



# 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](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:** Francesco Caccamo (Sicily)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Vilim Vuckovic; Antun Pavlicevic; Josipa & Boris Ribaric; Teresa Bahl; Ercole Iezzi; Richard Verzosa; Agnes & Patrick O'Shea; Dennis Jones.

**BAPTISMS:** Ada Bowe; Jack McKay; Margaret McKay

**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.

## **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)—20 OCTOBER 2024**

### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.



### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lor, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Son of Man came to serve  
and to give his life as a ransom for all.  
Alleluia!

### **TODAY'S READINGS**

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

### **NEXT WEEKS READINGS:**

**1st:** Jeremiah 31:7-9  
**2nd:** Hebrews 5:1-6  
**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52

### **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,

Our fifth Alpha session explored the theme "Why and how do I pray?" Prayer, we discovered, is central to the Christian life because Christianity is, at its heart, a relationship with God. Even those who don't identify as religious often turn to prayer in times of need. It's where we bring our fears and anxieties, hoping to find peace. Our discussion explored into the question: *Have you ever tried praying? How did it go?* This session reminded us that God listens to us and prayer connects personal faith to the wider community, deepening our trust in God.

See you at the next session on **Monday 22 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**

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S**

**Commentators**      P McGlinchey  
**Lectors**              G Tolan  
**Special Ministers**    G Tolan  
**Welcomers**  
**Projectionist**        B Middleton  
**Co-Ordinator**        M Gifford, 5229 1656

### **HOLY SPIRIT—11AM**

T McMahon  
J Fraatz  
L Fossey  
L Fossey  
A Zarb

### **HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM**

**Commentators**      M Lukesic  
**Lectors**              F O'Neill; L Loney  
**Special Ministers**    D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti  
**Welcomers:**        V Resciniti  
**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!



**Annual Remembrance Masses:** On the weekend of November 2 & 3 at all Masses, the focus will be "*Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones*". As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "*In Loving Memory of*"... On the day of the Masses, your leaflets will be collected by the bereavement team and placed at the foot of the Altar on your behalf.

### ***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'. This 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 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church this Sunday.
- ◆ **REMINDER TO RETURN RAFFLE BOOKS:** Could the outstanding raffle books please be returned asap. 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.

- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GEELONG—BARWON HEALTH:** St Mary's Parish provide for the services of a chaplain at the Geelong hospital as part of the Spiritual Care department. Our chaplain provides Spiritual Care by supporting patients and families through access to the Sacraments, Holy Communion, coordinating a priest to visit, and End of Life care. If you or someone you love is to be admitted to hospital, and would appreciate a visit and Spiritual Care from the chaplain, Peter can be contacted either on 4215 0627 or through St Mary's Parish office 5222 1977.
- ◆ **UPDATE ON FR PRAKASH:** Fr Prakash's family have advised that he is now out of hospital, and is at home with his family. Fr Prakash is doing daily physical therapy and is improving.



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

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:**

One Sunday morning during Mass, the congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying submachine guns. One of the men proclaimed, 'Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ remain where you are!'

Immediately, the choir fled, altar servers fled, and most of the congregation fled. Within a few minutes, out of the two hundred strong congregation only ten people remained where they were. The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the priest and said, 'OK Father, I got rid of all the fence sitters, how about we make a start'.

It's nice to see the priest in the story remained in the Church! I would like to think that faced with such an extreme moment like this I would have the courage of my convictions, but I must admit I have my doubts.

Each Sunday by coming and celebrating the Eucharist we implicitly, and explicitly, state that we want to become like Christ. As the Gospels repeatedly tell us if we follow him in his saving love for the world then, like him, we must confront injustice, defend the rights of the poor and the oppressed to dignity, give and forgive, heal and reconcile. By saying this, we are clearly not looking for a smooth ride through life.

In concert with the whole Church what most of us have done is domesticate the hard edges of Jesus' teachings to suit our comfortable existences. And then we get a Gospel like today's. The sons of Zebedee want the best seats in the house without knowing what the admission price is going to cost. They want the glory without the gore.

Jesus teaches them, and later all the other apostles, that for his Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, requires of us to drink a cup of suffering and be baptised in a river of sacrificial love. We can't dress this teaching up, or put a good spin on it. There is no resurrection without the cross. No gain without the pain.

For most of us this challenge means doing whatever we can politically and socially to bring the values of the Gospel to bear on our different spheres of influence. But Jesus also links this challenge to the act of service. And in this regard some leaders in the Church give us mixed messages and let us off the hook.

Whatever of the patrimony of the past, today's Gospel reminds us that bishops, priests and deacons should be excellent models of the humility of service. The leadership Jesus advocates is not monarchical or tyrannical, it is being the least, and being a servant.

The Second Vatican Council taught that leaders in the Church should be outstanding in humility, charity and simplicity of lifestyle. Some leaders are just this. Others have domesticated the hard edge of the Gospel.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that we recover a love for the hard teachings of Jesus, even though they demand so much of us, and that we have the courage to call our leaders to do likewise. These teachings are, after all, what makes us different from the Gentiles, and sort out who is actually sitting on the fence.