



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:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Frank & Katherina Riedl; Rita Barbic; Joan Booth; Zygmunt Kakol; Maria & Raffaele Gulli; Antonio Pardo; Caterina & Salvatore Giacomazzo; Rita Duggan-McDonald (1st Anniversary); Giovanni Stranieri (1st Anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Aya-Maleik Reitsma; Archer Schreuders

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C) - 9 March 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



First
Sunday
in Lent

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
2nd: Philippians 3:17- 4:1
Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

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.

**- 50th Anniversary Invitation to St Michael's Parish Community -
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.

Dates for the diary:

Mar 20... Taize Prayer - Holy Spirit Church
 Mar 23... 50th Anniversary Celebration - 50 Years since Blessing & Opening of Holy Family Church
 Apr 9... Mass of Anointing - Holy Spirit Church 11am
 Apr 13... Palm Sunday
 Apr 15... 2nd Rite Reconciliation - 7pm Holy Family Church
 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 -

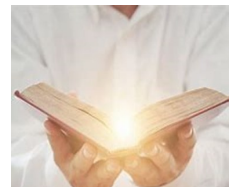
(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators C. Marshallsea
Lectors K Maddalena, S O'Shea
Special Ministers K Maddalena
Welcomers
Projectionist
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Kroger
 J McKenzie
 M Drake-Bemelmans
 L Fossey
 F Kearney



HOLY FAMILY- 9.00AM

Commentator A Scaddan
Lectors H Verdnik; T McMahon
Special Ministers M Fiorillo; M Perera; P Ruggeri
Welcomers
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinators C Simpson; B Kline



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

First Sunday of Lent - Reflection

The desert plays a significant part in Scripture: it is a place of both discovery and of getting lost. You may recall that Moses encountered God in the wilderness when he hears a voice from the burning bush.

He discovered something vital to us all that day: God points us in a direction we may not choose for ourselves. Later, however, Moses and his people are lost in the desert for 40 years. We read the finale of that story in today's first reading.

First Australians have also had an intimate connection with the desert. Many Indigenous cultures danced in time with the desert for countless generations. When the so-called Pintupi Nine made 'first contact' after emerging from the Gibson Desert in 1984, they were in excellent health. The same desert could kill Europeans in thirty-six hours or less.

In today's Gospel, we learn that the Spirit led Jesus to a lonely place. Up to this point in Luke's Gospel, we have seen Jesus as a member of his family and community. We have met Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth and Simeon and Anna and John the Baptist. Now Jesus must stand on his own and decide what really matters in life. Is he going to rely on material things? Is he going to want power at any price? Is he going to put himself rather than God at the heart of his decision making? These are the temptations of the devil.

Lent presents us with the same choice. Are we going to find our direction or just be lost in the swirling confusion of choices with which life presents us? Project Compassion helps us to find direction by offering us the opportunity to *Unite Against Poverty*. Are we content for the world to become more and more fragmented. Or would we prefer to stand up against voices of opportunism and exploitation? