



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: Simon Vassallo; Betty Rice
ANNIVERSARIES: Josef Moor; Eileen Doherty; Bridget Valenton; Filippo Caccamo (10th year anniversary)
BAPTISMS: Henry & George Doric; Jamie Lee; Elle & Harvey Wilson
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Eddie Echter



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, Fr Minh and the Parish Safeguarding Committee members 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.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Year B—2 JUNE 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Exod 24:3-8
2nd Heb 9:11-15
Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st:: Gen 3:9-15
2nd: 2 Cor 4:13—5:1
Gospel: Mark :3:20-35

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.

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE PARISH:

St Michael's Parish recently purchased three defibrillators to be installed in our churches. Increasingly on the news we hear of great stories of a 'person's life being saved by a defibrillator' and we are now looking to train suitable volunteers

There will be a full day training session on **Saturday June 15**, to be conducted by St John's Ambulance. The training day of 8.5hours commencing at 8am and will consist of two sessions on 'Basic First Aid' and how to 'Operate a Defibrillator', with a 30 minute recess in between.

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 Kroger
L Fossey
L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator K Saunders
Lectors D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers C Marcantonio; V O'Malley
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator C Simpson; B Kline

Congratulations:

To the students from the Parish Catechesis Program who make their First Eucharist this weekend at Holy Family Church.



St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass this Sunday June 2. All most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch this Monday June 3, 12.30pm at The Clubhouse (formerly Pekish) Geelong Bowls Club. See you all there!
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Tues June 4, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be lunch on Wednesday June 5, 12.30pm at The Clubhouse (formerly Pekish), Geelong Bowls Club, 5 Ballarat Road, North Geelong. Any St. Michael's Parish ladies who are not members of the CWL, but would like to join us for a social lunch, please contact Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **PROPOGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL 2024:** The Annual Catholic Mission Appeal will take place in the Parish on the weekend of June 15 & 16. There will be a third collection to be taken up after Communion. Envelopes will be in the churches from this weekend and donations can also be made online at catholicmission.org.au/Mongolia.
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish Office will be closed on Monday June 10 due to the King's Birthday Long Weekend.
- ◆ **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 weeks 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 on Tuesday June 11, 6pm at the Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St Belmont. Purchase of meals & drinks at your own cost. Please RSVP to John Santospirito on 0409 165 943 or johnsantospirito60@gmail.com by June 10.
- ◆ **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP: Australian National Pilgrimage: 15-26 October 2024,** Come and join us on the official Pilgrimage created and led by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart for the last 28 years. An all inclusive 12 day organised pilgrimage to sacred sites in VIC, SA, & NSW. **'Don't' miss out'** Find out more Ph: **(02) 8912 4818** or Email: national.Pilgrimage@mmp.org.au or www.marymackillopplace.org.au
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S PAPUA NEW GUINEA LANDSLIDE DISASTER:** Thousands are feared dead and many more are displaced after a devastating landslide struck a remote village in Papua New Guinea. Your urgent support is needed now. Donate at www.caritas.org.au/png



THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

This feast, originally Corpus Christi, arose in the thirteenth century Belgium in response to debates about the Real Presence and as a result of an upsurge in eucharistic piety. Its extension to the entire western Church was first decreed by Urban IV in 1264. The feast celebrates the mystery of the nourishing and enduring presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.



Reflection by Richard Leonard:

In years gone by the major focus of this feast of Corpus Christi was a procession that usually concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Many of us have fond memories of Benediction: a bejewelled cope and monstrance, the flickering candles, the Divine Praises and Latin hymns. It all worked to create a magical atmosphere. As richly theatrical as it was, the magical side of it was part of the problem.

In medieval times Catholics rarely received Holy Communion. So much so it was in this context that the Church ruled that we have to communicate at least once a year. In the absence of communion, veneration of the Blessed Sacrament took on a great significance. Seeing the host was thought to impart an intense power.

Although in the last 100 years we have been encouraged to receive communion more frequently, the magical properties ascribed to the host persist in some people's devotional thinking.

As Catholics we believe that Jesus is really and personally present to us in the broken bread and shared cup of the Eucharist. And although we believe that Christ is present in the Scriptures, the assembly and the ministers of the Church, we hold that Christ's presence under the form of bread and wine is one filled with the greatest intimacy and uniqueness.

The Eucharist is not intimate and unique because it is magic. It's not intimate and unique because we gaze upon the elements. The Eucharist is intimate and unique because earthly signs are transformed by God's love, and are consumed in faith. As we eat and drink these elements Christ becomes part of us, and we come alive in Christ.

In the fifth century Saint Augustine taught his people that if they truly loved the Eucharist they would become what they eat. The same is true for us today. By receiving into our hands the bread – blessed and broken, the cup – poured and shared, we say 'Amen' to becoming the same in Christ: blessed, broken, poured out and shared in love. We commune with God and God with us in the Eucharist so that just as earthly gifts are transformed into Christ so through us will be the entire world, and all things in it.

There is a huge and important difference between grace and magic. One is a trick for show. The other is the power of love, which expresses itself in faith, hope and service.

In a profound poem French Jesuit Didier Rimaud challenges those of us who love the Eucharist to see it linked to the liberation begun in the Exodus, consummated in the Resurrection and working in our world today.

In remembrance of you, we take the bread of Easter in our hands,
This Bread do we consume: It does no longer taste of bitter herbs, nor of unleavened bread.
It is the bread of a land promised us where we shall be set free.
In remembrance of you, we take the wine of Easter at our feast, this wine do we hold dear.
It does no longer taste of bitter springs, nor of dark salty pools.
It is the wine of land promised us where we shall be made whole.
In remembrance of you, from exile we return.
In remembrance of you, we walk across the sea!

No wonder the early Christians called the Body and Blood of Christ, 'food for the journey'. May this Eucharist strengthen and embolden us to help God liberate and transform the world through how we spend our lives.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings, which reflect some aspect of the feast, feature three prominent themes: the importance of blood in the ratification of the covenant; the atoning actions of Christ; the attitude of thanksgiving.

Most people today would probably be repelled by the ritual use of blood. Yet birth blood is not subject to the same revulsion, nor is blood transfusion frowned upon. Blood is recognised as a life force, and blood relationships are cherished. In a sense this ritual makes us blood sisters and brothers of God and of each other. It seals our fate and it entitles us to the family inheritance.

This feast celebrates the incomparable love of Christ. He offered himself for the expiation of our sins; he spread a banquet table for us at which we are able to eat the bread of companionship and share the blood of the new covenant.

How shall we make a return to the Lord for all the good that we have received? The only appropriate response to God's graciousness is thanksgiving (*eucharistia*). We have been chosen; we have been delivered; we have a witness in heaven; and now we have been given the bread of eternal life and the blood of salvation. What return can we give? A life of gratitude lived in the presence of God; a life of union with all those who eat the same bread and drink from the same cup; a life of faithful expectation, waiting for the coming of the reign of God in all its fullness.

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