



# 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-Thurs: 9am-5pm Fri: 9am-3.30pm

Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**Web Page Address:**

[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

**PARISH SECRETARY:**

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

**PASTORALWORKER:**

Sr Anne Lourey Email: [anne.lourey@mercy.org.au](mailto: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

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:**

Irene Dunstan

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Rosa Marafioti; Robert Neeld; Priamo Tovh; Gino & Carmela Bisinella & Family; Domenico Mileto; Michael Sharry

**BAPTISMS:**

Luella Balzamo; Olive & Elsie Garth; Poppy Wooster

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Hugo Riedl; Daryl Squires; Harry Howard; Noella Duggan



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 LENT (Year B—18 February 2024)



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth,  
to those who keep your covenant.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**TODAY'S READINGS**

1st: Gen:9:8-15  
2nd: 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1st: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13; 15-18  
2nd: Rom 8:31-34  
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

**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.



## Ashes to Easter Lenten Concert-Reflection

**St Michael's Parish invites you to an evening of  
Lenten Concert-Reflection  
with Peter Kearney.**

**Tuesday 27th February, 7.00pm at Holy Family Church, Bell Park.  
Free admission.**

Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic songwriter, singer and guitarist whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House', 'The Beatitudes' and 'Where is Your Song, my Lord?' His 'Ashes to Easter' concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter. Mainly for adults though upper-primary and older students could also enjoy.

"A beautiful Lenten reflection...prayerful and spiritual...a worthwhile part of our Lenten journey"

To book your place, please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email to: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au).

## 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

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### 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

## Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** Please keep in your prayers the children from the Parish Sacramental Program as they begin their lessons this Sunday in preparation for their First Reconciliation.
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S LENTEN PROGRAM** - An invitation goes out to those who would like to be involved in small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. **When: Thursday evenings during Lent at 7pm** in the sun room at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. To be part of this, please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or email [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au).
- ◆ **PROJECT COMPASSION 2024:** This year, Project Compassion showcases how we work with our local partners around the world to walk alongside communities as they strive to be the architects of their own development.  
Your generosity is helping some of the world's most vulnerable people create a future full of hope for their families, communities and *for all future generations*. Project Compassion boxes are now available in the churches.

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** The next catch is this Sunday February 18 after the 11am Mass. Beginning from March, the catch up will occur on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. All most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** after the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOLS 2025 Enrolment Information**—St Patrick's School, West Geelong Ph: 5229 4412; Holy Spirit School, Manifold Heights Ph: 5229 8298; Holy Family School, Bell Park Ph: 5278 4634, from Feb 6—March 5, 2024. All new students welcomed. See each schools website for tour details and information.
- ◆ **VOLUNTEER GARDENER NEEDED:** To assist the Sisters of the Holy Angels with gardening and small maintenance jobs. If you can help out in any way, please contact the Sisters on 5277 3620.

## Community News:

- ◆ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER :** Will be held on **Friday 1st March, 2024 at Wesley Uniting Church**, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong at 11am. This year's theme is "*I beg you...bear with one another in love*" prepared by the Christian people of Palestine. Our Guest Speaker is Mr Daryl Cowden, a retired Representative of World Vision. Everyone is most welcome. For further information please contact Heather Watson 0412 139 295 or Sue O'Donoghue 0412 784 331.
- ◆ **TAIZE PRAYER:** Santa Casa, Queenscliff. All welcome. **Save these dates for 2024:** 23 March; 19 May; 31 August; 5 October; 14 December. 2.30pm-3.30pm followed by afternoon tea. **RSVP Sr Lizzie 0418 194 261 or via [santacasa@ismapng.org.au](mailto:santacasa@ismapng.org.au).**
- ◆ **ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY:** Regional Council is seeking a skilled IT person to help record the important information pertaining to the various good works that we are engaged in. There is a template that is being designed to ensure that information is correctly inputted. For further information please call Martin P. Butler GRC President M 0418 572 967, [mpbutler@bigpond.com](mailto:mpbutler@bigpond.com).
- ◆ **NAZARETH PARISH—GROVEDALE, TORQUAY, ANGLESEA:** Are currently looking to employ a Liturgical & Sacramental Co-ordinator at Nazareth Parish encompassing Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea. However the role can be separated. The position is approximately 10 hours per week and is located at St Therese Catholic Church, Torquay. For further information, including a Position Description, email the Parish office, [grovedale@cam.org.au](mailto:grovedale@cam.org.au). Applications are to be sent to Fr Linh Tran at [grovedale@cam.org.au](mailto:grovedale@cam.org.au) and should include a cover letter together with a current resume. Closing date for applications is February 26 2024.
- ◆ **CLONARD COLLEGE OPEN DAYS 2024:** Will take place on Friday 22 March 2024. Bookings are essential and can be made online at [Clonard.vic.edu.au](http://Clonard.vic.edu.au).
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS—AUTUMN 2024:** In this issue, there is a focus on A traveller's Guide to the Stations of the Cross and how different cultures commemorate the Stations of the Cross and remember the sacrifice of Jesus. Please take home a copy, now available at all Churches.

