



# 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:**

Rita Duggan-McDonald; Giovanni Stranieri; Sr Marian McDonald (RSM); Sr Joan Dagleish (RSM)  
Dr Joe Tucci

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Antonio Battaglia; Almor & Jose Mairos; Judite da Rosa & Family; Manuel & Manuel (Jnr) Almeida; Manuel & Gracinda Oliveira; Angelo Carobbo (1 month since death); Susie Cafarella (1 month since death); Peter Gizycki (1st Year Anniversary); Carmela Gigantelli (1st Year Anniversary).

**BAPTISMS:**

Judd Deledio; Archie Isbister; Arthur Jones; Hadley & Elliott McBean; Finnigan & Charli Steen; Maggie King Whalley; Ashton Locaylocay;

**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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*(Year B—17 March 2024)*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, My servant will also be.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**TODAY'S READINGS**

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1st: Isaiah 50:4-7  
2nd: Phil 2:6-11  
Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

**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.

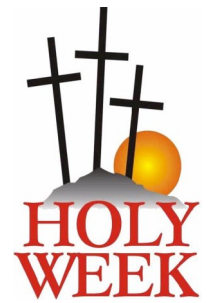
**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:**

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.

# HOLY WEEK 2024 ROSTERS



## HOLY THURSDAY Holy Spirit - 7.00pm

Commentator	M Carson
Lectors	T McMahon, M Gifford
Special Ministers	L Fossey
Music	K Lynch
Projectionist	H Phan

## GOOD FRIDAY: Holy Family - 3.00pm

Narrator	J McKenzie
Lector	M Kroger
Special Ministers	M Fiorillo, P McGlinchey, D Lunn
Collectors	P McGlinchey, D Lunn, E Karakchi, ****
Projectionist	C Resciniti

## EASTER VIGIL: Holy Family - 7.30pm

Commentator	M Carson
Lectors	J McKenzie, M Kroger, D Lunn, M Bird
Special Ministers	M Fiorillo, M Giles, V Resciniti
Projectionist	C Resciniti

## EASTER SUNDAY: Holy Family - 9.00am

Commentator	J Siketa
Lectors	T McMahon, L Loney
Special Ministers	D Lunn; E Karakchi, C Marcantonio
Projectionist	C Resciniti

## Ss Peter & Paul's - 11.00am

Commentator	M Gifford
Lector	P Balkin
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey
Projectionist	B Middleton

## Holy Spirit - 11.00am

Commentator	L Strzelecki
Lector	J Fraatz
Special Ministers	L Fossey
Projectionist	L Coles

## ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY—MARCH 23 & 24

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S

<b>5.00PM</b>	
Commentators	M Gifford
Lectors	P Balkin
Special Ministers	E Carland
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

### HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

	T McMahon
	M Drake-Bemelmans
	L Fossey
	L Fossey
	A Zarb



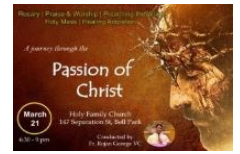
### HOLY FAMILY

<b>9.00AM</b>	
Commentators	M Lukesic
Lectors	F O'Neill; L Loney
Special Ministers	D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti
Welcomers:	V Resciniti
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	C Simpson; B Kline

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To the students from our three primary schools and parish sacramental program who are to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time over the next couple of weeks.

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 March 21, 6.30pm at Holy Family Church, Bell Park. Free Admission.
- ◆ **CATERING FOR THE ANOINTING MASS LUNCH—WEDNESDAY MARCH 27:** The Manifold Branch of the CWL will provide sandwiches, sausage rolls, tea and coffee. To assist with catering, we are asking Parishioners who attend and are able, to please bring a **small** plate of cakes/slices to share. Thank you for your help!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass this Sunday and 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](http://Clonard.vic.edu.au).
- ◆ **CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IN CORIO:** Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will be held at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Purnell Road Corio on 7 April; beginning at 2pm Holy Hour and Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3pm Holy Mass and 4pm Veneration of Relics. Confessions available from 2pm – 4.30pm. For more information, contact [corio@cam.org.au](mailto:corio@cam.org.au) or 03 4212 0791.

