



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:

John Baptist Ty; Joseph Luan.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Antoine Alam; Angelo Negro; Steve, Jack & Robert Cummins; Zakia & Kozze Kazzazi; Mahrosa Matloob; Hazim Kazzazi; Kitty Millns; Anne McGlinchey.

BAPTISMS:

Anneliese Alizzi

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.

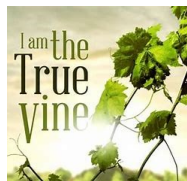
A REMINDER: Children must be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian at all times!

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B—28 April 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people..

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Acts 9:26-31
2nd: 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel: John 15:1-8

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Acts 10:25-26; 34-35; 44-48
2nd: 1 John 4:7-10
Gospel: John 15:9-17

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 or Parish office. Rehearsal after the 9am Mass.

For other Mother's Day Celebrations in the Parish, there will be pizza and drinks after the 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church on Saturday May 11 and a Special Morning Tea after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church.

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:..	<i>Meditation Group</i>	<i>5.30pm</i>	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
Friday	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	<i>3.00pm</i>	<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

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	
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, S Costa
Special Ministers	E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta
Welcomers	K McArthur
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	C Simpson; B Kline

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CATHOLICARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL:** Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). As the Catholic church's mission in action, CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full. There will be an extra 3rd collection taken up after Communion. You can also donate using the appeal envelope available in our churches, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 3287 5513.
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL will be held on Wed 1 May at 1.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave, Manifold Heights. All St Michael's parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **2024 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** The Annual Mass Count in the Parish will take place over four weekends: 4-5 May; 11-12 May; 18-19 May; 25-26 May
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass on Sunday May 12—Mother's Day . All most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **ROSARY AT Ss PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH:** Beginning on May 4 and during the month of May, Rosary will be recited prior to the 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church beginning at 4.45pm. All most welcome.
- ◆ **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.

Community News:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** Lunch at Great Western Hotel Monday 6 May 12.30pm See you all there!
- ◆ **NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?:** If you need to dispose of a vehicle from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, could you consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Foundation, a registered charity with tax deductible status, which for ten years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims/survivors across Australia of church related sexual abuse. If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (frkdillon@outlook.com.au or 0421 777 360) or Adam Kaali (adam-kaali@hotmail.com or 0411 486 605).
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL:** Please donate to Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal. Sadly 25 million people including 14 million children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/sudan or phone 1800 024 413.
- ◆ **THE WORLD MISSION ROSARY:** Catholic Mission invites parishioners to join in online prayer to mark the traditional time for Marian devotions. During this virtual Rosary, we will reflect on the mysteries of the Rosary and offer our intentions for peace, healing and blessings for our parishes and the world.
This online gathering is open to everyone in the parish community. Catholic Mission will host the recitation of the Rosary every day (from Monday to Friday) at 2pm in May and invite you to join in. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/cmprayer>
Meeting ID: 893 8798 2280 Password: 876574
- ◆ **BOOK FAIR: St Bernard's Church Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Road Belmont.** To be held **Sunday 5 May, 8am—2pm**, Come along and browse through a huge selection of second-hand books- **Fiction, non-fiction & children's, all at bargain prices. Jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVD's & CDs & Scrumptious Scone Stall.** Something for everyone.
- ◆ **MEDICAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION:** Students will be on clinical placement at St John of God Hospital, and are requiring accommodation on (Monday & Thursday) however there may be a couple of students who might prefer to base themselves in Geelong for the duration of the 4 weeks rotation. The students average age is in their mid-late 20's. If interested in assisting, let me know what type of accommodation you could offer, eg (room in your home, self contained flat), meals or no meals. Also what you expect from the student e.g. payment, curfew, restrictions etc.

Rotation 4	22/04/24—17/05/24	(7 students)
Rotation 5	03/06/24—28/06/24	(7 students)
Rotation 6	01/07/24—26/07/24	(8 students)
Rotation 7	29/07/24—23/08/24	(8 students)
Rotation 8	26/08/24—20/09/24	(5 students)

Dr Stephan Foy will be supervisor of the Geelong rotation and he can be contacted by email Stephan.foy@nd.edu.au or directly to speak on 0411 206 774
- ◆ **INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE:** An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday May 4, 10am-11.45am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC) 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer.

The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world.

Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.

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