



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:

Behnam Karakchi (Canada); David Niechlanski (USA)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Richard Tolkin; Teresa & Bill Hogan; Angela De Palma; Len Cotter; Rudi Ljubicic

BAPTISMS:

Willow & Tommy Baker; Indigo & Bowie Kelly

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER *(Year B—5 May 2024)*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

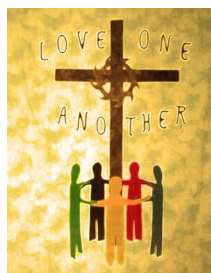
The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and I my Father will love them, and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Acts 10:25-26; 34-35; 44-48	1st: Acts 1:1-11
2nd: 1 John 4:7-10	2nd: Eph 1:17-23
Gospel: John 15:9-17	Gospel: Matt 28: 19, 20



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

(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 Verdnik
Welcomers	C Marcantonio
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	C Simpson; B Kline

Welcome: We extend a warm welcome to the children and families from our Primary Schools who gather with us at Mass this weekend, in the lead up to their First Eucharist.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CATHOLICARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL:** This Sunday 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.
- ◆ **2024 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** The Annual Mass Count in the Parish begins this weekend and continues over the next three weekends 11-12 May; 18-19 May; 25-26 May
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** Lunch at Great Western Hotel Monday 6 May 12.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **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 this Saturday evening 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 SPECIAL FLOWERS:** The Holy Angels Sisters will have bouquets of flowers available to purchase next Sunday May 12 after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church. All proceeds to support the Mission work of the Holy Angels in Africa.
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish office will be closed from 9am—2pm next Thursday May 9 as Bernadette and Lynne are attending a Child Safeguarding network meeting at Hoppers Crossing North Parish.

Community News:

- ◆ **BOOK FAIR: St Bernard's Church Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Road Belmont.** To be held today **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.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship. 14 May 6pm, The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High Street Belmont. Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. Please advise by 13 May. To John Santospirito 0409 165 943 or johnsantospirito60@gmail.com
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **MEDICAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION:** Students on clinical placement at St John of God Hospital, 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 supervisor of the Geelong rotation can be contacted by email Stephan.foy@nd.edu.au, or 0411 206 774.
- ◆ **EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY of Ageing Themes:** The secret of life is to let every segment of it produce its own yield at its own pace. Every period has something new to teach us. The harvest of youth is achievement; the harvest of middle age is perspective; the harvest of old age is wisdom; the harvest of life is serenity. (Joan Chittister). **Wed 1 May: Accomplishment & Limitations; Wed 8 May: Relationships & Spirituality; Wed 15 May: Legacy; 10am gathering & cuppa, 10.30-12.30pm session, 12.30-1.15pm lunch, 1.15-2.30pm Session & closure. Venue:** Santa Casa, Queenscliff. Cost @25 per session. **Presenter:** Nicole Rotaru RSM; **Registration contact:** Sr Lizzie Finnerty on 0418 194 261. Email: santacasa@ismapng.org.au.
- ◆ **DIOCESAN COMMITTEE of the GUILD OF ST STEPHEN:** Warmly invites all Altar Servers to participate in **Guild of St Stephen ANNUAL MASS: FRIDAY 24 May 2024 7.30pm. St Patrick's Cathedral** 1 Cathedral Place Melbourne. For further info please contact **Fr Joel Peart** on 0410 273 705
- ◆ **PENTECOST SUNDAY TAIZE PRAYER:** You are warmly welcome to join us: Santa Casa, 33 Flinders St Queenscliff. 19 May at 2.30pm followed by a cuppa at 3.30pm. RSVP Lizzie on 0418 194 261 or santacasa@ismaping.org.au

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

The Italian film, *Life is Beautiful* vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about.

And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything.

If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble.

That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus the Lord showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the joyful way we sacrifice ourselves for them.

No one promised us that the Christian life would be easy. All we have is our brother Jesus and all our friends, our family in faith, to support us in every loving sacrifice we make.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The boundlessness of God's love is seen in the fact that God loved us even before we were deserving of God's love. In fact, it was God's love that made us able both to receive and to give love in return. Love is of God; love is God. Divine love is constant and trustworthy. How easily we can think this thought or speak these words, yet how difficult, even impossible, it is to comprehend what it means. We can only really recognise love in its many concrete manifestations. Love is patient, kind and forbearing; it believes, it hopes, it endures. The love of God breaks down the barriers between Gentile and Jew, between slave and free, between the poor and the prosperous, between women and men, between the healthy and the ailing, between young and old.

Embraced by such love we are gradually transformed. We begin to recognise God's love in places we never suspected it would be found. We discover that what we once judged unclean may merely be an unfamiliar openness to God's truth. We discover that our own insistence on legitimate religious practice may really be spiritual elitism. Our eyes are opened to ways we have tried to confine God's love to the conventional boundaries we ourselves have set. As we are drawn into God's love, we eagerly embrace the commandments that help us to live righteous lives. To the extent that we love as universally as God does, we will know that we live in God and that God lives in us.

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