



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

Web Page Address:
www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st

PARISH SECRETARY: Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: 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:



ANNIVERSARIES: Angelo Carobbo; Priamo Tovh; Bill Jess; Edward Arnold; Robert Neeld;
1 month since death—Rocco Dinero & Domenico Pardo;
1st year anniversary—Maria Cafarella & Irene Dunstan
BAPTISMS: Isla Opacak; Lila & Beau Doyle; Mabel Powell; Hazel Thompson
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay & Gayla Sullivan; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Kevin Hannan; Lorraine McDonald



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

St Michael's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C) - 16 February 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Jeremiah 17:5-8
2nd: 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: 1 Sam: 26:2. 7-9; 12-13; 22
2nd: 1 Cor 15: 45-49
Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

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.



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH incorporating the churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul Geelong West and Holy Spirit Manifold Heights

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: | <i>Meditation Group</i> | 5.30pm | <i>Parish Community Centre</i> |
| | <i>Legion of Mary</i> | 10.00am | <i>Parish Community Centre</i> |
| Friday | <i>Divine Mercy</i> | 3.00pm | <i>Holy Spirit Church</i> |

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 - (4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Commentators | P McGlinchey |
| Lectors | G Tolan |
| Special Ministers | P Webb |
| 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 |

Liturgy at St Michael's:


- ◆ **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 Sun 23 Feb, 8.45am-10am. Enrolments close this Monday Feb 17. For enrolments or to enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES - MARCH 5:**
 - 9.15am—Holy Spirit Church (Whole school in attendance)
 - 2.15pm—Holy Family Church (Whole school in attendance)
 - 6.00pm—Ss Peter & Paul's Church
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S LENTEN PROGRAM 2025 - MENTANOIA:** An invitation goes out to those who would like to be involved in small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. **Thursday evenings during Lent at 7pm and beginning March 6**, in the sun room at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. To be part of this please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark.com.au.



St Michael's news:

- ◆ **HAILEY ELKINGTON - SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:** This weekend at all Masses we welcome Hailey Elkington, Safeguarding Officer from the Safeguarding Unit in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to speak on the importance of Child Safeguarding in the Parish.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING MEETING:** Friday, February 21, 2pm at the Parish Community Centre
- ◆ **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 Mass this Sunday at Holy Spirit Church.
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOLS 2026 ENROLMENT INFORMATION:** Holy Family School, Bell Park Ph: 5278 4634; Holy Spirit School, Manifold Heights Ph: 5229 8298; St Patrick's School, and Geelong West Ph: 5229 4412. Enrolments for all new students in 2026 are now open and for information on guided tours or any questions, please see each school's website or contact the school. Enrolments Close on **Friday March 21st**.

Community News:

- ◆ **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 or Ph: 1800 024 413. 
- ◆ **ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS:** You are invited to the...150th Anniversary Mass on Sunday March 16, 11am at St Joseph's Church, 28 Lawler Street, Meredith followed by a fellowship lunch. The celebrant is Archbishop Peter Comensoli.
- ◆ **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY- MERCY EMPOWERMENT DINNER:** 'March forward with Mercy'... Thursday 27 February 2025; 6pm to 9.30pm at McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart college Geelong (*entry via the Atrium, Aphrasia Street*). Tickets: \$60 (includes two course dinner and soft drinks). RSVP: Tickets must be purchased by Thursday 20 February for catering purposes. For any enquiries please contact Rita Chiavaroli 5221 4211. **Trybooking Link:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CXOQK>
- ◆ **CLONARD COLLEGE OPEN DAYS 2025:** Will take place on Wednesday 12, Friday 14 and Friday 21 March 2025. Multiple Information and Tour Sessions. Bookings are essential and can be made online at clonard.vic.edu.au.
- ◆ **SAINT IGNATIUS OPEN DAYS 2025:** Saint Ignatius College Geelong is a Catholic co-educational College located on the Bellarine Peninsula, and we are currently welcoming Year 7 2026 enrolment applications from families seeking a faith filled education. For more information please go to <https://www.ignatius.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information-nowopen>.
- ◆ **MEREDITH 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.
- ◆ **MUSIC IN THE BASILICA—Sunday 2 March 5pm, The Geelong String Quartet.** Tickets \$35 Full; Seniors \$30 Concession available from www.trybooking.com/CYIWB or at the door. **ALSO Sunday afternoons at 5pm-5.30pm Frank De Rosso** (organ) and associate artists in a journey of music leading up to Easter. Admission **FREE**. Join the artists for refreshments after each presentation starting **Sunday March 9; 16; 23; 30 and April 6**.



