



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: Dobroslav Skoko; John Buckle; Sr. Claire Ignatius (RSM)
ANNIVERSARIES: Moya McGlinchey; Joe Lichtenfeld; Ercole Iezzi
BAPTISMS: Ivy Iannelli
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Eddie Echter; Fr Ray Zammit.



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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B—4 August 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Exod 16:2-4, 12-15
2nd Eph 4:17, 20-24
Gospel: John 6: 24-35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: 1 Kings 19:4-8
2nd: Eph 4:30 - 5:2
Gospel: John 6: 41-51

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 ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

National Vocations Awareness Week 4-11 August 2024

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park: Holy Spirit, Manifold Heights: Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

English...9.00am Sunday 11am Sunday Saturday 5.00pm
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

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. Please 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; V O'Malley
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinators C Simpson; B Kline

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** This program is for children Gr 6 and above who attend non-Catholic schools but are Catholic and have completed the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The course will run over 5 Sunday morning sessions from 8.45am-10am. Enrolments close this Monday Aug 5. To enrol or enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION MASSES – THURSDAY AUG 15:**
 - 9.15am Holy Family Church (Holy Family School students in attendance)
 - 12pm St Patrick's School
 - 2pm Holy Spirit Church (Holy Spirit School students in attendance)
 - 5.30pm Ss Peter & Paul's Church

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass **SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING**. Everyone is most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** After the 11am Mass this Sunday Aug 4. All most welcome.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP—Lunch,** at the **Great Western Hotel, Monday 5 August at 12.30pm.** See you all there.
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be lunch on **Wednesday 7 August at The Yardz Hotel,** 77 Church Street, Geelong West, **12.30pm.** St Michael's Parish ladies are most welcome to join us. Please phone Bernadette 0417 514 598 to confirm attendance or for transportation.



Community News:

- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN FOR THE WORLD APPEAL:** During the month of August we share our 'Women for the World Appeal'. To help support women to lift their families and communities out of poverty. Through your donations, you can create real change for women. Please donate online at www.caritas.org.au.
- ◆ **LEGION OF MARY:** You are invited to a Recollection, **MARY: THE DISCIPLE & APOSTLE** this **Saturday 3 Aug at St Francis Xavier Church,** 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio. **9.15am Mass / Legion Prayers; 10.45am Talk (Fr Marcus Goulding); 11.45am Adoration / Confession; 1.00pm Shared Lunch** (Bring a plate to share). **All welcome.**
- ◆ **MINISTER OF THE WORD:** Nominations from parishes are now being accepted for the next online training program. Minister of the **Word** on 21 Aug. This engaging multi-week program includes weekly Zoom classes (held in the evening) and many enjoyable interactive elements of do-at-your-own-pace online learning (hosted on **Openlearning.com**) the program includes both practical training and necessary formation in history and theology relevant to the ministry. Participants independently observe and engage with their local community throughout the program, which culminates in a local training session. Further details can be found online at www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training.
- ◆ **SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY:** The annual Enquiry Day at Corpus Christi College is on **Saturday 10 Aug.** It is an opportunity for men to visit the seminary, hear from the Archbishop, students, and staff. An invitation is for you, to forward onto any young men (over 18) that might be interested. For catering purposes please RSVP by **ASAP** to the Vocations Office at vocations@cam.org.au. For further enquiries, the Vocations Director, Fr Dishan Candappa would be pleased to assist you and can be contacted by email at vocations@cam.org.au.
- ◆ **MISSION: Transform Lives—theirs...and yours:** Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with Palms is for you? Want to share your skills with communities in the Pacific, Asia or Africa to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty? Join our Palms' **Discovery Webinar** online Thursday 15 August. Meet Carolyn, currently in Timor Leste, and former Palms participants to find out more about **Assignments Aboard.** **Venue:** Online via Zoom—register at palms.org.au/event/discovery-online/ **Thursday 15 August 7.30-8.30pm** Ph (02) 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au
- ◆ **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP: Australian National Pilgrimage: 15-26 October 2024.** 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
- ◆ **LIVING OUT LOUD CHOIR EVENT Sun 11 Aug, 2.30-4.30pm.** Living Out Loud Choir have been bringing their infectious style of music to Melbourne audiences for over 20years. You are invited to a special workshop/concert featuring this talented Choir, to be held at the **Queenscliff Uniting Church,** 85 Hesse Street, Queenscliff. This event is hosted by Combined Refugee Action Group and Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees (QRAR). Tickets \$30 For bookings **Living Out Loud Choir Event Tickets, Queenscliff Uniting Church, Queenscliff | TryBooking Australia**

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

The crowds and the disciples in John's Gospel are always getting their wires crossed when they listen to Jesus. They rarely understand his deeper message.

