



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**Web Page Address:**  
[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) Phone 5278 1343  
**PASTORALWORKER:** Sr Anne Lourey Email: [anne.lourey@mercy.org.au](mailto: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:** Marija Masljak; Gunther Wolf; Mary Den Dryver; Doris Del Monaco  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Michael Degoldi; Olly & Kath McDonald; Eileen Stocks; Pat McGlinchey Snr; Stephen Colley; Francesco Alteri; David Bird; Jozef Czulij; Jan Laszczuk; Pasqualina Traficante (1month since death)  
**BAPTISMS:**  
**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.

## TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B—25 August 2024)

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

### TODAY'S READINGS

**1st:** Josh 24:1-2, 15-18  
**2nd:** Eph 5: 21-32  
**Gospel:** John 6:60-69

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**1st:** Deut 4:1-2, 6-8  
**2nd:** James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27  
**Gospel:** Mark; 7:1-8, 14-15; 21-23

## 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](http://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—(1st Sunday of the Month)**

#### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM**

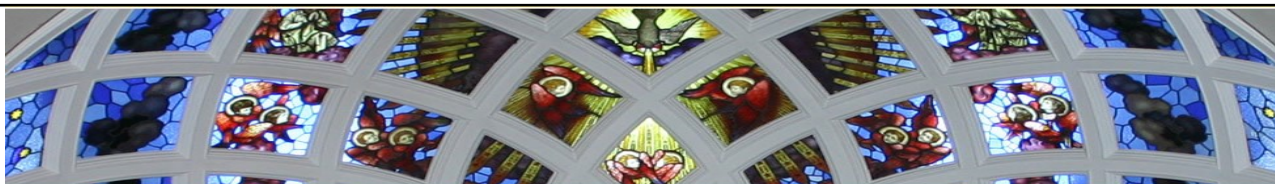
**Commentators**    M Carson  
**Lectors**            P Balkin  
**Special Ministers**    E Carland  
**Welcomers**  
**Projectionist**        B Middleton  
**Co-Ordinator**        M Gifford, 5229 1656

#### **HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM**

C Nielson  
M Kroger  
M kroger  
L Fossey  
L Coles

#### **HOLY FAMILY    9.00AM**

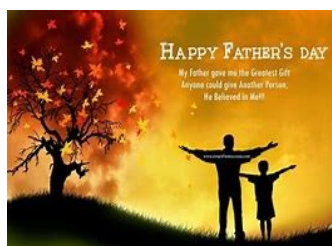
**Commentators**    J Siketa  
**Lectors**            M Bird, S Costa  
**Special Ministers**    E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta  
**Welcomers**        K McArthur  
**Projectionist**        C Resciniti  
**Co-Ordinator**        C Simpson; B Kline



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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 10... 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 warmly invites parishioners to celebrate our Fathers, Grandfathers and Father-figures!*

*Weekend of August 31 and September 1*

St Michael's Parish Parishioners are invited to share pizza and drinks at the conclusion of the 5pm Saturday evening Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's. N.B. This is not for the wider Geelong Community as previously posted on the Facebook Geelong Community Notice board.

And there will be a special morning tea after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church & 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church.

We would also like parishioners to provide a photo of our fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles and other important men in our lives to form part of a power point presentation at the Father's Day Masses. Please email photos to the parish [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) by Thursday August 29.

### **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.
- ◆ **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 the Parish office on 5278 1343. Thank you from David Lunn.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS - SPRING 2024:** In this edition the focus being 'Do Good, Be Good, Spread the Good News'. At a time of what seems unrelenting bad news - wars, climate destruction, increasing polarisation of peoples - it is a pleasure to be able to share good news with you, our readers. Please take home a copy available at all churches.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** Lunch at the Great Western Hotel, Monday 2nd September 12.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **CWL:** The next meeting of the Manifold Branch of the CWL will be held on Wednesday September 4, 1.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Avenue, Manifold Heights. All St Michael's Parish ladies are most welcome to come and join us.

## 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](mailto:kevin.pattison@cam.org.au)  
In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.
- ◆ **TAIZE PRAYER:** At Santa Casa, Queenscliff. Saturday 31 August 2.30pm—and to stay afterwards for a hearty afternoon tea together!
- ◆ **HEALING MASS:** St Thomas Aquinas Church, Norlane on Monday September 23 at 10am. All most welcome.

## 2024 Archbishop's Campaign:

The 2024 Archbishop's Campaign is now into its final weeks 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](http://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!

## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

I have some sympathy for the response of the Jews to Jesus' hard teaching in today's Gospel! For a Jew to be asked to drink blood is as abhorrent as it gets. It is the same as demanding that an ultra Orthodox Jew eat pork!

In almost all the stories in the Gospel of John there are insiders and outsiders, those who understand the message and those who take Jesus too literally and are offended or confused. The flesh and blood given for the life of the world is at one and the same time the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist. Jesus was not, literally, offering his arm for his followers to chew! He was referring to the gift he was soon going to give his followers: the example of utter fidelity to God's Kingdom even unto death, and the meal of that Kingdom, the Eucharist. We are the recipients of both gifts and the commission to live them out. The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation is given to us for our mission in the world today and for our journey toward the World to come.

The other response in today's Gospel gives us great hope. In spite of being confused and deserted by his friends Peter hangs in there with Jesus. He holds on to faith when all the signs show that a hasty retreat may be a better course of action. We all know people who remain faithful in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some of these we can understand – parents with sick children or spouses with ill partners. It's heroic, but understandable. But sometimes fidelity is heroic and inexplicable: when a spouse welcomes back his or her partner after an adulterous affair; when a foreign-born priest or religious will not abandon an oppressed community; when a person will fight a just cause and be persecuted all the way to the end. These are powerful signs of faithful love at work too. It's a fine line to know when fidelity is 'dying to self' not 'killing self'. We are called to the former and often seduced by the latter.

James Keenan in his excellent book, 'Virtues for ordinary Christians' says that fidelity is the bottom line of the Christian life. He argues that the Church has spent too much time preaching about 'infidelities' and too little time teaching about those things that strengthen fidelity. 'Each person', he says, 'has two major moral goals in life: to be just and to be faithful'. Being faithful to his Father, and to us, sums up what Jesus does for our salvation and is exactly what He calls forth from the disciples in today's Gospel. Perhaps because we too easily think it is something difficult, we presume that being faithful to our friends is hardly a moral issue. Yet once we see that friendship is the key to the moral life then we can come to see that living the moral life is about the ordinary interactions of our day.

James Keenan writes, 'To this end we may need to make more calls, write more letters, cook more dinners, take more strolls, linger a little longer with a friend. We may also need to disengage ourselves from the habit of counting or measuring what the other does or does not do or say'.

May this Eucharist enable us to respond to the invitation of the Holy One of God to place fidelity and friendship at the centre of our moral life and attend to the everyday activities that will see us live it out.