



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:

Fr Brendan Dillon; Alojz Lozar

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jesus Herrera; Vjekoslav Pogacic; Zlatko Lehpamer; Colin Henderson; Stjepan Majstorovic;

BAPTISMS:

Briella Agustin; Alexandra Loughnan; Addison Dafter; Edward, Leo & Rose Gablonski; Milla Gleeson

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.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B—16 JUNE 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live forever. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Ezek 17:22-24
2nd 2 Cor 5:6-10
Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st:: Job 38:1, 8-11
2nd: 2 Cor 5:14-17
Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

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.

Catholic Mission Annual Propagation of the Faith Appeal!

'GO AND INVITE EVERYONE to the banquet!'

This weekend, you're invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require.

The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require.

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to "Invite others to the banquet", and we invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia.

There will be an extra third collection taken up after Communion this weekend in support of this important appeal and envelopes are available in all Churches. You can also donate online at catholicmission.org.au/mongolia. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English...9.00am Sunday
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

Holy Spirit, Manifold Heights:

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

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators

Lectors G Tolan

Special Ministers G Tolan

Welcomers

Projectionist B Middleton

Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

T McMahon

J Fraatz

L Fossey

L Fossey

A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators M Lukesic

Lectors F O'Neill; L Loney

Special Ministers D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti

Welcomers: V Resciniti

Projectionist C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator C Simpson; B Kline

Congratulations:

To the students from Holy Family School who will make their First Eucharist over the next two weekends at Holy Family Church.



St Michael's News:

- ◆ **RCIA PROGRAM 2024:** St Michael's Parish RCIA Program led by Susanga Costa, for candidates who wish to be part of the Catholic Faith. The lessons will run on Sunday evenings from 6pm-7pm beginning this Sunday June 16 at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation Street, Bell Park. There will be 8-10 classes throughout June, July & August with a break during the June/July school holidays. Please contact the parish this week on 5278 1343 if interested or you would like more information.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass this Sunday June 16. All most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **PROPOGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL 2024:** The Annual Catholic Mission Appeal will take place in the Parish this weekend 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.
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN: Saturday 6 July, 10am-4pm Carmelite Monastery, Kew.** The Vocations Office invites all men discerning a vocation to a day retreat. The day will include talks on the Priesthood and discernment as well as time for prayerful reflection. RSVP by Wed 3 July at: vocations@cam.org.au
- ◆ **ACCOMMODATION:** A young female pharmacist, recently arrived from Pakistan, is seeking board with a catholic family, or shared accommodation with another female. For more information please Contact Natasha 0466 715 407 or Elizabeth 0410 039 273.
- ◆ **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**

Our Vision: 'no person needs to sleep rough in the Geelong Region'



SAMARITAN HOUSE GEELONG: provides a community and a welcoming safe home for homeless people experiencing crisis, enabling their transition to a better future

Samaritan House Geelong (SHG) are dedicated to providing a beacon of hope and support for homeless men in our community. Our mission is to offer them not just temporary relief, but also pathways to a brighter future through shelter, sustenance, and support services in collaboration with the Salvation Army.

Operating since 2012, we have grown considerably from the one residence known as the Kevin Dillon Cottage being our 4-bedroom house to now supporting 13 men in a shared housing and a further 7 men in independent units. This means that we provide care and support for a total of 20 men on a continued rotation of care and to date more than 1400 men have been the beneficiaries of SHG.

However, we cannot accomplish this mission alone. We rely on the generosity and compassion of individuals like you who understand the importance of extending a helping hand to those in need. Your support can make a world of difference in the lives of these men who are struggling to find their footing amidst the challenges of homelessness.

No contribution is too small when it comes to making a difference in the lives of our homeless men. Whether you can spare a few dollars or a more substantial gift, your generosity will have a ripple effect that extends far beyond material assistance.

Email us at: donations@samaritanhouse.org.au to make a gift online go to: www.samaritanhouse.org.au/donate.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate:

In Australia, so far as I know, a farmer ploughs the land and *then* plants the seed. In Galilee, the farmer scattered the seed on the old field and therefore on tracks which people made walking across it after cropping, on thorny areas, and also on what he hoped was good soil. He *then* ploughed in the seed.

It is a wonder that anything grew, and generally the return was about 7:1. In a previous parable Jesus had spoken of the Kingdom he was inaugurating as if it would turn out to be like a bumper harvest of up to a hundredfold.

What would such a harvest mean for a peasant tilling the rocky soil of Galilee? It would mean release from the endless servitude to a landlord, generation after generation. It would mean liberation, not only from hunger, but from the power structure which was quite content with a permanent underclass of subsistence farmers.

In other words, Jesus was telling his listeners that God's Kingdom would turn the world as they knew it 'upside down'. As Mary sang in the Magnificat: 'The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.' Power structures would be shattered by the impulses of the Gospel to create a society where there was a just distribution of the world's resources.

Naturally, the peasant farmers of Galilee wanted to know 'when' and 'how'. We want to know the 'when' and the 'how' of the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' answer to them, and to us, is basically: 'It is not for you to know. Just get on with the sowing of the Gospel seed. Something will happen with the seed you sow, something out of all proportion to your part in the process.'

Our Lord pictured this by contrasting the tiny mustard seed and the mustard bush which he even exaggerates into a tree in which birds could find shelter!

In this parable Jesus says: 'Be patient, allow the creative power of God to work in the earth and the small seed will be "raised up".'

When did God's creative power work in the depths of the stony ground so that the Gospel Seed was raised up? The answer is, of course, in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And what effect did this have? We read in the Acts of the Apostles concerning the early Christian community that 'The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.' (Acts 2:44)

In other words, the social system was being subverted by the power of the Gospel. A more just distribution of resources was taking place in the immediate aftermath of the proclamation of the Resurrection by Peter on the Feast of Pentecost.

I think it is very telling that a little further on in the Acts of the Apostles we read: 'The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no-one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.' (Acts 4:32-33)

There is a correlation between the commitment of Christians to a just distribution of the world's resources and the proclamation of the Lord's resurrection. Only if the commitment is authentic and real will the proclamation be powerful and effective.

So,

let us lead lives with an authentic dimension of social justice,

let us get on with sowing the seed of the Gospel whenever we get the opportunity,

let God get on with germinating that seed with the power of the Resurrection so that

the Tree of Life may grow to such a height that all peoples 'can shelter in its shade.'

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings today remind us that poetic imagery is an apt way of describing the mysterious presence of God in our midst. The cedar began as a seedling that takes years to grow into a magnificent tree. The same is true of the mustard tree. It too requires time to develop its trunk and branches. The development of moral integrity in a human being is just as gradual. Rooted in God, it flourishes in God's presence and it produces fruit even into old age. Although God is present in all things, sustaining them and allowing them to follow their natural courses, God really transcends all things. Metaphorical language may be the best means for speaking about God and the things of God. It enables us to live in the tension that both reveals something about God and conceals God's real nature.

The reign of God also begins in very ordinary circumstances, and it matures gradually until it has spread itself far and wide. Although the mystery of the reign of God unfolds within human history, we need eyes of faith to recognise it. Like the cedar and the mustard seed, it grows within the concreteness of human experience. Just as the life force that thrusts the branches of the trees further and further out cannot itself be seen, so the reign of God is mysterious, even incomprehensible. Still, it is there, inviting us, urging us to move forward, transforming our world.

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