



# 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:**

Francesco Mileto

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Frank & Katharina Riedl; Zygmunt Kakol; Sr Gabriella McDonald (RSM); Antonio Pardo; Maria & Raffaele Gulli; Vjekoslav Iskra; Joe Trinder; Anthony Cuong; Narciso Baldasso & Family

**BAPTISMS:**

Kira Ivasyk; Erin & Eliza Magee; Gavin Abella; Lucy Barsic; Lyla Thewma; Mya Warburton

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Hugo Riedl; Daryl Squires; 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.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year B—10 March 2024)**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**TODAY'S READINGS**

1st: 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23  
2nd: Ephes 2: 4-10  
Gospel: John 3: 14-21

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1st: Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
2nd: Hebrews 5: 7-9  
Gospel: John 12: 20-33

**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.

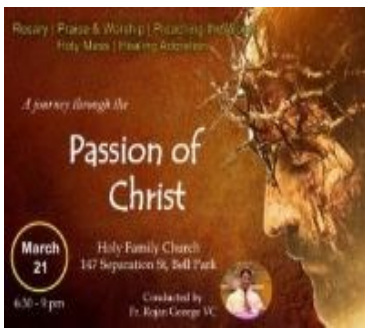
Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy. May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

**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.



## **A Journey through the Passion of Christ**

St Michael's Parish invites you to a profound Lenten exercise with Holy Mass and Healing Adoration reflecting on the Passion of Christ with Fr Rojan George VC on Thursday, 21 March, 6.30pm at Holy Family Church, Bell Park. Free Admission.

Fr Rojan George is the Director of the Vincentian Retreat Centre in Melbourne. As a retreat master of the Vincentian congregation, he conducts parish retreats and travels to many parts of the world preaching and serving Healing Masses. "A prayerful and spiritual evening ....This lent, journey to the heart of Jesus."

### **Anointing Mass Lunch: Wednesday March 27**

The Manifold Branch of the CWL will provide sandwiches, sausage rolls, tea and coffee for lunch. To assist with catering, we are asking Parishioners who attend and are able, to please bring a **small** plate of cake/slices to share. Thank you for your help!



### **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**

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

**Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM**

**Commentators** C. Marshallsea  
**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  
**Welcomers**  
**Projectionist** C Resciniti  
**Co-Ordinator** C Simpson; B Kline

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish Office will be closed this Monday March 11 due to the Labour Day Public Holiday.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Monday March 18, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.
- ◆ **MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR KEVIN BATES (SM) OAM:** There will be a Memorial Mass to honour the recent death of Fr Kevin Bates (SM) OAM on Thursday March 21, 10am at Holy Spirit Church Manifold Heights. The celebrant will be Fr Jim Carty (SM). All most welcome.
- ◆ **HOLY THURSDAY MASS—WASHING OF THE FEET:** Looking for volunteers for the 'Washing of the feet' at the Holy Thursday Mass, on March 28, 7pm at Holy Spirit Church. Please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 if you wish to be a part of this.
- ◆ **HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASSES:** If you would like to be involved as a Reader or Special Minister at the Holy Week & Easter Masses, we have a few spots still to fill at some of the Masses. Please contact the Parish office if you can assist.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass 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.

## Community News:

- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our dinner for March. This Tuesday 12 March 2024, 6pm at The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Rd, Belmont. Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to attend the dinner, please *phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584.*
- ◆ **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** Please note, due to extreme weather conditions this weekend the next Gathering has been rescheduled to **next Saturday, March 16.** For more information, please contact Tricia O'Keefe 0414 672 267 .

