



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: Leo Meade; Dorothy Foley;

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Pollard; Francesco Bocchicchio; Guerrino, Francesco & Katerina Jerman; Giuseppe Santoro; Almor & Jose Mairos; Judite da Rosa & Family; Rocco Resciniti; Bruno Di Cristoforo; Patrick Lourey; Francesco & Caterina Iannuzzi; Giuseppina Rotiroti; Santana & John Da Costa; Maria Cafarella (6 mths since death).

BAPTISMS: Mary Carr

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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B—18 August 2024)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one; one day
within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
1st: Prov 9:1-6	1st: Josh 24:1-2, 15-18
2nd: Eph: 5:15-20	2nd: Eph 5:21-32
Gospel: John 6:51-58	Gospel: John 6:60-69



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.



What is Alpha! **explore life, faith, meaning**

Alpha is a safe space to explore life's big questions.

Share a meal with others, watch a short video and engage in open discussion in a friendly and non-judgemental environment.

Whatever your faith background, whatever your walk of life, there is always a seat for you at Alpha. Just come and see!

MONDAY NIGHTS STARTING SEPTEMBER 16 @ 7PM - HOLY FAMILY PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
147 SEPARATION ST, BELL PARK.

Cost? It's FREE! REGISTER VIA QR CODE OR SIGN UP SHEET AT MASS

For more info visit Alpha.org.au

or call Anita 0405 070 536 or Susanga 0433 786 787



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

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S 5.00PM

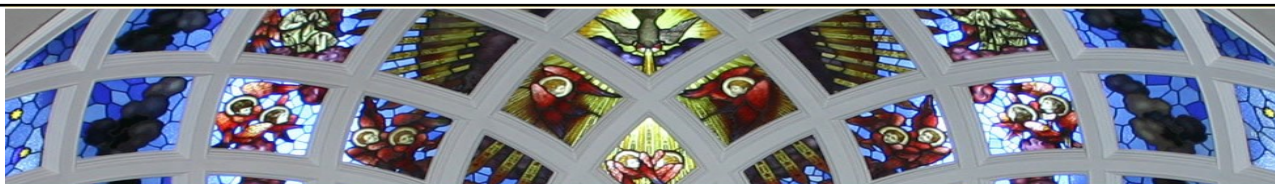
Commentators M Carson
Lectors G Tolan
Special Ministers G Tolan
Welcomers
Projectionist
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT 11.00AM

T McMahan
J Fraatz
L Fossey
L Fossey
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

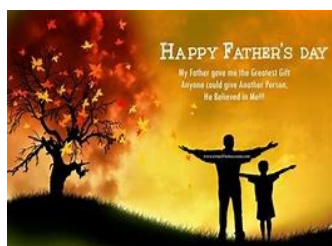
Commentators M Lukesic
Lectors F O'Neill; L Loney
Special Ministers D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti
Welcomers V Resciniti
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinators C Simpson; B Kline



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—EVENTS IN THE PARISH OVER THE COMING MONTHS

- Sept 1.... Father's Day
Sept 13... Fr Minh's 10 Year Anniversary of Ordination—Morning tea after the 9am Mass on Sunday Sept 15 at Holy Family
Sept 15... RCIA - Rite of Reception Welcome at 9am Mass Holy Family Church
Sept 16... Monday evening "Alpha" sessions begin in the parish at 7pm
Sept 22... RCIA Rite - Candidates receive Sacraments at 9am Mass Holy Family Church
Sept 29... St Michael's Parish Feast Day
Oct 11-12... Confirmations in the Parish - Holy Family School & Parish Group
Oct 17... Taize Prayer night - Holy Spirit Church; 7-8pm
Oct 18... Confirmations in the Parish - St Patrick's School
Oct 31.... Confirmations in the Parish - Holy Spirit School
Nov 1..... All Saints Day
Nov 2..... All Souls Day
Nov 2-3... Annual Bereavement Masses
Nov 5 Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon—Holy Spirit Hall (TBC)
Nov 21... Taize Prayer night - Holy Spirit Church; 7-8pm
Dec 1..... Advent begins
Dec 12.... St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening
Dec 25.... Christmas Day



St Michael's Parish Bell Park warmly invites you to celebrate our Fathers, Grandfathers and Father-figures!

