard SJ

### 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

J Siketa  
S Costa, E Siketa  
M Giles, J Genova, P Ruggeri  
H Phan  
D Lunn, M Scaddan \*\*\*\*\*

#### 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

T McShanag  
M. Kroger  
Mass Concelebrated  
L Coles  
L Gleeson, T McShanag, C McShanag \*\*\*\*\*

#### 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

M Carson  
M Gifford  
P McGlinchey, N Neeld, M Gifford  
J Vecci, S O'Shea, G Booth, C Brown, T Stocks, N Tuddenham