



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:

DEATHS: Vlado Roksa; Jim Da Costa
ANNIVERSARIES: Domenico Mileto; Fred Tuddenham (Snr); Ida Da Costa; Michael Sharry; Manuel Silvestre; Vitorana De Jesus; Tereza & Agostinho Henriques; Ilario Preiato (6mth anniversary); John O'Neill (1st year anniversary) Sebastian Puccinelli (30th year anniversary)
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Noella Duggan; Fay & Gayla Sullivan; Fr Prakash Cutinha; 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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C) - 23 February 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: 1 Sam: 26:2. 7-9; 12-13; 22

2nd: 1 Cor 15: 45-49

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Sirach 27:4-7

2nd: 1 Cor 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

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

- 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 -

1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators M Carson
Lectors P Balkin
Special Ministers E Carland
Welcomers
Projectionist B Middleton L Coles
Co-Ordinator M Gifford 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
 M Kroger
 M Kroger
 L Fossey



HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

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

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** Please keep in your prayers the children from the Parish Sacramental Program as they begin their lessons this Sunday in preparation for their First Reconciliation.
- ◆ **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, March 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:

- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT:** After the 9am Mass and every Thursday after the 9.15am daily Mass in the Parish Community Centre. Next cuppa & chat after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church on March 2.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** Lunch on **Monday 3 March** at the Great Western 12.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE FOR JUBILEE YEAR 2025:** Holy Trinity Church Queenscliff has been nominated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as a Pilgrim Place for the need of faithful to visit and pray during the Jubilee Year 2025. On Sunday March 2, Bishop Martin Ashe, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne will celebrate Mass at Holy Trinity Church (34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff) at 11am to launch the Jubilee Year for pilgrims to visit during Jubilee Year; to experience God's compassion and love through prayers and pilgrimage. All are welcome to join us for Mass and hospitality.
- ◆ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** will be held on **Friday 7 March, Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St, Geelong, 11am**. This year the theme is '*li made you wonderful*' prepared by the WDP Committee in the Cook Islands. Our Guest speaker will be Rev. Pupe, Minster at Wesley. Everyone is most welcome. Further information please ring Heather Watson, 0412 139 295 or Sue O'Donoghue 0429 784 331.
- ◆ **LENTEN Taize Prayer:** You are warmly welcome to join our Lenten Taize Prayer at Santa Casa, Queenscliff, Saturday 22 February 2.30-3.30pm followed by afternoon tea. **Future dates are 12 Apr, 7 Jun, 9 Aug, 27 Sept, 13 Dec**. For catering and seating purposes please RSVP Sr Lizzie 0418 194 261 or email. santacasa@ismapng.org.au
- ◆ **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.ot **Trybooking Link:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CXOQK>
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS - AUTUMN 2025:** 'Way of the Light ' The focus of this edition is 'Why does the Resurrection matter? & The light of Life'. Please take home a copy available at all Churches.
- ◆ **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>.
- ◆ **MUSIC IN THE BASILICA—Sunday 2 March 5pm, The Geelong String Quartet.** Tickets \$35 Full; Seniors \$30 Concession from www.trybooking.com/CYIWB or at the door. ALSO **Sunday afternoons at 5pm-5.30pm Frank De Rosso** (organ) & associate artists 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.

Prayer for Pope Francis: O God, shepherd and ruler of your Church, look favourably on your servant Francis, and help him to serve you and your people faithfully. Grant him and his flock everlasting life. **Amen.**

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
- Holy Trinity Church Queenscliff

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

Some years ago I was at an annual parents' dinner for a Catholic school for profoundly disabled children.

A well-known local politician, whose child was in the school, was asked to speak. This is what he said:

'I would like to pay tribute to the staff at this school. Only parents and teachers know what a joy and a heartbreak it is to have a profoundly disabled child. I always wanted the perfect child, but where is the perfection in my son David? We are told that God looked at the world and it was perfect, but my son cannot understand things as other children do. David cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. David walks with difficulty and cannot speak. How can God be filled with joy at David?'

The audience was shocked by this pained question from an anguished father.

'I believe', the father continued, 'that when God allows a world in which David can now live for 50 years, perfection is found in the way people react to children like him.'

'Just recently David and I were walking in our local park. Some boys had been there most of the day playing cricket. They were serious about this competition. David was very excited and I knew he wanted to join in. David has terrible physical co-ordination, but I approached one of the boys on the pitch and asked if David could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his mates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said "Things are tight, we have to get six runs to win but we'll try and give him a bat". David smiled broadly. After scoring three more runs the next boy got out. David was put up the batting order and called to the wicket. I helped him get out there.'

'Everyone knew that it was all but impossible for my son to help them win the game. He didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. The bowler, however, sent down a soft ball so David could at least make contact. The second similar ball came and David swung clumsily and missed it. One of David's team mates came up to him and together they held the bat and faced the bowler waiting for the next ball.'

'As the ball came down, David and his teammate swung at the ball and together they hit a strong ground shot to the boundary. At his captain's urging David stumbled up the pitch as quickly as he could. Never in his life has David run so fast. He came back for a second run as the fielder saved the ball from being four runs and so the team was screaming for a third run. The fielder could have thrown the ball to David's stumps and got him out. On the winning third run, however, he threw the ball to the other end where the other batsman was safely home. The keeper casually sent it up to David's end, just as David was completing the third, winning run.'

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'those boys showed me why God always looks at creation and knows it is very good.'

Jesus said, 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that? Be kind, be merciful, forgive and do not condemn, for the measure you give out is the measure you will receive.'

© Richard Leonard SJ