## 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 16-17 March



The word 'heart' occurs almost a thousand times in the Bible, more than three times as often as the word 'soul.' Perhaps this is just another item of trivia but surely it gives us a clue about Christianity. It is a religion of the heart. It gets our blood pumping.

As we approach the climax of our Lenten journey, this week's readings ask questions about our hearts. The psalm begs 'a pure heart create for me, O God.' Those words invite the Lord to come right inside us, into the very core of our being. The prophet Jeremiah quotes the Lord as saying, 'deep within them I

will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts.' In other words, we won't find God's most intimate whisperings to us just in books or lectures. We will find it when we are genuinely in touch with our core, our most intimate space. God's love is inscribed on our hearts.

In his letter, Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis speaks against 'a culture of walls.' He asks us to treasure the hope found in every heart: Hope 'speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit o lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold.'

The word 'caritas' means love. The work of Caritas Australia is a heartfelt response to the needs of the world, one that gives expression to our shared hope. Caritas always works in partnership with others. During Lent, as we have listened to the experience of people we have helped through our support of Project Compassion, we will have noticed that life-giving partnerships with groups on the ground in many countries make this possible.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that must die to create a rich harvest. Of course, he is referring to his own passion. But there is a message here for us all. 'Anyone who loves their life will lose it.' We are called to wear our hearts on our sleeves. To reach beyond the safe and familiar.

**FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS:** As Holy Week approaches we hope you and your parishioners are feeling inspired and supported to raise money for Caritas Australia, the aid agency of the Australian Catholic Church working to eradicate poverty and injustice.

### Reflection by Richard Leonard

If ever you get the chance to travel to Turkey make sure you go to the Roman ruins at Ephesus. The trip is instructive for all sorts of reasons, not least because two thousand years ago Ephesus was a seaport and now you have to drive inland for over an hour to get there. I wonder what our cities will look like in another two thousand years? But Ephesus is worth the trip. The Roman ruins there, especially the library, are extraordinary. For Christians, however, three other places there capture the imagination. It's the place to which the great letter in the New Testament was addressed. There are the ruins of the hall in which the important Council of Ephesus met, and there are ruins of a monastery built over what is claimed to be the final home of St John, the Beloved Disciple. There is also the much more dubious claim that Mary's final house, and the site of her Assumption, is on top of the mountain overlooking the ancient city.

There are good reasons to believe that the Gospel of John, from which we have just read, was written in Ephesus, 70 years after Jesus' death. I like to think about the context in which the Scriptures were written, not just because it helps me understand some things in the text, but also to appreciate that our Scriptures were inspired by the experience of a flesh and blood community.

Ephesus was a centre of learning, trade, government and religion in the ancient world. We also know that the early Christians were greatly persecuted and martyred there. The early church was filled with stories of betrayal, torture, death and heroic witness to the faith. The stakes for believing in Jesus were very high. And it was the heroic witness of these martyrs that eventually led to the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity. It should come as no surprise to us then that John's Gospel should have a special focus on sharing in the sufferings of Jesus and the glory to come.

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel must have been very important to a community that was awash with the blood of their fellow believers. Our foremothers and forefathers in the faith counted themselves blessed to die as Jesus died, alive in the faith of God's love for the world. Just imagine how that community of martyrs first heard these words, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.'

By comparison we have it easy today, but martyrdom comes to all believers in different ways. In the broadest sense a martyr is one who is prepared to pay the price for holding true to Christ. For us now this might mean making serious choices about the company we keep, the business ventures we enter into, the non-violent protests we mount, foregoing luxuries so that others in our world might have necessities, and even remaining faithful to the vows and promises we have made. Christian faith sometimes bites hard, and when it does we know we are sharing in the martyr's lot.

And what should be our response when our faith in Christ costs us something big? Jesus models it for us in today's Gospel, '...what should I say? "Father, save me from this hour." No, it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'

May this final week of Lent, then, see this flesh and blood community be like our forebears in Ephesus and actively seek out ways of sharing in the martyr's lot by letting go of what is not essential and focusing on the One who loved us to the end.