They're like the couple who had been snowbound in Seattle for two weeks. Affectionately they used to call each other 'husband' and 'wife'. They planned to go down to Florida to get some sun. The husband got away from his work one day early and departed for Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day. They were looking forward to quality time together in the bright sunshine. Unfortunately, there was some sort of mix up at the boarding gate, and the husband was told he would have to wait for the overnight redeye special. He tried to appeal to a supervisor, but to no avail.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle's was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an email, but in his haste he made an error in the email address.

His message arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's wife whose even older husband had died only the day before. When the grieving widow opened her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream, and died on the spot. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:

'Dearest wife, departed yesterday as you know, but just now got checked in. Some confusion at the gate. Appeal was denied. Received confirmation of your arrival tomorrow. Your loving husband. P.S. Things are not as we thought. You're going to be surprised at how hot it is down here.'

Following the feeding of the five thousand, the crowd thinks that when Jesus says he is the Bread of Life he is simply referring to the source of their next meal. If this were true it could put a new spin on what some might mean when they use the term 'cafeteria Catholicism'.

Jesus, however, is referring to himself as the fulfilment of all appetites, where we will never be hungry or thirsty again. Appetites are important things. They demand regular attention. Physical appetites tell us that we need nourishment, hydration, exercise or sleep. We have learnt to read our body's signs and if we ignore them we die. We also have emotional appetites, where we need affection, acceptance and a listening ear. If we ignore these signs our mental health deteriorates and our quality of life is compromised. Jesus, however, also alerts us to our spiritual appetites. These are the needs we have for Him, for meaning and purpose, for faith, hope and love. If we ignore these appetites we can lose sight of where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going.

As the sixth chapter of John's Gospel goes on, Jesus becomes clearer about the hunger and thirst he has come to fill. And as he does the crowd's wires get uncrossed and they're shocked. Jesus, the Bread of Life, is interested in us fulfilling our physical, emotional and spiritual appetites in this world as a way of glimpsing the life to come in Him, where all our hungers and thirsts will be fulfilled.

May this Eucharist prepare us for the day when our confirmed departure from this world comes. May there be no confusion at the gate, no need for any appeals and may we be reunited with those we love as we bask in the warmth of the Son's love, as he shows us to our place at the Eternal Banquet.

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant :

In many ways the Exodus story of the bread from heaven is very similar to last Sunday's accounts. However, the focus today is not divine prodigality shown through the overabundance of food, but total dependence on God. The bread comes from heaven, not merely because the food seems to come down from the sky, but because it comes from God. The restriction about collecting it was meant to emphasise this point. Our survival is in God's hands, not ours.

Jesus insists that he is the true bread from heaven; he is the real basis of our survival. The people followed him because they saw him as a source of bread; they did not realise that he is really the source of life. If we fill ourselves with all that the world provides as nourishment we will still hunger. Only faith in Jesus can satisfy our deepest hungers, and we will not be able to survive apart from him.

Acceptance of Jesus as the source of our life and the very nourishment of our spirits effects a total transformation in us. We will no longer be content to live with full bellies but empty minds. We will put aside our old selves steeped in ignorance and self-interest and put on a new self, created in his image. Having fed on the bread from heaven, we will be mysteriously transformed into it. The spirit of our minds will be renewed by his teaching. As a result, we will be able to launch out into a way of living that witnesses to our new understanding, our new life.

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Prayer for Ordinary Time:

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life as every day we experience your grace.

We call this part of the year 'ordinary time' as you ask us to order our lives according to your plan in the ups and downs of work, family, school, community, laughter and tears.

All things are extraordinary when we share them with you. Keep our minds open and our hearts warm, as you challenge us in the needs of the world and your entire family.

May all our days contribute to peace and justice,

May all our lives help the healing of this special planet,

May all our ears listen to the cry of the poor,

May all our eyes look with wonder at the beauty around us,

May all our time be for your glory

Who lives and reigns without end.

Amen.