## Project Compassion Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15    1 Peter 3:18-22    Mark 1:12-15

Written by Michael McGirr



Mark's Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn't beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark's Gospel doesn't wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us to the wise old person who doesn't use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can't be many books of so few pages that have had such a mighty impact on the world.

Today, a few lines tells that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 'was tempted by Satan.' he was 'with the wild beasts', meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time.

How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. 'The time has come,' he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand.'

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia From Samoa and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think. Together with Ronita, Leaia and Memory, our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe.

Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today's Psalm: 'God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord's way to the poor.'

### Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Have you ever noticed that Jesus begins and ends his public ministry in the wilderness? These deserts are the geographical bookends of the greatest story ever told. In today's Gospel we have Jesus in the desert for forty days. Much later, when condemned to death, Jesus is led out of the city and crucified at Golgotha, another dry and desolate location. In both places Jesus is tempted. In Mark we are never told what Satan's temptations in the desert were about. Luke and Matthew fill in those details. On the cross, however, Mark tells us that the crowd tempts Jesus to work a miracle, come down from the cross and save himself. In the first desert Jesus is ministered to by the angels and emerges to proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand. In the later desert Jesus is ministered to by his women disciples and is put to death as a consequence for the way he lived out the Kingdom he proclaimed.

It's clear from all the Gospels that the desert and the temptations stayed with Jesus throughout his life. What a comfort this is to us. Many of us do not need to go out and find a physical desert to know its claim on our lives. Temptations do not know geographical limitations. Indeed, the greater the number of options, the more temptations we have to take a destructive path.

When we look at how the desert is used in the Bible, mythology, art, literature and the cinema two competing images emerge. The first is that the desert can be a place of loss and ruin where some great heroes have gone and not returned. In another equally venerable tradition journeys to the desert, while filled with a mixture of pleasure and pain, are abundant with revelation, transformation and recreation.

These two descriptions do not have to be contradictory. As we find in Jesus' example, we do not have to give in to the temptation that the desert is only about loss, but we need to find a path there to negotiate a way out of it so that we can emerge recreated, the richer for the experience.

It's important to remember in our own particular deserts that temptation is not sin. To be tempted by something is not the same as doing it. Temptations are the allures that make destructive choices look good. In one sense, the bad news is that we know from the lives of the saints that the closer we get to God, the more temptations increase. The good news is that we can learn how to deal with them.

Usually, temptations have a context and a history. They can come when we are feeling most deserted and vulnerable and they normally strike us at the most susceptible points in our character. To deal with them we need to be aware of their pattern, the way they con us into believing that the destructive behaviour is 'not that bad', will be 'just this once', or 'for the last time'. As well, it helps if we are aware of the danger signs in our lives that can weaken our defences. Tiredness, boredom, anger, alcohol and drug use, lack of good communication and a poor self-esteem are common realities that can leave us more exposed than usual.

This Lent, as we venture with Christ into our figurative deserts, let's do anything that helps our self-esteem, deal with our anger, attend to why we might work or drink too much, and ensure that we are less stressed. Contrary to what we might think, these activities could be the most helpful ways we can make sure we emerge from our desert the better for having been there.