



# 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  
**OFFICE:** 147 Separation St Bell Park 3215. Phone: 5278 1343  
**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)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) Phone 5278 1343

**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:** Vincenzo Valenti (Italy); Rocco Dinaro

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Lesley Bird; Giovanni Ambrosio; Jim Pollard; Ivanka Juran; Maria Vannata; Giuseppe Carrubba (one month since death)



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

## St Michael's Parish at Prayer

### WEEKEND MASSES:

<b>Holy Family, Bell Park:</b>	<b>Holy Spirit, Manifold Heights:</b>	<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's, Geelong West:</b>
English...9.00am Sunday	11am Sunday	5.00pm Saturday
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)

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....

**AUSTRALIA DAY**  
(Year C)— 26 January 2025



### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.  
Alleluia!

### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**1st:** Neh 8:2-6, 8-10  
**2nd:** 1 Cor 12:12-30  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**1st:** Malachi 3:1-4  
**2nd:** Hebrews 2:14-18  
**Gospel:** Luke 2: 22-40

### **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

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in his religion class at school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.' 'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked. 'Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

Given the ways the Scriptures have divided Christians over the centuries and because previous generations wanted to protect the truth of the Bible, we were often taught that the Holy Spirit dictated the text. In this schema, the real skill of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John seems to have been their shorthand!

Today we begin reading through Luke's Gospel. And in the opening verses of this extraordinary document, Luke puts paid to the idea that he is simply listening to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in his ear. What we now call the Gospel of Luke was the first instalment of a two-part letter written to his friend and disciple, Theophilus. Epic letters like this one and the Acts of the Apostles, which is its sequel, where the writer praises the deeds of a great man and

lists his achievements, were very common in the Hellenised world of Ancient Rome. Luke knew how to write it and, more importantly, Theophilus knew how to read it.

It is not a documentary on the life of Jesus, recording a series of facts. If it were, then it cannot be reconciled with the other Gospels for they disagree with each other about many important details. As Catholics we believe the Holy Spirit guided the writing and selection of the scriptural record so that it contains no errors regarding our salvation. Our life lived in harmony with the scriptures is its own testament to our belief that the Bible is not a book of facts: it is a book of truth.

Luke knows that Theophilus has already been instructed in the way of salvation in Christ, and he makes it clear that the truth of this way is what he is attending to. In this Gospel he paints a vivid and intimate portrait of who Jesus is and why he has the message of salvation for all people everywhere.

These days we often hear people asking others to be 'up front' and to 'lay your cards on the table'. Long before it was trendy, Luke does precisely this in the second part of today's Gospel. At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, Luke summarises the story he is about to tell Theophilus and his community in what is called 'the programme'.

In the tradition of the greatest of the prophets, we are told Jesus has come for

those of us who are poor, captive, blind and oppressed. But, unlike the former prophets, Jesus is not only a companion in our distress or an advocate on our behalf, he has also come to turn the world upside down and establish the definitive reign of God in our lives. In Jesus, all that Israel longed to see is fulfilled.

And so to us. As the spiritual children of Jesus, Luke, Theophilus and his community, we are inheritors of a tradition that is upfront in what we are called to do. Our programme is explicit. We are called to be companions to the poor, to set prisoners free, to fight oppression, to enable others to confront what they would prefer to ignore and to boldly proclaim that there is no one beyond God's favour.

As tough as these demands are, they are not optional extras. They define who we are as Christians and how we are sent to change the world.

May this Eucharist give us courage for the task at hand.

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## Roster for next Sunday

(1st Sunday of the Month)

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S

### 5PM

**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

### 9AM

**Commentators**

J Siketa

**Lectors**

M Bird, S Costa

**Special Ministers**

E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta

**Welcomers**

K McArthur

**Projectionist**

C Resciniti

**Co-Ordinators**

C Simpson; B Kline

