



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:

Elina Vitrale De Angelis (Italy); Ann Finley; Sr Marie Doolan RSM; Giuseppina Pino

ANNIVERSARIES:

Peter Iskra; Orlando Longo; Alojz Akmacic; Jozo & Vivian Dzida; First Anniversary of Michael Hoffmann (Jnr).

BAPTISMS:

Ellie Barsic; Phoenix Bove-Maselli; Malachi Repusic; Lola Bradford; Georgina & Luella Hyde; Milena & Lucas Jelowyi; Florence Mitrov; Vyder & Odin Tutton.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (Year B—7 April 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st:: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
2nd: 1 John 2:1-5
Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

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.



St Michael's Parish Bell Park warmly invites you to a special

Mother's Day Mass—SUNDAY, MAY 12 | 9AM

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, BELL PARK



Join us as we celebrate and give thanks to all mothers and mother - figures in our lives.

Family service lead by our children, followed by cake, pastries, tea/coffee and juice.

If you would like your child to be involved in the Mass,
please contact Anita Marinovic on 0405 070 536. First rehearsal 14/4/2024 after the 9am Mass.

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

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S

5.00PM

Commentators

M Carson

Lectors

R Perera

Special Ministers

P McGlinchey

Welcomers

Projectionist

B Middleton

Co-Ordinator

M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

L Strzelecki

M Martin

L Fossey

L Fossey

R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator

K Saunders

Lectors

D Lunn, A Negro

Special Ministers

J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdrik

Welcomers

C Marcantonio

Projectionist

C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator

C Simpson; B Kline

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **COMMUNION SERVICES:** Please note, there will be Communion Services to replace the daily Masses next week on Thurs April 11, Holy Family Church & Fri April 12, Holy Spirit Church as Fr Minh will be in Sydney with his family.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass this Sunday and April 21. All most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST:** This program is for children Gr 4 or above who attend non-Catholic primary schools but are Catholic and have completed the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. The course will run over 5 Sunday morning sessions from 8.45am-10am. Enrolments close on Mon April 15. To enrol or enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **MOTHER'S DAY - WEEKEND OF MAY 11 & MAY 12:** To celebrate and remember our Mothers & Women in our lives, there will be pizza and drinks provided after the 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church on Saturday evening and a Special Morning Tea after the 9am & 11am Masses.
- ◆ **PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES:** Thank you to all Parishioners for your generous donations to Project Compassion 2024 and returned the Project Compassion Boxes. So that we can finalise payment, please drop the boxes off at the parish office or place on the collection plate at the weekend Masses.



Community News:

- ◆ **CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IN CORIO:** Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will be held at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Purnell Rd Corio today 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 corio@cam.org.au or 03 4212 0791.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friendship on Tuesday April 9, 6pm at The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St, Belmont. Purchase of meals & drinks at your own cost. **Please RSVP by 7 April to John Santospirito. 0409 165 943 or johnsantospirito60@gmail.com**
- ◆ **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



'The Dawning Light of the Resurrection' EASTER 2024 | Message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Friends, I sometimes reflect on the disciples of Jesus in what they had experienced between the time of Jesus' death and resurrection.

It would have been darkness for them; a questioning of everything they had come to know and had hoped for. Confused and in grief, utterly shaken and probably quite fearful for their lives. We know they were at the threshold between death and life. But God did not want them to drift into oblivion; lost and forsaken.

God instead shook them into a new creation that would change them and everything for all time. With the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were rocked out of complacency.

Because, at Easter, life had found a way.

The disciples were overjoyed, to be true, but it went far more than that. Nothing would ever be the same after the dawning light of the resurrection in their lives. Theirs was the experience of death defeated, filling them with boldness and conviction to go out.

And so it should be with us.

Easter is not a day in the calendar to wait for and then let slip by. Easter is an invitation to us into the story of Jesus' resurrection – into the story of the disciples – the move from our darkness, into a new light.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us the means to transform our lives into something much better. When we embrace Jesus' resurrection we truly can begin living—what a beautiful thought—we break free of all those things that bind us, that keep us in death. For Jesus' victory over death becomes our victory for life.

Easter is meant to rock us and shake us, so as to empower us.

May it be so for you this Easter.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

The earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ, now raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds.

We know the community of Ephesus, for which this Gospel is written, was experiencing great persecution. Is it any wonder, one generation after the earliest disciples, that the sign of Christ's Risen presence are his marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Over recent years films like *Stigmata*, *Dogma*, *Agnes of God* and even the appalling *Daredevil* give a hysterical and cynical prominence to the stigmata. There are regular 'believe it or not' documentaries that usually follow suit. Even some pilgrims flocked to Padre Pio's monastery in the south of Italy to see if his hands really bled, or if his wounds really wept. This desire to see outward signs of inner faith is a long way short of Jesus telling us today, 'Happy are those who believe without seeing.'

Our day-to-day lives should be the clearest manifestation of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

It seems, however, that words and wounds still make a claim on us today. You and I know that we don't have to go to a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life, that our doubts in the presence of God can be greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this, or pretend it doesn't happen. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake and with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven.

Years ago I remember struggling with some personal issues during a retreat. One day, when I felt lowest about myself, the retreat director, adapting today's psalm, 117, said to me, 'you realise that the stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone'. By this he meant that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fears, doubts and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us, or among us, is the one which God wants to use as the cornerstone. When we see this happening, when we see God taking the part of us we consider most unlovable and using it for good, then we want to cry out with the psalmist, 'This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we consider the presence of the Risen Lord. Where is he found? Each of the readings offers an answer to this question. The Risen Christ is found in the community of believers who follow the example of Jesus. Even non-believers recognised something marvellously different about the Christian community, and they exclaimed: These Christians, see how they love one another.

The Risen Christ is found in those who accept the truth of the resurrection on the word of others. The word of God preached by others has often brought us out of darkness into light, from the stranglehold of death to the birth of new life. The preaching of the disciples has been not only instructive, it has also been transformative.

The Risen Christ is found in the forgiveness of sin. Jesus made the frightened disciples ministers of divine forgiveness. The Spirit reconciles sinners with God and, thereby, with the rest of the believing community. Forgiveness is a tangible sign of Christ's mystical presence.

The Risen Christ is found in the physical manifestation of Christ's own wounds, the wounds that he offered to be touched. Since the community is the body of Christ, we touch the wounds of Christ when we touch the wounds of the community, when we go out to the sick and infirm, the dispossessed and the violated. As shocking as these wounds may appear, they are really glorious, because the Risen Lord has identified with them and has made them his own.

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