



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

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: bellpark@cam.org.au Phone 5278 1343

PASTORALWORKER:

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

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Ankica Matijevic; Regina Starcevic; Ros McIlvena; Anne Ingles; Sr Angela Caine RSM; Sr Honora Wardle RSM; Maureen Pitcher; Pauline O'Keefe; Anna Abela; James Travis; Maria Caffarella.



ANNIVERSARIES:

Francesco Alvaro; Danuta Augustyn; Rocco Ciccone; Antonio Sorgiovanni; Antonio Bocchetti; Gelsomina Bocchetti (one month since death)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Daryl Squires; Harry Howard; Noella Duggan; John O'Neill



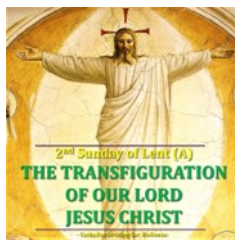
St Michael's Parish is committed to upholding the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. Through our behaviour we show we are followers of Jesus who cares for all children, the vulnerable.... If you have any questions or concerns, the parish safeguarding committee of Louise 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 LENT

(Year B—25 February 2024)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I Seek; hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, In the land of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13; 15-18	1st: Ex 20:1-17
2nd: Rom 8:31-34	2nd: 1 Cor 1:22-25
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10	Gospel: John 2:13-25

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

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.

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...	<i>Meditation Group</i>	5.30pm	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	10.00am	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
Friday	<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

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	P Balkin
Special Ministers	E Carland
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
M kroger
L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentators	J Siketa
Lectors	M Bird, S Costa
Special Ministers	E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta
Welcomers	K McArthur
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	C Simpson; B Kline

Community News:

- ◆ **'KIWANAS GEELONG' Ladies sewing group:** Has a collection of children's clothing they wish to donate to Kuya Street Boys in Manila Philippines. Total weight of 10kgs plus Air freight in excess of \$100. We are looking for any Parishioners or someone you may know travelling there in the next month that may be prepared to take 'some' and or mail or deliver to Kuya. If you can assist contact David Lunn Ph: 0408 378 982.
- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **LEGION OF MARY:** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Maria (Suzie) Caffarella, died 16 Feb 2024, Rosary 11am and Funeral 11.30am to be held at St Mary's Basilica on 27 February 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.
- ◆ **CATHOLICCARE:** Volunteer Tutors are needed to assist newly arrived refugee students from years 9 to 10 at Northern Bay College, Monday afternoons during school term. The Refugee Homework Support Group provides Secondary College students with support to integrate into their school environment; develop their English language and study skills, while improving their Interpersonal skills and social connectedness. Students are from Refugee, Non English speaking backgrounds and tutors will assist the students to engage in bilingual language learning, homework & learning activities. This provides a rewarding volunteer experience within the Refugee settlement and Education environments. For further details please phone Jaclyn Fraser (Volunteer Program Coordinator-CatholicCare Victoria) on 0499 001 022 or email: Jaclyn.fraser@catholiccarevic.org.au.
- ◆ **CATHOLIC VOCATIONS:** We would like to thank you for your prayers for Vocations over the years. We were delighted to accept eight men to the Seminary for Melbourne this year: Chinh Tran, Rohan Prince, Luke Kennedy, Luke Emslie, Tung Phan, Joseph Maae, Patrick Harris and Mathew Noble. Many of you have personally helped and encouraged these men along their journey to apply to the join the Seminary; it truly is a team effort! Please continue to pray for them!

Project Compassion Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



St Michael's News:

- ◆ **A BIG THANK YOU:** To Joan Mann for being a dedicated and wonderful co-ordinator here at Holy Family Church over the past 15 years. We would like to welcome Christine Simpson and Bernadette Kline who will now step into this role.
- ◆ **BE ALERT:** If you receive an email from Fr Minh and Fr James Clarke, please be aware it may be a **SCAM. DO NOT OPEN**, and please contact the Parish office PH: 5278 1343.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** The next catch up is next Sunday March 3 after the 11am Mass. The catch ups to 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.
- ◆ **CWL** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be held on Wednesday March 6, at 1.30pm, Holy Spirit hall, Bostock Avenue Manifold Heights. All St Michael's parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP LUNCH:** To be held Monday 4 March 12.30pm at Pekish. Geelong Bowls Club, Ballarat Road. SEE YOU ALL THERE!
- ◆ **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** A Christian community for people with disabilities, their families and friends who meet together to share faith and friendship and celebrate. You are invited to our next Gathering on Sat March 9, 2pm-4.30pm. At St Mary's Parish Offices, 1st Floor, 150 Yarra St. Entry by lift. Share your Lenten journey with the Gospel, Prayer & Activities. Includes shared Afternoon tea. Enquiries to Tricia O'Keefe 0414 672 267 or Kevin Mark Kevin@stmmarysgeelong.com.au

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

At the end of *The Laws of Our Fathers*, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us.

'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ... the founder of the Western faiths ... He was a visionary, a prophet ... But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ... Abraham complied.'

'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping. He did not, so far as the Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ...'

'I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ... What kind of a starting point is this for ... all the Western faiths? ... Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

'One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ... it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ... Isaac survived ... He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly, attempted no sacrifices of his own ...'

'So let us think of Isaac ... the first son of the Western faiths – and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned. For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ... That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God. We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ... he was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else. Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.