



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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Holy Spirit Rachel Holdsworth Minerva Rd Manifold Hts Phone 5229 8298
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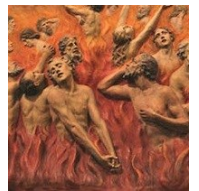
AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Antonio Romeo; Franjo Bacvar.
ANNIVERSARIES: Guiseppina & Domenico Mazza; Jarrod Mills; Francis Murphy; Jakov Juraga; Damian Dougherty; Stjepan Risek
BAPTISMS: Enrique; Ariana & Paquito Hernandez; Kaia Brosas; Millie & Noah McMurrich
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay Sullivan; Gayla Sullivan; Fr Prakash Cutinha



ALL SOULS' DAY—NOVEMBER 2

The Church, after celebrating the feast of All Saints, prays for all who, in the purifying suffering of Purgatory, await the day they will join in heavenly glory. The celebration of the Mass, which re-presents the Sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, has always been the principal means by which the Church fulfills the great responsibility of charity toward the dead. Death cannot break the bonds of the Body of Christ.—
Daily Roman Missal



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.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)—3 November 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Forsake not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help O Lord, my strong salvation.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words.
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Deut 6:2-6
2nd: Hebrews 7:23-28
Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: 1 Kings 17:10-16
2nd: Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel: Matthew 5:3

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.

Parish Alpha

In this week's Alpha session, we explored into the theme "How does God guide us?" We reflected on the profound truth that God has a unique plan for each of our lives. By looking back at our personal journeys, we can see how God has led us to where we are today through His grace, love, and peace. Participants shared experiences of how God speaks to us-through prayer, scripture, and the counsel of others. We also explored what to do when we feel we've made a mess of our lives, reminding us that God's mercy is always available, inviting us to trust Him and seek renewal within our community of faith.

The next Alpha session is on Monday 11/11 at 7.00pm

For more info visit Alpha.org.au
or call Anita 0405 070 536 or Susanga 0433 786 787



PRAYING FOR ALL SOULS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Tuesday Nov 5	Rita Duggan-McDonald
Wednesday Nov 6	Caccamo; Rao & Ruggeri Family members
Thursday Nov 7	Henriques & Ferrera Family members
Friday Nov 10	Mairos & Medeiros Family members

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

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	R Perera
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

L Strzelecki
M Martin
L Fossey
L Fossey
R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator	K Saunders
Lectors	D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers	J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers	C Marcantonio; V O'Malley
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	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 a 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.

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: 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:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** Tuesday Nov 5, due to the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday.
- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for all contributors (including credit card etc) in all churches. They are in order alphabetically by **Surname**. If your pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact the Parish Office, on 5278 1343 or email: bellpark@cam.org.au. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start contributing to the Thanksgiving program. Thank you all for your continuing, regular support.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** Lunch at Fyansford Hotel Monday 4 November 12.30pm. Look forward to seeing you all there!
- ◆ **CWL:** At our Annual General Meeting we sadly decided we can no longer continue our Manifold Branch of the CWL as our membership has fallen and we are an ageing group and finding it hard to get a quorum at our meetings. We will however need to finalise the closing of the branch and are asking members to attend a meeting on Wednesday 6 Nov, 1.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave, Manifold Heights. Thank you. Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2025:** Lectors, your copy of Break Open The Word 2025 is now available from the sacristy where you are rostered at.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS - SUMMER 2024:** In this edition, the focus centres on Catholicism and world religions—Understanding our and others' faiths. Please take a free copy, now available at all churches and the parish office.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT:** After the 9am Mass and every Thursday after the 9.15am daily Mass in the Parish Community Centre. There will also be a cuppa this Sunday after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church.

