



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
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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:

RECENT DEATHS: Noella Duggan; Antonia Castro (Spain); Margarete Senkinc; Angela Oddi; Anna Mon (Vietnam)

ANNIVERSARIES: Harry Howard; Danuta Augustyn; Francesco (Frank) Alvaro; Anton & Katina Cikoratic; Mila Fantella; Kamala Kazzazi; Sulaiman Al-Loos; Zofia Rudzki (1 month since death); Francesco Mileto (1st Anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Olivia & Sienna Lloyd; Frankie & Matilda Mitchell; Oakley Stafford

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; 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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C) - 2 March 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Sirach 27:4-7
2nd: 1 Cor 15:54-58
Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Deut 26:4-10
2nd: Rom 10:8-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

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.

- 50th Anniversary -

Since the Official Blessing & Opening of Holy Family Church Bell Park

9am Mass at Holy Family Church on Sunday March 23

Main Celebrant: Bishop Martin Ashe

We have come a long way over the past 50 years and would love for you to join us to celebrate this momentous occasion.
Followed by morning tea in the Parish Community Centre.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code. Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent



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 V O'Malley; S Jouana
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinators C Simpson; B Kline

Prayer for Pope Francis:

Loving and Merciful God,

We come before You in prayer, lifting up Your servant, Pope Francis, in his time of need. You are the Source of all healing, and we ask You to surround him with Your loving presence, granting him strength and recovery. May Your divine grace rest upon him, restoring his health and filling him with renewed vigour to continue leading Your Church with compassion and wisdom. "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 30:17) Amen. *Credit: Caritas Jerusalem*

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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!

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 this Sunday.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** Lunch on **Monday 3 March** at the Great Western 12.30pm. See you all there!
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S GROUP:** (formerly CWL) our first get-together for 2025 is lunch at Moorabool Valley Chocolate; 320 Ballarat Road, Batesford; Wednesday March 12 at 12.30pm. Any St Michael's Parish ladies who wish to join us are most welcome. Details phone Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **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. Today 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.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our March dinner on Tuesday 11 March; 6pm at The Great Western Hotel, "Western Room", cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave, Newtown. Purchase of Meals and drinks at your own cost. To book please phone or text Joan on 0429 215 111 or Michael on 0431 959 584.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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**.

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

At Rome, during the 16th Century, the most famous confessor in town was St Philip Neri. Popes and paupers sought his counsel and spiritual direction.

One day a famous Duchess came to him and confessed the sin of gossip. Philip Neri told her to go home and get a feather pillow and return to the steps of the Church. Some time later he met her there and produced a small knife. He told the noblewoman to rip open the pillow. As she did, the swirling wind in the square picked up the loose feathers and they danced around the square and down the lanes.

St Philip and the Duchess watched in silence as the feathers went everywhere. He then turned to her and said, "Now, go and collect all the feathers." To which she protested, "They have gone everywhere, I couldn't possibly find and regather them." "So too with your tongue, Madam," St Philip scolded her, "You have no idea where you gossip goes and you can never unsay it."

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that our words reflect the state of our hearts.

Psychologists tell us that there are three main reasons why people habitually gossip, or 'share the news' as Australian men prefer to call it: power, envy and boredom.

To know something about someone else can put us in a more powerful position with friends or colleagues. By being able to share what we have 'just heard', we are seen to be current and interesting. But this type of power is destructive because our friends normally assume that when they are absent they are maltreated in the same way. Gossipers have more alliances than friendships.

The most malicious gossip often comes out of envy. Envious gossip often sees people make things up about others and pass it off as though it were true. The worst of tabloid newspapers, television and radio trades on this destructive vice. There is no place for the 'rumour file' in the Christian life. Sometimes, when a company or person have to deny the false accusations made about them, we get what we want – their reputations are tarnished and even their business can be in danger. No wonder medieval theologians called envy a 'deadly sin'.

Boredom, however, is a modern cause for gossip. Our relationships and the way in which we hold each other's trust and good name to be paramount, are undermined by images from the media about how exciting life should be for everyone. Scene after scene in novels, television programs and films where confidences are betrayed and lives are raked over for comment and intrigue fill in the boredom in our lives with a distorted portrayal of human behaviour. The more we take it in, the more we mirror it in our own conduct.

Jesus does not tell us today that there is no place for criticism, challenge, confrontation and correction in the Christian life. Just that we have the responsibility to very careful about what we say about others and how we criticise and condemn them. Jesus reminds us that most of our condemnation of others, is what we now call, "projection", where we ignore similar failings in ourselves, but roundly condemn them in others.

May this Eucharist, then, help all of us let go of the need to be powerful, the deadly sin of envy and more creative with what we do when we are bored. May it help us make better choices about how we speak, to whom we speak and what we say.

St Philip Neri knew it all too well: most times we cannot know the consequences of what we say and we can never unsay it.

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