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. Cost of the pilgrimage is approximately \$8990 per person. For enquiries and more details please email proclaim@cam.org.au or Ph: 9926 5761.

Year of Jubilee—Archdiocesan Place of Pilgrimage

The designated Pilgrim Places are:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne
- St Mary Star of the Sea (Archdiocese Shrine of the Holy Family), West Melbourne
- St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs
- St Luke's, Lalor
- St Mary Magdalene's, Trentham
- Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie/Essendon
- St Dominic's, Camberwell East
- St Francis Xavier, Mansfield
- Sacred Heart, Croydon
- Divine Mercy Shrine, Keysborough
- Our Lady of Lavang, Keysborough
- St Patrick's, Mentone
- St Macartan's Mornington

As Pope Francis noted the Year of Jubilee for the universal Church is a special time “...in which the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope” (Francis, *spec Non Confundit*, 2024). It is hoped that the Pilgrim Places will be able to assist all individual pilgrims and communities in their journey of faith. The local Pilgrim Places of hospitality and respite for pilgrims, will also be places for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at different times throughout the year, as well as being a place of prayer and reflection.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

The Pope had just finished a tour of the USA and was taking a limousine to San Francisco. Having never driven a limo, he asked the chauffeur if he could drive for a while.

Well, the chauffeur didn't have much choice, so he climbs in the back and the Pope takes the wheel.

The Pope starts accelerating to see what the limo could do. He gets to 130 kph and suddenly sees the lights of the highway patrol in his rear vision mirror. He pulls over, but the policeman, seeing who it is, says, 'Just a minute your Holiness, I'm going to have to call in about this one'.

The trooper asks for the chief. He tells the chief he's got someone really important pulled over.

What you see is often not what you get.

What we have just heard in Luke's Gospel falls into this category.

When we hear the phrase 'Blessed are you' it can sound rather patronising. It can seem that Jesus glosses over all sorts of tough human realities with, 'Well done, keep it up, be happy and we'll fix it all up in heaven'.

But reading the beatitudes in this light is a direct contradiction of what Jesus says in this text and certainly how he lived it out.

The Hebrew concept of a blessing isn't about Divine pats on bowed human heads; it is about where the presence of God is to be found. In the Hebrew Scriptures, a blessing is the discovery that God is present and active in one's experience, right here and right now.

So the beatitudes are saying that we do not need to go past our own daily struggles to find the presence of God. Jesus tells us that when we see the poor, the compassionate, the mournful, those who campaign for a just society and suffer because of it, the gentle, the innocent, the peacemakers and the martyrs; we are encountering, in a special way, the presence of God.

Jesus teaches us that God is not impervious to our pain and happiness, or a great manipulator desiring terrible things to punish us or teach us something. No. The God of the beatitudes is a companion with us in every experience we go through either personally or as a community.

Luke goes on to give us the 'woes and warnings' and these are as important as the beatitudes. Luke highlights for us that every blessing carries with it a call, every gift contains a duty to share it, and every right houses within it a responsibility.

This is particularly true of our nation where the vast majority of our citizens are housed, educated, have clean drinking water, a long life span, a job and enjoy a stable democracy. This places us in the top fifteen percent of the world's population. We should discover God's presence in the midst of these blessings, but we must face up to the responsibilities they give us.

It is not good enough to be simply appalled at the widening gap between rich and poor in our own country and around the world. Today's Gospel places at our feet the challenge to do something about it, in our prayer, in our careful use of resources, in what we spend our money on and how we vote for governments which might affect international change.

The Beatitudes and warnings call us to become so transparently attentive to justice, development and peace for all people that what others see in the followers of Christ is precisely what they get.