



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

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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:

Biagia Cortorillo

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ken Gallagher; Barry McFarlane; Carmela Cammarere (Seven months since death)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan



A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Dear Lord, I give thanks for all mothers and all who have a mothering/nurturing role in our lives.

Those who so generously and freely give love, comfort and guidance to their children every day.

I ask you, Lord, to give them strength to carry on doing their work.

Give them patience and let them see that they are loved, appreciated and respected.

I thank you for the sacrifice each of them makes every day.

And I pray you bless them and touch them with your Grace. Amen.



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....



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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

(Year B—12 May 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!



TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Acts 1:1-11
2nd: Eph 1:17-23
Gospel: Matt 28: 19, 20

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st:: Genesis 11:1-9
2nd: Rom 8:22-27
Gospel: John 7:37-39

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— THIS 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.

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

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	C. Marshallsea
Lectors	K Maddalena
Special Ministers	K Maddalena****
Welcomers	
Projectionist	
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Kroger
J McKenzie
M Drake-Bemelmans
L Fossey
F Kearney

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM


Commentators	A Scaddan
Lectors	H Verdnik; T McMahon
Special Ministers	M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri
Welcomers	
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	C Simpson; B Kline

Congratulations

To the grade 4 students from St Patrick's School who make their First Eucharist next Friday at Holy Family Church.



St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** there is a set of envelopes for all **weekly and monthly** contributors in the foyer today. They are in order alphabetically by **SURNAME**. If you can't see your set of envelopes, please contact the parish office. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, contact Bernadette at the Parish on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au. Thank you for your continuing regular support.
- ◆ **THANK YOU FROM CATHOLICARE :** CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria's Sunday Appeal. Because of the generosity of our St Michael's Parish Community, \$1282 was kindly donated and helps assist CatholicCare to continue the mission; to create transformational personal impact, and empower every individual to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need!
- ◆ **2024 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** The Annual Mass Count in the Parish continues this weekend 11-12 and the next two weekends of May; 18-19 May; 25-26 May
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass this 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:** Rosary will be recited prior to the 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church beginning at 4.45pm for the duration of May. All most welcome.
- ◆ **MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL FLOWERS:** The Holy Angels Sisters will have bouquets of flowers available to purchase after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church this Sunday. All proceeds go to the Mission work of the Holy Angels in Africa. 
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish office will be closed next Thursday May 16 as Bernadette and Lynne will be attending the Archdiocese Parish Administration Forum held in Melbourne.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING UPDATE:** Thank you to our amazing volunteers in the parish, your time and efforts are always greatly appreciated by all. To adhere to the Archdiocese and Parish Safeguarding requirements, all volunteers must hold a current Working With Children check (WWC) and sign the Code of Conduct (due every three years for volunteers and annually for staff) as acceptance. Bernadette will email a copy of the Revised Code of Conduct in the coming week and will also contact volunteers whose WWC checks are close to the expiry date.

Community News:

- ◆ **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.cmpayer> Meeting ID: 893 8798 2280 Password: 876574.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS—WINTER 2024:** In this edition the focus being 'Science in the service of God' a personal reflection; Nurturing faith and inquiry, and how to live in the world. It is clear from this issue that faith helps make sense of science and science helps to bolster faith. Please take home a copy available at all Churches.
- ◆ **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 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
- ◆ **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** A Christian community for people with **Disability**, their carers, families and friends. You are welcome to come to our next monthly meeting on Sat 18 May. 2-4.30pm, at St Mary's Parish Pioneer Room, Level 1, 150 Yarra Street. RSVP by Thurs 22 May to Tricia O'Keeffe on 0414 672 267. We have a Sharing news time, Gospel reflection with songs and prayers, and a Fiesta Afternoon tea. It's our **5th anniversary**.

Community News: cont

- ◆ **THE PATH OF MERCY:** This year we will again offer our Circle of Mercy Professional Learning sequence. The theme for 2024 is 'The Path of Mercy' Our first Circle of Mercy session this year is... **The Path of Mercy: Seeking Truth** Where: online via Zoom 30 May at 7-8.30pm. We are excited to have Caroline Thompson, author of 'Be as shining lamps" Cost is Free!. **Accreditation:** this session will be recognised for accreditation to teach/lead in a Catholic school.

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

Aren't we lucky we don't take the Scriptures literally? If we did it would appear from today's Gospel that only multilingual, snake-wrangling, poison-drinking exorcists, with a gift for healing, would be seen as the genuine Christian article. That would leave most of us out in the cold.

This passage, however, is a dramatic addition to Mark's Gospel to show that even though Jesus is now at the right hand of God, he sends his disciples out to the whole world to carry on his ministry, and that he will protect us when trials come. And even though there have been tragic and shocking chapters in our 2,000 year history, it's good for us to remember what God has done in and through us as we have gone out and proclaimed the saving love of Christ. Today 33% of the world's population are, at least nominally, Christian, numbering 2.1 billion people, making us the largest religion in the world. Our Catholic family accounts for just over half this group. We have around 1.1 billion Catholic brothers and sisters worldwide. Many Christians continue to be persecuted or discriminated for their faith, and some continue to die for their love of Christ which impels them to seek justice for all.

But the feast of the Ascension is not just an opportunity for us to look back on how we have tried to fulfil the command of the Lord to go out to the world. Indeed, this feast is primarily focused on where we are going from here on in. The Ascension promises us that just as the Father raised Jesus from the dead, so too the Father, Son and Spirit will welcome us into heaven as well, to be at Christ's right hand for eternity. This parable demonstrates the point.

In 1939 a father and son were famous art collectors. When World War II broke out, the son volunteered. In 1944 the son died in battle while rescuing another soldier. A year later, a young man came to see the father. 'Sir, you don't know me but I was with your son when he died. I want you to know he didn't suffer.'

'I know you both loved art, and though this isn't much, I want you to have it.' He gave the father a package. Inside was a portrait of the son. It was rough work, but the father welled up with tears. 'It was the least I could do for your son because he saved my life.'

A few months later, the father died. At the art auction which followed, investors gathered from around the world. The first item up for bid was the portrait of the son.

The auctioneer tried to start the bidding, '\$200 ... \$100 ... Any bids? Any at all?' The investors called out, 'Skip this one. Where are the Rembrandts?' Just then a man spoke up from the back. 'I'll give you ten dollars for the painting. It's all the money I have.' It was the gardener at the father's estate. So the auctioneer brought down his gavel. 'Sold for ten dollars!' An investor called back, 'Can we now get on with it?'

But the auctioneer continued, 'The auction is over. According to the will, whoever bought this painting would inherit the estate, including all the art.'

No matter what they said the wealthy investors couldn't buy their way into the inheritance. Only the one who had the eyes of love, and knew what he was looking at, inherited everything the Father and Son had to offer.

May we go out from this Feast of the Ascension so confident of our spiritual inheritance to come, that we lavish its riches on all we meet right now. Because when it comes to Christ's kingdom, there's plenty for everyone.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA:

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.

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