## We are an Easter people

### You are warmly invited to share in our Holy Week Celebrations 2024

#### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - SECOND RITE

Tuesday March 26... 7.00pm Holy Family

#### MASS OF ANOINTING

Wednesday March 27 ... 11.00am Holy Spirit, followed by lunch at the parish hall

#### MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Thursday March 28... 7.00pm Holy Spirit, followed by Adoration until 9.00pm

#### WAY OF THE CROSS

Good Friday March 29... 10.00am Holy Family (Outdoors—school oval)

#### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION:

Good Friday March 29... 3.00pm Holy Family (includes Communion)

#### EASTER VIGIL

Saturday March 30... 7.30pm Holy Family  
(TBC) Holy Family (Croatian)

#### EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday March 31... 9.00am Holy Family  
9.30am Ss Peter & Paul's (Lithuanian)  
11.00am Ss Peter & Paul's  
11.00am Holy Spirit  
(TBC) Holy Family (Croatian)

#### BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

Saturday March 30... 3.00pm Holy Family

**Holy Family**  
Separation Street  
Bell Park

**Ss Peter & Paul**  
Malone Street  
Geelong West

**Holy Spirit**  
Bostock Avenue  
Manifold Heights





## Project Compassion Sunday Weekend of 9-10 March



Growing up in the Mwanza district in southern Malawi, 26-year-old Memory was born to a low income family who relies on subsistence farming for survival.

Memory's parents struggled to pay for her school fees and supplies, and she often had to walk to school barefoot. As the eldest of five children, Memory also faced the challenge of balancing her education with domestic chores, such as farming, cooking, cleaning, and carrying water.

Despite the challenges she faced, Memory understood that education was her best chance of breaking the cycle of poverty, "I told myself I can't stop going to school because this is the only way I can get a better life."

With the support of Caritas Australia and the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM) – Caritas Australia's local partner in Malawi – Memory enrolled in a technical college where she undertook a three-year carpentry course. Her tuition and boarding fees were partially funded by CADECOM through funds provided by Caritas Australia.

Memory now stands proudly as the first female carpenter from her village, working at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can now support her family while inspiring other young women in her community to finish their education and seize opportunities within male dominated industries.

"Being a female carpenter sets an example to others in my community," she said. "They see a woman can do what a man can do."

You can help women like Memory seize better job opportunities and thrive in their community. Please make a generous donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or phone 1800 024 413.

### Reflection by Richard Leonard

As Christians in the world we cannot help but be influenced by the developments that happen around us. Indeed, we believe that many of these advances are gifts from God, given to us to enjoy. But not all developments in thinking and practices are for the better.

One recent and alarming development is the false thinking that we cannot judge other people, or that we should not be judged. The wider community regularly maintains that no one is in a position to judge another's behaviour or statements. This approach holds that everyone's words and actions are of equal value. This position is many things, but it's certainly not Christian, but this hasn't stopped it from finding a home amongst us. We regularly hear statements from Christian men and women like, 'We're not in a position to judge' or 'You can't judge them' and 'If it's fine for them, then it's fine'. This thinking has a name. It's called moral relativism and it tries to claim that the morality of behaviour is only determined by the person who does the act, or the context within which the action is taken.

Our Catholic tradition teaches us that a context is very important in trying to work out if someone is to blame for what they say and do, but that a person's particular circumstances never change the fact that the words or actions are in themselves wrong. We hold that while all human beings have equal value and dignity, we do not believe that everyone's opinion and actions are of equal worth. We believe that 'right judgment' is a gift of the Holy Spirit and that it's best exercised with humility and compassion.

When I hear people say I should not judge others, I assume they are telling me that I should not condemn other people. There is a world of difference between judging and condemning. To judge is to make an assessment. To condemn is to damn. As Christians we judge because we have to keep discerning how the things of the world can be reconciled with the things we hold to be true. Condemnation is the prerogative of God alone, who sees all, knows all and loves all. In today's Gospel, however, John tells us that even God has forfeited the right to condemn the world, but has sent Jesus to be the world's light, life, truth and saviour.

The Gospel reminds us that if we feel condemned for what we have done and said, then it's because we have condemned ourselves, not because God condemns us. John tells us that even when we find ourselves lost in the darkness of our most destructive behaviour, the saving love of Christ is always available to us, inviting us to come out of the darkness into his light.

What a great metaphor the light and dark is for making the best judgments in our own lives. Alarm bells should always ring when we find ourselves not wanting anyone else to know what we have said or done. Secrecy is often the ally of sin and the more open and transparent we are, the more confident we can be that we are walking as children of the light.

May this Lenten Eucharist enable us to let go of the desire to condemn others and ourselves, and to receive again the compassionate, just and humble gift of right judgment that helps us to see the darkness for what it is, and keeps us walking in the light of Christ.

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