



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: Dorothea 'Joan' Murphy; Franjo Simovic; Deidre Steel; David Butler; David O'Donohue

ANNIVERSARIES: Daniel Kos; Angelo & Elodia Capra; Ron Sells; Jose & Antonio Ferreira; Walter Booth; Pearl Duffin
11 months since death of Carmela Cammarere; 10 year anniversary of Augusta de Jesus Pinto

BAPTISMS: Harrison Brewer; Sydney Nottage; Obelia Reivers; Penelope Matczak; Luca Verdichizzi

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Eddie Echter; Fr Ray Zammit; Fay Sullivan; Gayla Sullivan



"Every conversation matters" Safeguarding Sunday 8 September 2024

The Parish of St Michael's and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in the community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B—8 September 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
Treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord, my soul! Alleluia!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 35:4-7

2nd: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 50:5-9

2nd: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark *:27-35



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

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators C. Marshallsea

Lectors K Maddalena

Special Ministers K Maddalena****

Welcomers

Projectionist

Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators A Scaddan

Lectors H Verdnik; T McMahon

Special Ministers M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri

Projectionist C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator C Simpson; B Kline

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

F O'Neill

J McKenzie

M Drake-Bemelmans

L Fossey

F Kearney



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH incorporating the churches of Holy Family Bell Park, St Peter & Paul Geelong West and Holy Spirit Manifold Heights

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

- 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 14... Maria Forde Advent Reflection - Holy Family Church 7pm
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

Congratulations: To Fr Minh on the occasion of his 10 years since his Ordination to Priesthood on Sept 13. Next Sunday, Sept 15, please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** After the 9am Mass **SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING**. Everyone is most welcome.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Wednesday Sept 18, 7pm at the Parish Community Centre.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:** At the recent meeting, the main focus was working through the Compliance Assessment requirements from the Archdiocese with regard to the safeguarding of children, young people & vulnerable adults and identifying areas the Parish has fully developed and areas that still require development. Our next meeting is on Friday October 4.

Community News:

- ◆ **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 asap.
- ◆ **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.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

I read the other day a true story about a baby girl who was seriously ill in a Neonatal ICU. The paediatric specialist said there was very little hope. The baby's five-year-old brother, Michael, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. 'I want to sing to her', he kept saying. Children were not allowed in the ICU, but Michael's mother eventually insisted that he be able to see his sister.

When he got to the humidicrib he sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey'. The nurse reported that as Michael sang, the baby's pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael', encouraged his mother with tears in her eyes. 'You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.' The baby recovered and left the hospital three weeks later.

I am not pretending for a moment that Michael's song healed his sister, but we should never underestimate the power of human support and love. It helps us to be healed.

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist, our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important.

When we visit another parish we can tell a lot about it by the care with which the intercessions are composed and compiled. If they only attend to the needs of the parish and never with the wider Church or the world, if they focus on the needs of the Catholic world and never with the plight of those in crisis, who may not share our faith or may hold to another or no faith, it says so much.

The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer. Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them.

And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ removes our blindness, opens our ears and loosens our tongues so that we speak up for those who are most in need of a healing word that brings them justice and peace.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world.

There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Season of Creation Reflection by Nick Brodie

One of the most important messages in today's Gospel is that right speech follows from clear hearing. When Jesus cures the man the signs of healing are that his ears open first, then his tongue starts working. As with everything Jesus said and did, this has wider implications for Christianity: a message needs to be heard before it can be proclaimed. Every preacher must be a listener first.

Jesus' vision of a listening Church is expressed many times in the Gospels and has endured throughout the centuries in diverse forms, from local synods to Ecumenical Councils. From long experience the Church learned that by listening to the signs of the times Christians could better proclaim Christ to each new generation.

In our own time, as Pope Francis puts it, the Church needs 'to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. Environmental and human degradation are everywhere, crying out for remedy. In this Season of Creation we might ask ourselves whether we are good listeners. Do we listen to the warnings of scientists about climatic change, to the stories of climate refugees, or do we block our ears in closed-minded self-interest and ignore Jesus' command, '*Ephphatha*' – be open.

© Nick Brodie