



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: Sr Mary Duffy (RSM); Ed Fraatz
ANNIVERSARIES: Joe Vanjek; Guiseppina Battaglia; Salvatore Valentino; Maria De Angelis; Vivica Sariego; Salvatore, Caterina & Palmira Giacomazzo
RCIA BAPTISMS: Stephanie Bayliss; Michael Church; Michelle Jones; Nicole Levett; Ashlee Pitman
BAPTISMS: Pia Austerberry; Ella & Lily Bee; Zander Relouw; Luca Vucicevic; Ollie Church; Neve Hehir; Evie & Oliver Levett
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay Sullivan; Gayla Sullivan; Erminio Perich



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 the children, the vulnerable....

If you have any questions or concerns, the parish safeguarding committee of Louise Kearney; Bernadette Bilogrevic; Marg Gifford or Joan Mann can be contacted on 5278 1343.

A REMINDER: Children are to be supervised by their parent/ guardian at all times, and must also be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian!

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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B—22 September 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord upholds my life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

2nd: James 3:16 - 4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Numbers 11:25-29

2nd: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 47-48



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

Dear friends,

On Monday September 16 we kicked off our Alpha with the theme, 'is there more to life than this?' It was a powerful night of reflection and discussion. The question, 'What makes you happy', drew a variety of responses. Some mentioned family, possessions, or achievements. Yet, we were reminded of Jesus' words: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; (John 14.6).

True happiness isn't found in fleeting things, but in a life rooted in faith, when we live in relationship with God.

See you at the next session on Monday 23 September at 7pm.. **Fr Minh Tran**

- 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:

English...9.00am Sunday
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

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

11am Sunday Saturday 5.00pm

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

(5th Sunday of the Month - 1st Sunday of the Month to cover)

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



Congratulations: To the RCIA Candidates who will be Initiated into the Catholic Faith at Holy Family Church this Sunday. May the prayers of our Community support them on their faith journey. A note of thanks to Susanga who prepared and supported our Candidates over the past eight weeks.

We also Welcome Bishop Martin Ashe who will be the main Celebrant at this Mass.

INTRODUCING TAP 'n' GO FACILITIES AT OUR CHURCHES

St Michael's Parish has recently purchased a Tap 'n' Go Smart terminal which will be up and running at our Masses from this weekend. The terminal will be located in the foyer or narthex of each church.

There will be four choices **\$5; \$10; \$20 and \$30**. Your Tap 'n' Go transaction will form part of the first collection. Please note there will still be the normal 1st and 2nd collections taken up during Mass.



Taizé services at St. Michael's Parish, Holy Spirit Church Manifold Heights!

We are excited to announce that Holy Spirit Church will begin hosting monthly Taizé services, offering a unique opportunity to experience a simple yet profound form of Christian worship.

Taizé is known for its meditative style, with short, repetitive chants, quiet reflection, and scripture readings, all held in the peaceful glow of candlelight. The Blessed Sacrament will be placed on the altar, drawing us to encounter Christ's presence in a special way.

These services invite us to pause, reflect, and deepen our connection with God, both personally and as a community. We warmly invite everyone to join us for the first Taizé service on Thursday, October 10th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Come and rest in the presence of the Lord. All are welcome!



St Michael's News:

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Please note, the Parish Office will be **closed next Friday Sept 27** due the public holiday. The Bulletin will be printed on Thursday morning, and we request that you provide any notices, recent deaths & anniversary of death names by Wednesday morning.

PARISH PURCHASE OF RESIDENCE—149 SEPARATION ST BELL PARK: The Parish has recently purchased a 3 bedroom home situated next door to the Holy Family Community Centre, settlement date, this Monday September 23. The Parish intends to Lease the property and the local Real Estate Agency has been contacted to organise and manage.

CWL Annual General Meeting of the Manifold branch for 2024 will be held on Wednesday 2 October 1.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Avenue, Manifold Heights. Our guest speaker will be Sr Brigid Arthur from the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project. Sr Brigid will speak at approximately 2.15pm and all St Michael's parishioners are most welcome to attend her talk. Afternoon tea will follow the talk. For further information please contact Colleen 0418 789 604 or Bernadette 0417 514 598

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 October 4.

