



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](https://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:

Jack Elliott; Alexander Perera; Neven Mikin; Maria Aurora Neves (Portugal); Stephen Kirley



ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Josip Vranjes; Ivanka Iskra; Becky Lunn; Lidia, Giovanni & Anna De Angelis; Johnny Bove; Kamala Kazzazi; Sulaiman Al Loos; Wassela Al Sakkal; Majed Karakchi; Sebastiano Di Mauro; Anna Kot; Benedetto & Anna Belich; Finbarr Murphy; Jordan Baker; Joseph Ribaric (10th Year Anniversary)

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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

(Year B—24 March 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, kind of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Acts 10:34, 37-43
2nd: Col 3:14
Gospel: John 20:1-9

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.

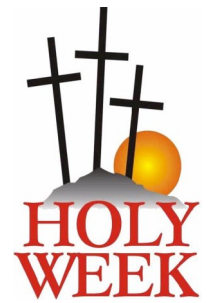
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

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,
Special Ministers	M Fiorillo, M Giles, ****,
Projectionist	C Resciniti

EASTER SUNDAY: Holy Family - 9.00am

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

Please Note: ** denotes assistance is still needed. If you are able to assist please contact Bernadette at the Parish office on 5278 1343 by MONDAY MARCH 25.**

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** A reminder, during Holy Week, the 9.15am daily Masses on March 27 & 29 at Holy Spirit Church & March 28 at Holy Family Church are cancelled. The 5pm weekend Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church on Saturday March 30 is also cancelled.
- ◆ **THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed for the Easter break from Friday March 29 and will reopen on Tuesday April 2.
- ◆ **SPECIAL COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY:** There will be a special collection taken up at the 3pm Good Friday Service on March 29 for the upkeep of the Holy Places, maintained by the Holy Land.
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IN CORIO:** Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will be held at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Purnell Rd 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 or 03 4212 0791.

Community News con't:

- ◆ **CATHOLIC VOCATIONS:** I 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 join the Seminary; it truly is a team effort!. Please continue to pray for them!
- ◆ **ADULT CONFIRMATIONS 2024:** The Sacrament of Adult Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral will be held on **19 May 11am and 17 Nov 11am Solemn Mass**. Adult Confirmation candidates must be prepared by their local parish Priest and receive a Confirmation card on completion of their preparation. Candidates must attend an information session the Wed prior to the Confirmation 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Wed 15 May & 13 Nov 2024. Candidates must bring with them their Baptism/ Birth Certificates, Confirmation Card, letter from the RCIA Co-ordinator or parish Priest confirming they have been prepared and of course their Sponsor. For more contact Julie Allan, Ph: 9662 2233, or email Julie.Allan@cam.org.au

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... 5.00pm Holy Family (Croatian)
7:30pm Holy Family

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
5.00pm 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

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In this final Lenten Sunday, we see that we have been saved through the kenotic (partial renunciation of divine nature) humility of Jesus, not through military power. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted criminal, and there endured the sense of abandonment. However, this saviour was later lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine prerogatives.

Jesus became one of us in order to show us how we are to live. He was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. The passion recounts the extent to which he willingly offered himself. We have a saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself *to* us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with him is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair seems to hold sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for us.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Project Compassion Sunday

PALM SUNDAY



We see images of the Cross everywhere, from school uniforms to hospital buildings. Perhaps it is so commonplace that it doesn't stop us in our tracks the way it should.

The cross of Jesus is the best key we have for understanding the mystery of God's love. God's compassion for the human family took Jesus to a lonely and brutal execution. Jesus was the victim of appalling injustice and degradation. His experience asks us to try to make the world more just and to revere the dignity of every person. 'Whatsoever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me.'

this is part of the reason why Project Compassion has, for 60 years, been part of our Lenten observance. This year, Holy Week begins with the reading of the passion story from Mark's Gospel. Even in busy lives, we should try to set time aside to spend with this extraordinary story, not to rush it. Gently take a little at a time and ask for the grace to be close to Jesus. In the Spiritual Exercises, St Ignatius asks us 'to consider how the divinity hides itself.'

One way to spend time with the passion story is to take a different character each week and quietly ponder what it looked like to them and what they may have felt. Here is a suggestion:

- Sunday—Judas Iscariot
- Monday—Simon Peter
- Tuesday—The high priest
- Wednesday—Pontius Pilate
- Thursday—Simon of Cyrene
- Friday—The centurion
- Saturday—Mary of Magdala

Let us remember a beautiful prayer of just seven words that was taught to Pope Francis by his grandmother:

Jesus, make my heart more like yours.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

In the third verse of the rousing hymn, *How Great Thou Art*, we sing,

'And when I think that God his Son not sparing
sent him to die I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.'

This verse enshrines a long-held tradition that Jesus died as a necessary atonement to God for our sins. From this perspective Jesus' suffering and death was the price of the ransom paid to evil so that we might share in God's life. Alternatively, the death of Jesus is seen as the only thing that satisfied God's anger at our sins, and caused God to love us again.

We should be very careful about what we sing! On the one hand this theology rightly shows us the extraordinary love Jesus has for us. On the other hand it says some very difficult things about God. What loving creator, for example, would say that the torture and death of his beloved son is the only way he can be happy about his creatures? What just judge, no matter how angry he or she might be at the crimes laid out in the courtroom, would allow an innocent man to die for the guilty? And how powerful is God over evil if the only way to keep it in check is through human sacrifice? These are serious questions and they have an impact on our everyday life of faith, and can sometimes alienate us from believing that God is our all-loving Father in heaven.

Today, we rightly hear a lot about victims – people, who through no choice or fault of their own, have been dealt with wrongly by others who are free to act otherwise and who know better. In some of the ways we think about the passion, Jesus becomes God's victim. Through no fault of his own, and seemingly powerless in the face of his Father's will, Jesus becomes a victim of God's need for a sacrifice, a ransom or atonement.

As a result, many of us can feel that sometimes we are God's victims too, because if God wanted Jesus to suffer and die, why should we be surprised or complain when we receive large crosses to carry as well?

Mark's account of the passion tends to reinforce Jesus as victim. Mark has Jesus eating with the outcasts, his friends betraying, denying or deserting him. He tells us that Jesus is terrified at the prospect of death and calls on his 'Abba' or 'daddy' to help him out. In the end he accepts 'the will of God' but even then feels abandoned by God on the Cross.

I often think we misread what Jesus is referring to when he accepts God's will in the Garden. Rather than refer to the particular will of the Father to see Jesus suffer and die on Good Friday, I think it's more helpful and consoling to understand it as referring to God's will that Jesus remains faithful to the way he lived. If by doing that Jesus threatened the religious and political authorities of his day so much that they have to murder him, then his death is the ultimate sacrifice which reveals how far God was prepared to go in love for us. This reveals to us that Jesus came 'to live', and that by faithfully living this life he was put to death by the powers of sin. Through the cross we see the price to be paid in confronting sin in our day and obediently living out the demands of God's kingdom of justice and peace.

This Holy Week let's celebrate that God spared nothing in showing us how to live. As we commemorate Jesus' life, death and resurrection may we move from being victims of a bloodthirsty God to choosing again to follow Jesus' example and live lives which are faithful, loving and obedient. May we also appreciate that this life continues to, literally, threaten 'the hell out of' those opposed to the reign of God in our world, but that as Jesus was faithful to God and God to Jesus, so they will remain faithful to us as well, no matter what.