



# 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  
Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**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  
**PASTORAL WORKER:** Sr Anne Lourey Email: [anne.lourey@mercy.org.au](mailto:anne.lourey@mercy.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:** Ivan Njokos; Mile Pavicic; Zofia Rudzki; Sr Lesley Dickinson (RSM)  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Antonio Cicero; Frank Kennedy; Antonio Bagnato; Velia Di Rocco (1st Anniversary); Erminia Mazza (20th Year Anniversary)  
**BAPTISMS:**  
**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.... If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.

**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.

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Year C) - 2 February 2025

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with saving justice.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
This is the light of revelation to the nations,  
and the glory of your people, Israel.  
Alleluia!

### TODAY'S READINGS

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

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

**1st:** Isaiah 6:1-8  
**2nd:** 1 Cor 15:1-11  
**Gospel:** Luke 5:1-11

### 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.



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Feb 20... Taize Prayer night - Holy Spirit Church; 7-8pm
- Mar 5... Ash Wednesday
- Mar 9... 1st Sunday of Lent
- Mar 23.. 50th Anniversary Celebration - 50 Years since Blessing & Opening of Holy Family Church—9am Mass
- Apr 13... Palm Sunday
- Apr 14... Holy Week begins
- Apr 17... Holy Thursday
- Apr 18... Good Friday
- Apr 20... Easter Sunday
- Apr 25... Anzac Day

**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:** After Mass every Tuesday at 10am in the St Michael's Parish Meeting room, next to Holy Family Church.

**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-Ordinators** C Simpson; B Kline




**TAP 'N' GO FACILITIES:** Now available for your convenience at all weekend Masses as you enter and exit, located at the foyer of the church.

## St Michael's News:

- ◆ **THANK YOU!** A note of thanks to Fr Denis, Fr Jude, Fr John and Fr Anton who have provided supply in the Parish whilst Fr Minh is in Vietnam visiting family. Fr Minh returns next Friday and will be celebrating Mass with us next weekend.
- ◆ **SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** This program is for children Grade 3 or above, who attend non-Catholic primary schools and are Catholic. The course will run over 4 Sunday morning sessions from 8.45am-10am. Enrolments close on Mon Feb 17. For enrolments or to enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch Monday 3 Feb at 12.30pm at **The Sphinx**. See you all THERE!
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT:** After the 9am Mass and every Thursday after the 9.15am daily Mass in the Parish Community Centre. Cuppa & chat after the 11am at Holy Spirit Church to begin on February 16.
- ◆ **LITURGY MEETING:** Thursday, February 20, 5pm at the Parish Community Centre
- ◆ **TAIZÉ SERVICES** at St. Michael's Parish, Holy Spirit Church Manifold Heights!  
We warmly invite everyone to join us for the next Taizé service on Thursday, February 20, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Come and rest in the presence of the Lord. All are welcome!
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING MEETING:** Friday, February 21, 2pm at the Parish Community Centre
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMPLIANCE:** Thank you to our amazing volunteers at the parish, your time and efforts are always greatly appreciated. To adhere to the Archdiocese and Parish Safeguarding requirements, all volunteers must hold a current Working With Children check (WWC) and sign the Code of Conduct (due every three years for volunteers and annually for staff) as acknowledgment and acceptance. Bernadette to contact volunteers during the month of February whose WWC checks are close to expiry date and Code of Conduct requirements.

## Community News:

- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us at a social get-together for food and friends at our February dinner. Tuesday 11 February 2025, 6.00pm at the Great Western Hotel, "Western Room" cnr Aberdeen St and Shannon Ave, Newtown. Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to attend, please phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday 7 February.
- ◆ **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL:** We urgently need your support! The ceasefire means more aid can assist people in Gaza, but the need is immense and the recovery long. Gaza's people need the support of the global community to survive and rebuild. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or ph 1800 024 413. 
- ◆ **PARISH PILGRIMAGE:** Meredith Parish invites you to join their 13 day parish pilgrimage to take place in October 2025. Following the war in the middle east, we were unable to travel to the Holy Land. Our intention is now to travel in the 'Footsteps of St. Paul' which will take us through the Greek Islands and to Ephesus in Turkey. Cost is approximately \$8,000 per person. Please email expressions of interest to [parishofmeredith@bigpond.com](mailto:parishofmeredith@bigpond.com).



**PILGRIM TO THE JUBILEE OF HOPE:** Melbourne to Rome, 21 July - 5 August 2025. Young adults (18-30 y/o) from the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to a hope-filled Jubilee Pilgrimage in 2025. Deepen your faith as you journey through Italy, visiting places where saints like St Francis, St Clare, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati lived the Gospel. The pilgrimage ends in Rome, walking through the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica to celebrate the Jubilee. The cost of the pilgrimage is approximately \$8990 per person. For enquiries and more details please email [proclaim@cam.org.au](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au) or phone 9926 5761.

### The Jubilee Prayer 2025:

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when,  
with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



### Reflection by Richard Leonard

For most of its history today's feast was a dual observation. The Purification of Mary accompanied the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

It's not that long ago that western cultures had ceremonies to 'purify' women after childbirth. These rituals have their roots in some appalling thinking about how the flow of women's blood defiles them and those who touched them. Maybe the only modern reclamation we could make of these rites would be to understand them as purification of the memory. After the selflessness of a pregnancy and the great pain of childbirth, a mother could use such a ritual moment to reclaim her body. In any case, it is right and good that we no longer overly emphasise this side of today's feast.

The Presentation of Jesus is easier to handle and to understand. Jewish law stipulated that within forty days of a child's birth the parents should present their baby in the temple as an act of thanksgiving. In the Bible the number forty always indicates a time of formation. So forty days after Christmas the Church has today's celebration. As Luke describes the scene Simeon and Anna represent the Old Covenant. He embodies all those who longed to see the Christ. She embodies all those who prophesied his coming. In a few sentences Luke tells us that just as the Israelites entered the Promised Land after forty years in the desert, so now the time of waiting, searching and hoping is over. Israel can receive the promised Messiah. The old covenant has been fulfilled and the new covenant is established in Jesus.

The word 'presentation' is used in two revealing ways these days. In psychology they talk about a 'presenting problem'. In medicine people are said to 'present' with certain symptoms. In both cases, the word presentation is used to indicate that something more important lies beneath what is first observed. Further investigation reveals the deeper causes and the best course of action.

So to us. We present ourselves in the temple today and it's important we remember that we do have to put on a show for God. God does not need a performance from us; God invites us to an encounter of love. Seeing that God knows us intimately it's crazy that we should be anything but ourselves before him. But we sometimes go through the pretence of dressing things up, pretending otherwise or putting on a show.

Today's feast reminds us that when we encounter the presence of God a range of responses are on display. Just recall the ones in today's Gospel: expectation, hope, frailty, thanksgiving, foreboding, puzzlement, love and joy.

May Jesus' presentation enable us to let pass in peace any need to act before God, but rather embrace a new way of encountering God's presence, where we own just how we are, and not how we would like to be. When we do this we can enjoy the possibilities of a rich, deep and realistic relationship with God. We also find that it's so much easier to discover, with God, the causes and the actions that will lead us to healing, fulfilment and peace.

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### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA:

Traditionally this is the fortieth day of Christmas. Though the Christmas season closed with the Epiphany, the Presentation brings us back to some of the Christmas themes. The feast is on the edge, a kind of hinge between the seasons of Christmas and Lent.

The temple is not merely a building where believers gather to worship God. It is sacred because it is the dwelling place of God on earth. Therefore, the coming of God to the temple was always a time of great anticipation and excitement. It promised blessing and rejoicing.

The first reading declares that God will come to the temple in might and power. This coming will be terrifying. The sacred precincts have been desecrated and so God will come to purify it with fire and lye. This picture of purification is modified by the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews where we see that the purging and refinement are accomplished in the self-sacrifice of Christ.

It took the eyes of the old man and the faith of an old woman to recognise that the Lord had indeed come into the temple. Ritually, it was the child who was redeemed. In fact, it is the world that will be redeemed by this child. He is the light that shines in the darkness of the world; he will enlighten all people, Jew and Gentile alike. This feast shares the theme of universality so prominent on the feast of the Epiphany. The king of glory opens the portals for the entire universe to enter.

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