OPPORTUNITY—HAIR CUT: This is a kind gesture from our Parishioner, Rosa Rosini, who is a retired, qualified hairdresser and is offering her services for free, to cut Parishioners' hair. It will be trialled for a few months and will start on October 31. Venue: St Michael's Parish Community Centre from 10.30am—12.30pm. A donation to the Parish would be greatly appreciated. To book a time, please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343. In accordance with Parish Child Safeguarding requirements, all persons must be 18 years and over.

Community News:

- ◆ **HEALING MASS:** St Thomas Aquinas Church, Norlane on Monday September 23 at 10am. All most welcome.
- ◆ **ST BERNARD'S PARISH—TWO DAY PARISH RENEWAL:** In Conversation with Fr Richard Leonard SJ on Friday October 11 & Saturday October 12, 2024. Free event, donation appreciated. Bookings for Friday: <https://www.trybooking.com/cuppe>. Bookings for Saturday: <https://www.trybooking.com/cupud>.
- ◆ **THE PATH OF MERCY: Living Story:** You are warmly invited to the next Circle of Mercy PD event. There will be a panel of presenters that will speak about living a merciful life and being committed to the Common Good. Our speakers include Jo Betz, Steph Davies and Kelly Suvoltos.

Where: Face to face at Sacred Heart College (Celies dining room) or via Zoom **17 October at 7-8.30pm** Cost Free!

Accreditation: This session will be recognised for accreditation to teach /lead in a Catholic school. We hope to see you all at this final Circle of Mercy event for 2024. for more information please contact Christina at Sacred Heart College.

- ◆ **WINDFIRE MUSIC FESTIVAL GEELONG:** Music at the Basilica will present the 15th Annual Windfire Music Festival, Geelong from 4 to 13 October. There will be 3 concerts each weekend, ranging from classical to modern music featuring some of Geelong's finest musicians, and 5 free lunchtime organ recitals using some of Geelong Historic organs. For details of concerts, dates, times and venues please visit www.musicatthebasilica.org.au or email us at music.basilica@bigpond.com



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

Sept 22...	RCIA Rite - Candidates receive Sacraments at 9am Mass Holy Family Church
Sept 23	Monday evening "Alpha" sessions in the Parish at 7pm
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 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

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

It's hard to see what the disciples don't get when Jesus tells them in fairly plain language that because of the way he lives and what he says he will be put to death by the power barons of his day. The disciples seem to think the Passion is going to be an event out of *Boy's Own Annual*, where the ensuing campaign will see greatness thrust upon them. In this context, Jesus takes the smallest and most vulnerable of people in their society and teaches the disciples that greatness comes through care of the least.

This is a powerful lesson. Greatness in the world – power, connections, wealth, influence, reputation and learning – only counts for something in the Kingdom of God when put at the service of the most vulnerable of our society. Greed, riches and pride are so alluring, so seductive for us in the Church, as much as for those outside it, that we need to regularly examine our consciences to assess the motivations and results of what we are doing, and why we are doing it. When I read today's Gospel, however, I also feel sad. I cannot help but reflect on how unintentionally prophetic Mark was being in linking the prediction of Jesus' passion with the status of a child.

The safeguards now needed in response to the criminal and scandalous behaviour of a very few leaders in the Church, means that many bishops, priests, religious and teachers can no longer follow Jesus' example and take children in our arms. I fully understand why this is the case, but the fact that we have to be so careful about the care of our children and have strict protocols and legislation that covers such behaviour toward children is a necessary and, nonetheless, tragic moment. It's also a moment for us to remember the passion of those who have had to endure the trauma of destructive behaviour. As the Jews say of the Holocaust, 'to forget is to commit the same mistake again'. At its most basic level the latter part of today's Gospel reveals what we would expect of Jesus – he likes children and they like him.

It's amazing how a couple of pieces of information can sometimes change the way a scriptural story is read, and its importance for our lives today. We know from other documents of the same period as the New Testament that children in first century Palestine had no rights. They were possessions of their fathers, and they could be bought and sold, exploited and even killed without any recourse to the religious or civil law.

One way in which a child was publicly claimed in this society was that only their immediate family could touch them. The story, then, of Jesus embracing the child in public was in itself a social challenge to accepted customs. But it's much more than that. In taking the children in his arms, Jesus declares that they are possessions of no one, but they belong to us all as gifts. In the family of God, children are accorded the dignity and respect we would give to God.

Today's Gospel tells us that those who deserve our attention and esteem are the ones who are the least, the most at risk or those who put their talents and gifts at their service by making the world a better place for them. Just as he did in the market place of Galilee when he took the children in his arms, Jesus has a habit of turning our world's values upside down.