



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
www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st

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)

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Alan McFarlane; Alison Da Costa; Anibal Augusto; Antonio Abrantes; Maria Emilia; Silvana Montalto; Michael Richens; Francisco Ferreira.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay Sullivan; Gayla Sullivan; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Zofi Rudzki; Elizabeth Hoffmann.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)— 19 January 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you,
O God, and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

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: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd: 1 Cor 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Isaiah 32:15-18

2nd: 1 Cor 12:4-11

Gospel: Matt: 5:2-12

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.

REFLECTION by Richard Leonard

Church architecture often tells in stone the story of theology. By the ninth century as Christian Churches in Europe became longer and higher, a shift was occurring in theology as well. Coinciding with the engineering abilities of the builders, theologians reinstated a more severe and distant theology about God. God was 'immortal, invisible, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes'. Jesus had ascended his regal home in the tabernacle which over the centuries got further and further away from where the people stood or sat.

One of the extraordinary things that occurs in the layout of Churches of this time is that as the tabernacle goes back, the Marian altar comes forward, often half way down the church where people could have easy access to it.

Today's Gospel was used as the justification for this theological and architectural movement. Mary is seen to intercede on behalf of the bride and groom and ask Jesus to do what he can. This is the first sign in the Gospel of John and Jesus is reluctant to perform it, but because his mother asks, he does it.

The changing of the water into wine is not just a sign that Mary and Jesus like a good party! It is a sign of the Kingdom of God where joy and life are in abundance,

where shame ends and all tears are wiped away. It is no accident that in John's gospel the mother of Jesus is present at this first sign and remains faithful until the end, right up to the culmination of all the signs: his being lifted up on the cross. Mary not only asks for a sign, she understands that it will cost something for Jesus to give it and for her to witness it.

So for us, the wedding feast at Cana is a taste of the fullness of life we celebrate here every Sunday. The Eucharist is always and everywhere a first course in the eternal banquet of heaven. But it is also an invitation to see beyond the signs, to the faithful relationships that require sacrificial love and years of fidelity.

All parents who sacrifice so much for their children, all spouses who remain faithful and good to their wife or husband, all friends who attend to their companions with devotion and care, share in the Kingdom of God and are the signs of Christ's presence in our world. Every time we are kind, Cana occurs again.

Sometimes these actions can be very lonely and the cost can be high. Today's Gospel, and the traditions of the Church

that flow from it, tell us we are not alone, especially when the going gets tough.

What I like best about our belief in intercessory prayer, in the healthiest devotions in honour of the Mother of Jesus and in our belief in the martyrs and the saints is that they take seriously the companionship of God's family that transcends time and space.

Through our common Christian faith we are connected to millions of believers who have battled with similar, and sometimes greater, struggles than we endure and yet remained faithful to the end. Led by Mary, who never wants us to feel ashamed or embarrassed, they are our cheer squad in the stands of heaven willing us on in the race of life, giving us a few pointers on the best preparation, the pitfalls on the way and how to maximise our performance as we strive to do our best and be our best.

Welcome to Cana where one course is richer than the last. And the wine only gets better with age.

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Roster for next Sunday

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

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

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

T McMahan
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