



# 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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**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm & Fri: 9am-3.30pm  
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**Web Page Address:**  
[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

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**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:** Catherine Sharkey  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Angela & Angreo Denozzo; 1st Anniversary of Carmela Cammarere; 1st Anniversary of Betty Musial  
**BAPTISMS:** Curtis Hall; Annie Parry; Lola Pearse  
**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay Sullivan; Gayla Sullivan; Fr Prakash Cutinha



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.



Congratulates to the Candidates from Holy Family School, Parish Group and St Patrick's School who will be Confirmed this weekend and next week. The Holy Spirit gives Life to the People of God. "The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church".....Pope Francis.

## TWENTY- EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)—13 OCTOBER 2024

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness,  
O God of Israel.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Fill us with your love, O Lord,  
And we will sing for joy!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Happy the poor in spirit;  
The kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
Alleluia!

### TODAY'S READINGS

**1st:** Wisdom 7: 7-11  
**2nd:** Hebrews: 4: 12-13  
**Gospel:** Mark 10: 17-30

### NEXT WEEKS READINGS:

**1st:** Isaiah 53: 10-11  
**2nd:** Hebrews: 4: 14-16  
**Gospel:** Mark 10: 35-45

### 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,

In our fourth Alpha session, we explored the theme "How can I have faith?" The discussion centred on what it means to believe and place trust in God. Faith is not just an intellectual assent, but a personal relationship with God—a decision to trust Him in every aspect of life. Many shared their thoughts on the power of faith and how it transforms lives. Together, we reflected on how faith is both deeply personal and communal, as it connects us not only to God but to each other, fostering a supportive and loving Christian community.

See you at the next session on **Monday 14 October** at 7pm..

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**

(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 SPIRIT—11AM**

M Kroger  
J McKenzie  
M Drake-Bemelmans  
L Fossey  
F Kearney

### **HOLY FAMILY      9.00AM**

**Commentators**      A Scaddan  
**Lectors**              H Verdnik; T McMahon  
**Special Ministers**      M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri  
**Welcomers**  
**Projectionist**      C Resciniti  
**Co-Ordinators**      C Simpson; B Kline



## **Advent Reflection featuring Maria Forde**

**St Michael's parish invites you to an evening of Advent reflection with Maria Forde.  
Thursday November 14, 7.00pm Holy Family Church Bell Park  
Free admission.**

This is an unique opportunity to prepare to remember and celebrate Jesus's birth and prayerful reflection. Using music, ritual, scripture, and visuals, to reflect upon what Advent means to us and how we can prepare for it.

Maria Forde is a Catholic educator, liturgist, spiritual director and performer and is currently an education officer for the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office.

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

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 next Taizé service on Thursday, November 21, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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



### **St Michael's News:**

**CATHOLIC MISSION SUNDAY 2024:** 'Our partnership with Mongolia continues this year as we mark and celebrate World Mission Sunday. We gratefully seek your support for the important work of putting faith into action—following in the footsteps of Pope Francis' important visit to this very young and emerging Catholic community'.  
Next weekend of October 19 & 20. There will be an extra 3rd collection taken up after Communion at all Masses. Appeal envelopes are now available at all churches to take home and complete.

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT:** After the 9am Mass in the Parish Community Centre and after the 9.15am Mass every Thursday.
- ◆ **REMINDER TO RETURN RAFFLE BOOKS:** Could the outstanding raffle books please be returned by mid October at the latest. David Lunn.

### **Community News:**

- ◆ **SVDP VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** St Vincent De Paul needs a volunteer to run their Food Pantry at 141 Fyans St Geelong. Food is distributed from this pantry to several SVDP Conferences. The current incumbent will be retiring at Christmas 2024 after several years in the job but is available to provide training for the position, prior to Christmas.

The position involves ordering, receiving, stacking and packing food parcels and would require the person to be available 2-3 part days per week. If anyone is interested please contact either Martin Butler on 0418572967 or Brian O'Kane on 52615200 or their local SVDP member.

- ◆ **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/](http://www.mmhc.org.au/spiritual-retreat/)
- ◆ **"GOD AND BEER" - EVENT IN THE WEST:** Knights of the Southern Cross Vic extends an invitation to parishioners to an upcoming formation program event tagged 'God and Beer West' on Thursday Nov 14, 6.30pm at the Hoppers Crossing club. To enquire or register, go to [GodandBeer.com.au](http://GodandBeer.com.au).



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

- 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 12... Taize Prayer night - Holy Spirit Church; 7-8pm
- Dec 19.... St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening
- Dec 25.... Christmas Day

### **Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:**

John Calvin, one of the founding fathers of the Protestant Reformation, reacted against what he saw as medieval Catholicism's adherence to the sacramental law as a means to salvation. 'If you keep the law, the law will keep you.' He was right to condemn the preaching of some Catholic priests of his day. Calvin maintained that since time began God predestined those who, by faith, would be saved. Calvin argued that the rest of humanity would be lost. It was impossible to know for certain, Calvin argued, who was who. This was tough stuff!

Within a few years, however, his own congregation in Geneva wanted to know how anyone could be sure they were on the right path to salvation. Calvin's disciples taught that strict and right behaviour was an indication of who belonged to those elected by God to be saved. Not dancing, drinking, swearing or gambling, but working hard, saving one's money and the careful observance of the Ten Commandments became the benchmarks of the elect. Within a few generations of Calvin's death, it is easy to see that the observance of the strict, Protestant, moral code had replaced the seven Sacraments as the way of being assured of heaven.

The rich young man wanted to be assured of salvation too. He was a good man; an observant Jew and someone Jesus looked on with love. But he was hoping the law would save him. He wanted to be sure of gaining heaven by jumping through the right hoops, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Jesus doesn't reject the importance of faithful and good living, but he offers the young man a relationship that would make sense of the choices involved in following him. Without a loving relationship with God, who calls us to live the best life we can, the fulfilment of any law, civil or moral, is a tyranny. We do not believe in a tyrannical God.

We do believe, however, in a God who makes demands of us, who often challenges us in the places where we are most vulnerable. For the young man, his money was an obstacle. He could not embrace a relationship with Jesus because this would have placed in peril his wealth and the comfort that his many possessions afforded him.

For the earliest Christian community today's Gospel highlights serious issues on which people left their company: the role of the law in following Christ; the divide between rich and poor; the commitment demanded of followers in the earliest community. In comparison to our forebears in faith, we have domesticated this radical edge of the Gospel.

We often comfort ourselves with the assurance that the law will save us, whereas Jesus tells us that salvation comes from a loving relationship with him, shown in the sacrifice of our lives. To the degree that any law enables us to deepen this relationship with Jesus and to serve his people, then it is helpful and good. If a civil or religious law gets in the road, then its moral authority over us is questionable.

In a world where the vast majority of the world's wealth and resources are held and used by a dominantly white, educated and, at least nominally, Christian First World, then the demands of today's Gospel should be as confronting to us as they were to the rich young man. 'There is still one thing you lack, sell everything and come follow me.' It has suited us to move away from this financially hard teaching of Jesus.

The law and money are in themselves neutral things. They can be used for good or evil. At their worst the law and money seduce us into pride, greed and power. At their best they can serve the liberation of all people and enable our world to better reflect the Kingdom of dignity, justice and equality Jesus taught and lived.

Given that all things are possible for God, let's pray in this Eucharist that we might stop domesticating the Gospel but allow it to lead us more deeply into a relationship with Jesus who looks on us, loves us and calls us to write the law of love on our hearts in such a way that there will be justice for all people.