Community News:

- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our next dinner on Tuesday November 12, 6pm at the Great Western Hotel, "Western Room". Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. Please phone or text your attendance to Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday November 8.
- ◆ **SACRED HEART COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:** extend a warm invitation to anyone who is a past student of Sacred Heart College Geelong to come and celebrate our Centenary Tea Party on Sunday 10 Nov at Sacred Heart College Geelong. 11am Mass in the Sacred Heart College Chapel and 12noon—3pm Centenary Tea Party in Atrium. Tickets \$30. Please RSVP to Jo Welch on 5222 0464 or book online <https://www.trybooking.com/CSHTK>.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER CHOIR:** ENCORES—Why wait for the encore to pull out the fun and fireworks? This program showcases the Afro-American spirituals, the fun a *cappella* arrangements and other favourites from the Australian Chamber Choir's encores collection including your best loved works by Mozart, Beethoven, Bruckner and Vaughan Williams. Music at the Basilica invites you to this concert at 5pm, TODAY, Sunday 3 Nov at St Mary's Church. Tickets from www.Auschoir.org; children and school students free admission.
- ◆ **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. 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..
- ◆ **2 X BEDROOM SHARE HOUSE:** Fully renovated, furnished, bills included \$310 per week for each room. Located in Corio, 2 mins to Corio Village, schools & transport nearby. Available mid December 2024 and preference to parishioners and friends. For more information, please contact Mary at Ace Property Share on (03) 8593 8240 or Jasmine 0440 120 627.



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

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:

It is amazing to note how leaving out just one half of one verse of the Gospel can affect the Christian life for centuries.

All of us know by rote the command of Jesus that we must love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and we must love our neighbour.

But the second half of verse 31 is not usually quoted because, sadly, it is not as imbedded in our memory. It reads: 'You shall love your neighbour **AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF.**'

There are very clear historical reasons why the second part of Jesus' summary of the commandments was quietly forgotten. Given the chequered personal experience he had of his own body, St Augustine, in the fifth century, had very ambivalent feelings about the human body. He thought that, generally, it was to be feared as the instrument through which we would sin. He encouraged us to tame it through prayer, mortification and penance. Augustine's ideas about the body held sway until Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century and the Jesuit Theologians of the 15th century argued that while the body can lead us to sin, it is also a temple of the Holy Spirit and a vehicle of God's love and grace.

In the 16th century Cornelius Jansen denounced Aquinas and the Jesuits and argued that Augustine held the correct Christian view. No matter what the Church did to denounce Jansen at the time, his thinking took deep root in Europe, the USA and missionary countries throughout the world. Jansenism, the belief that our body and its desires are evil and that we need to harshly mortify ourselves, is, tragically, still active in Christian thought today.

Jansenism is irreconcilable with today's Gospel where Jesus tells us that the love of God, the love of neighbour and the love of self are the cornerstones of the Christian law. And the opposite must be true too. We **CANNOT** call ourselves Christian if we hate God, hate our neighbour or hate ourselves.

Some people argue that Western society has already gone too far in the direction of self-love. They maintain that the lengths some people go to achieve a sculptured body, the use of steroids, the growing frequency of eating disorders, the adoration of sportsmen and women, the cult of the gym and of the sex industry all point to a culture too much in love with itself. Some argue what we need is a good dose of self-control. They are only half-right.

The problem with the term 'love of self' is that we often hear in it an encouragement to 'adore self'. Nothing could be further from what Jesus is saying. We are called to love our body, not worship it. Jesus is not calling us to a narcissistic love, like we see in the sex industry and the gym cults, where the only thing we love is ourself. If we have no sense of our own self worth, our own dignity and the personal love of God for each of us, it is impossible for us to give the same to others and to claim from others the dignity we deserve. We will either treat others as our inferiors on the one hand, or allow others to walk all over us, on the other.

Love of self is not about canonising a loss of self-control. Jesus shows us by the way he loved his Father, us and himself that true love always involves sacrifice. If we love our self in the right way, we have the self control to forgo those things that are most destructive in our life and we have the generosity to do for others the things that will enrich their lives. Jesus knew, that we can never love others if we hate ourselves.

Let's pray in this Eucharist, then, that we will develop our mind, heart, soul and strength to love the One who has created us in love and love those given into our care with the same love we lavish on ourselves. The Gospel of Jesus Christ demands nothing less!