



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:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Damiano Fazio; Walter Augustyn; Luka, Ana & Ivan Cengija; Pietro Silvestri; Francisco Arias (Snr)
(1st Anniversary)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Eddie Echter; Fr Ray Zammit.



A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old. We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocations; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering, may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor & guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love **Amen.**



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....

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year B—1 September 2024)**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and
forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
That we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

TODAY'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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 35:4-7

2nd: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37



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*

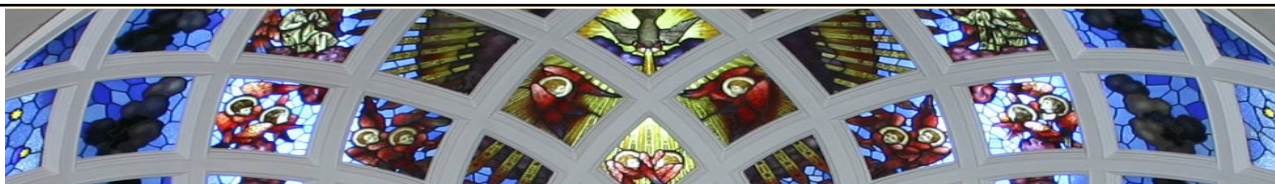
STATUE OF OUR LADY: Our Lady's statue is ready to be taken to your home. Please call Cristita: 0435 780 716 or Vickie: 0401 213 505. We will collect Our Lady's statue, when you ask us.

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

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

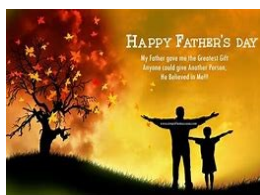
<u>Ss PETER & PAUL'S</u>	<u>5.00PM</u>	<u>HOLY SPIRIT—11AM</u>
Commentators	M Carson	L Strzelecki
Lectors	R Perera	M Martin
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey	L Fossey
Welcomers		L Fossey
Projectionist	B Middleton	R Martin
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656	
<u>HOLY FAMILY</u>	<u>9.00AM</u>	
Commentator	K 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	



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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 10... Taize Prayer night - Holy Spirit Church 7-8pm
- Oct 11-12... Confirmations in the Parish - Holy Family School & Parish Group
- 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 19.... St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening
- Dec 25.... Christmas Day



St Michael's Parish Parishioners are invited to share pizza and drinks at the conclusion of this Saturday's 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's.

And please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church & 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass **SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING**. Everyone is most welcome.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES' RAFFLE BOOKS:** I have 20 books left to distribute. If you would like a book, I am happy to 'home deliver'. Please call or message David Lunn on 0408 378 982 your name and address. 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.
- ◆ **HEALING MASS:** St Thomas Aquinas Church, Norlane on Monday September 23 at 10am. All most welcome.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINER'S CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together of food and friends at our dinner on **Tuesday September 10, 6pm at the Great Western Hotel 'Western Room'; cnr of Aberdeen St and Shannon Ave, Newtown.** If you wish to attend, please phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday September 6.



2024 Archbishop's Campaign:

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2024 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign. I encourage you to please give generously to the Campaign.

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

I read a terrific book the other day entitled 'Shadows and the Dark'. It is by Australian Jesuit Fr John Cowburn who is Professor of Philosophy at Jesuit Theological College, Melbourne. This book explores how we can hold to a loving God in the face of evil.

The idea for the book came when Fr John fell from his bicycle, broke his collarbone and was awaiting surgery in hospital. While there, an old religious sister came to his room to give him Holy Communion before going to the operating theatre. Fr John told her about the accident. Sister said, 'Well Father, God must have known you needed a little holiday, so he arranged for your fall'. John replied, 'If that's true Sister I'm pleased God didn't want me to take a sabbatical!' From Jesus' day to ours, when bad things happen to good people it seems easier to blame God or Satan. By his own admission Fr John had an accident because he didn't take enough care on his bike. End of story. That God can bring something good out of such an accident is grace building on nature. What Jesus confronts in today's Gospel is 'The-devil-made-me-do-it' theology. And his response is as challenging now as it was in first century Palestine.

For as long as we blame our most destructive behaviour on evil acting upon us in all its guises, empty promises and powers, then we remain some way from taking the sort of responsibility for the condition of our hearts that might see them fully converted by Christ's saving love. This is not to say that evil does not exist or that it cannot have a powerful effect upon us, quite the opposite. Just as grace builds on love and goodness, evil grows out of estrangement and hatred. As Christians we hold that God has given us free will, and evil's hold on our hearts is often the result of the poor choices and smaller compromises we have made along the way.

The way we look at the evil in our lives and the world also affects our compassion. For if we're not in touch with the greed that leads to theft, the anger that leads to murder, the desire for power that leads to rape, or the alienation that leads to terrorism, then it's hard for us to be compassionate toward the perpetrators of these evil acts. The degree to which we know what our hearts are capable of leads us to be grateful for the graces we receive and cultivate, and to be compassionate toward those who have missed out on this good news and who, by nurture or free will, have chosen evil as their fundamental option.

May this Eucharist enable us to take in the broken body of Christ because we know we are a broken people in need of its power, and as Christ's blood is poured for us, may we be poured out in love, so that, through us, others might hear His call to a conversion of heart.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite.

Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

'At the heart of who we are is not all the buildings but the person of Jesus Christ, who enters into our lives and who we then share with others.'

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli