



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
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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: Francesco Coppe; Moira Bowtell

ANNIVERSARIES: Francisco Alfaiate & departed families; Francisco Marques; Matt De Grandi; Ivan Lukesic; Giuseppina Resciniti; Luigi Palmieri; 10th Anniversary of Ivan Matijevic.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay Sullivan; Gayla Sullivan; Erminio Perich; Fr Prakash Cutinha



Celebrating our Feast Day of St Michael the Archangel: September 29...

St Michael the Archangel is the leader of all angels and the army of God. As an archangel, he is above all other angels in the rank. Archangel Michael holds a significant place in the Roman Catholic Tradition. He is an Archangel, associated with courage, protection and divine intervention.

St Michael is the Patron Saint of sick people, soldiers, police and doctors.

In our Catholic tradition, St Michael has four duties:

To continue to battle against Satan; To save the souls of the faithful from the power of Satan;
To protect the people of God; To lead us from this life to God...



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....

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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEAST DAY OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (Year B—29 September 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

In the presence of the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord, all his hosts, his servants who do his will.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Apocalypse 12: 7-12 **2nd:** James 5:1-6
Gospel: John 1:47-51

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,

Who is Jesus

The second night of our Alpha journey explored one of the most important questions in life: 'Who is Jesus?' As we gathered to discuss and reflect, we asked ourselves, 'Who is Jesus to you?', 'Do you think Jesus rose from the dead?' These are profound questions, with many people offering different answers based on their experiences and belief

See you at the next session on **Monday 30 September** at 7pm..

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

(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

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:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch Monday 7 October 12.30pm at 'THE YARDZ' Church street Geelong West. See you all there!
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON CANCELLED:** Unfortunately, we will not be hosting the Melbourne Cup Luncheon this year, due to insufficient helpers.
- ◆ **REMINDER TO RETURN RAFFLE BOOKS:** 150 books issued and 110 books returned so far. Could the remaining 40 books please be returned by mid October at the latest. 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 October 4.
- ◆ **OPPORTUNITY—HAIR CUT:** This is a kind gesture from our Parishioner Rose, who is a 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:

- ◆ **DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY OCTOBER 6:** At 2am, just a reminder to put your clocks forward one hour.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our dinner on 7 October 2024, 6pm at **Great Western Hotel (Please note, change of venue) 'Western Room'** access from the bar, cnr. Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave Newtown. **Cost:** Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to attend please phone **Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday 4 October.**
- ◆ **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>.
- ◆ **MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** Join us to stand for babies and their Mums at **1pm Saturday October 12** in the **Treasury Gardens, Spring Street Melbourne** at the 2024 **March for the Babies.**
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **SPIRITUAL RETREATS:** at **Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne.** A series of reflection nights and retreats commencing with a Reflection Day focussing on the central theme of the Year of Jubilee 2025: **Hearing the Audacious Call to be Pilgrims of Hope** facilitated by Mark Walsh. The day will include times of contemplation using scripture and prayer.
Monday 28 Oct 9.30am—3.15pm. Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Cost: \$120 (morning tea provided. BYO Lunch) for more info please call (03) 9926 9300 or www.mmhc.org.au/spiritual-retreat/



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

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 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel Reading):

Today's gospel makes me very pleased I'm a Catholic, and that we don't take the bible literally. Our Christian brothers and sisters who insist on the literal truth of the scriptures must have a tough time trying to avoid cutting off their hands and feet, plucking out their eyes and worrying about how hot hell is! I'm not sure about them, but I know my feet have taken me to places I wish I'd not gone, and when I got there my eyes saw things I wish I'd not seen. Still, in spite of the times I've let myself down, I am glad I'm still in one piece, and not all that worried about the worms and weather in hell!

As Catholics we believe the Scriptures reveal the truth of our salvation – they are not books of fact. Jesus was a skilled and powerful communicator. And like all great teachers he used metaphor and exaggeration to make his point. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus takes evil very seriously. He is always conscious of it around him and is aware that it comes from within us, and without us. Jesus teaches us today to stop doing the destructive things that prevent us from loving God, each other and ourselves.

Sinful behaviour often falls into two categories of human activity: habitual and compulsive. Habits are unusual things. There are good habits, like saying 'please' and 'thank you'. There are habits that can start out well-intentioned enough, but end up being obsessions, like caring for one's physical fitness. And there are habits that bring moments of relief or let us off the hook – like lying, dishonesty and stealing – but always end up being destructive.

Compulsive behaviour, however, is of a very different order. Gambling, drinking, shopping, smoking, violence, work, sex, eating, drugs, pornography, money and the Internet are fairly common modern manifestations of compulsive behaviour. As heart-breaking as these addictions are, they are the presenting problems of deeper issues related to self-esteem, personal history and even genetic disposition.

One of the comments I've heard people make about their compulsive behaviour is, 'I found myself doing it again and I am not sure how or why'. No doubt there are some people who feel so lonely and get so depressed about their habitual or compulsive behaviour, they contemplate severing an arm, a leg or gouging an eye.

Jesus underlines that we have to stop our destructive behaviour and offers three pieces of practical advice so we can. Firstly, do whatever helps. For some people the most unusual solutions attend to the deeper issues and help us piece our lives back together. It doesn't matter whether others approve of it, or it's related to religious faith, for as long as it doesn't lead to other destructive behaviour then, 'whoever (or whatever) is not against us, is for us'.

Secondly, accept help. None of us can battle through life carrying all our burdens on our own. Steps four to six of Alcoholics Anonymous deal with sharing the exact nature of our burdens as a means to coming to terms with them. Our family and friends are not mind readers and we need to seek out wise counsel and follow it wisely. The help and support we receive could be like the cup of refreshing water Jesus tells us about today.

Finally, habitual and compulsive behaviour always has a pattern. St Ignatius Loyola taught in the sixteenth century that it was only when we regularly examined ourselves to see where, when, how and with whom we are most likely to walk away from God's love, that we can work out why we do it and change the pattern.

And when we really know ourselves as we are, and not as we would like to be, we have the chance to choose life over death more often than not.