



# 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:**

Ruza Petricevic

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Domenico Pellizzeri; Patricia Pollard; Margaret Stewart; Vincenzo Cammarere; Arthur Allison; Antun, Marija & Ivan Fantella; Lorenz & Katharina Hoffmann; Salvatore, Antoinetta & Rosa Valentina; Stanley Millns; Craig Mitchell; Francesco Mileto (1 month since death); Carmela Cammarere (5 months since death); 1st Anniversary of Raffaele Pietrapertosa; 15th Anniversary of Michael Posterino.

**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.

### SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

(Year B—31 March 2024)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.  
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.  
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,  
alleluia, alleluia.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!



**TODAY'S READINGS**

1st: Acts 10:34, 37-43  
2nd: Col 3:1-4  
Gospel: John 20:1-9

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1st: Acts 4:32-35  
2nd: 1 John 5:1-6  
Gospel: John 20:19-31

**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.



## ALLELUIA! Christ is Risen!

Dear parishioners and visitors:

On this glorious day of Easter, we rejoice in the triumph of our Lord Jesus Christ over sin and death, and we celebrate the promise of new life and hope that Jesus brings to us all.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith, the source of our joy, and the reason for our hope. The Resurrection confirms that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ, no despair can extinguish the flame of His love, and no sin can separate us from the infinite mercy of our Saviour.

As we gather at Saint Michael's Parish to celebrate the Resurrection, let us renew our commitment to living as joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us allow the hope of Easter to permeate every aspect of our lives, inspiring us to love one another as Christ loves us, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to serve others with humility and compassion.

In the midst of a world that often seems consumed by fear, division, war, and uncertainty, let us be bearers of the Good News of Easter, the news of Christ's victory over death and His promise of eternal life. Let us be beacons of hope, shining the light of Christ's love to all those around us and inviting them to share in the joy of the Resurrection.

To our parishioners, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your dedication to our parish family. Your presence and participation in the life of our parish enriches us all, and together, we are united in our journey of faith.

To those who may be visiting or exploring our parish for the first time, I extend a warm welcome. We are delighted to have you with us as we celebrate this most sacred and joyous Easter, and we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and service.

As we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may the peace of Jesus Christ fill your hearts, may the hope of Easter sustain you in times of trial, and may the love of God shine brightly in your lives today and always.

I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and joy-filled Easter!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Minh Tran

### 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:..** *Meditation Group* 5.30pm *Parish Community Centre*

*Legion of Mary* 10.00am *Parish Community Centre*

**Friday** *Divine Mercy* 3.00pm *Holy Spirit Church*

**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—April 7, 2024)

### 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,
Special Ministers	E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta
Welcomers	K McArthur
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	C Simpson; B Kline

### **St Michael's News:**

- ◆ **THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed for the Easter break from Friday March 29 and will reopen on Tuesday April 2.
- ◆ **MOTHER'S DAY MASS:** Sunday, May 12, 2024 at the 9am Mass Holy Family Church. Family Service led by our children followed by morning tea.
- ◆ **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](mailto:corio@cam.org.au) or 03 4212 0791.
- ◆ **END OF DAY LIGHT SAVING 2024:** Just a reminder, **next Sunday April 7** at 3am clocks go back an hour to 2am.
- ◆ **OUR TRUE NORTH: BECOMING THE PAROIKIA FOR OUR TIME:** Led by Fr Brendan Reed who leads a Mission community in Melbourne and is a forth right speaker about what it really means to live in service of others. 17 April, 2024 at Sacred Heart College Celies Dining Room, 4pm-5pm (arrive at dining room from 3.30pm for a cup of tea/coffee). Cost is free. Please contact the college on 5221 4211 for more information.
- ◆ **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](mailto:Julie.Allan@cam.org.au)

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA, PROJECT COMPASSION -  
THANK YOU, Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!**



Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities— Thank you so much for being part of Project Compassion 2024.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

## Reflection by Richard Leonard

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

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## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

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