Weekend of August 31 and September 1

You are invited to share pizza and drinks after the 5pm Saturday evening Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's Church and a special morning tea after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church & 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish office will be closed on Thursday August 29 as Bernadette and Lynne will be attending the Archdiocese Parish Administration Forum in Melbourne.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Friday August 30, 2pm at the Parish office.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass **SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING**. Everyone is most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH:** After the 11am Mass this Sunday in the Holy Spirit hall. Everyone is most welcome.
- ◆ **COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE 2024:** Raffle Books for Kuya! Thank you to the parishioners who have taken raffle books so far and there are 50 books still available. If you would like to support the raffle and take a book to sell, please contact Bernadette at the Parish office on 5278 1343. Thank you from David Lunn.



Community News:

- ◆ **ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE:** The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting: Tuesday, 24 September, 7.30pm-9pm: Location: via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison kevin.pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.



2024 Archbishop's Campaign:

The 2024 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the Campaign brochure which you will find in your pew and in the foyer today. Gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building, the Priests' Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund as well as

Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift to help us continue to strengthen the Christian faith and address the needs of God's people. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church.

You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

I invite you to give generously to this important campaign.

Your completed pledge cards will be collected after Communion over the next two weekends !

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

In the early 1970s there was an edition of *Readers Digest* that told how a jet crashed in the Andes. It was a good case study in moral reasoning. The issue was that some of the survivors of that crash resorted to cannibalism to survive. The question the author posed was, 'Is it ever ethical to eat another human being?'

Whatever the extreme and specific ethical arguments for cannibalism might be, the thought of eating another person is repulsive to most of us. Yet many people outside Catholicism often think that we are Christian cannibals, feasting on Jesus' flesh and blood.

The best traditions in the Church have always been very careful in the language they use about how Jesus is present in the Eucharist. We are not cannibals. We are not eating Jesus' liver, brain and bones.

In the Catechism when it speaks of the Eucharistic real presence, it never refers to 'Jesus' but always to 'Christ'. The distinction matters. The Eucharist is a Sacrament of Easter. It is the glorified, risen Christ who is wholly and truly present under the form of bread and wine at the Eucharist.

Popular piety and legends that speak too explicitly about the physicality of the Eucharist have not helped us have sensible thinking. As a Catholic I believe that Christ, raised by God from the dead, is truly and personally present to me in the Eucharist. How – is a question that misses the point of the gift.

Chapter six of John's Gospel is a discourse on the Eucharist. It is also, and at the same time, a discourse about Jesus' passion and death and our mission to follow in his way. For Jesus, the new Moses, not only gives bread to the people, but also in his passion, death and resurrection he gives us himself. This is why the Church has always linked the events at Easter with the celebration of Eucharist.

Why have we been given this unique gift? The Eucharist is not meant to be a feast for a privileged few. It's not a private devotion. It's not meant to be something that only assures us of our own particular salvation. It is meant to be something that empowers all Christians to go out and transform the world with love and goodness for Christ's sake.

The Church has always linked what we do away from the Eucharist with what we celebrate at it. This doesn't mean that all of us can rush out and feed the world's poor. It does mean that most of us can assist other groups or people who do precisely that. And it does mean that when we think about who we will vote for as political leaders, we ask about their platform in relation to those in our country and world who are suffering the most. The former General of the Jesuits, Fr Pedro Arrupe once said, 'If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world'.

Sometimes we can think of the Eucharist as a magical act. Jesus counters such a notion in today's gospel when he tells us that he gives us himself 'for the life of the world'. The Eucharist does not turn us into cannibals; it's meant to make us radicals, radically committed to all God's people everywhere.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA:

Wisdom invites us to her banquet. Since she is the way to God, those who accept her invitation will feast on the things of God. This is not a paltry meal that meets only our basic needs. It is a lavish banquet with delicious food and exhilarating drink. The banquet of wisdom is an apt symbol of the generosity of God, open to all, enriching all. This is in sharp contrast to the kind of feasting that is depicted in the epistle. Fools succumb to the temptations of the evil days in which they live and they feast on selfishness, ignorance and debauchery. Two banquets are set before us. Both of them are tempting. Which one will we choose?

The banquet that Jesus offers is like the banquet of Wisdom. However, it far exceeds even Wisdom's table. At Jesus' banquet, we feast on his body and his blood. If we feed at the table of the Lord, we will have life because of him, and we will be raised up on the last day to live forever. This is truly a bold claim and a hard saying. We are told that the food we eat is his body, and what we drink is his blood. We are told that his body, not merely his teaching, is the true bread that came down from heaven. We are told that only if we eat and drink what he offers will we have eternal life. He makes the claim and extends the invitation. How will we hear it? How will we respond?

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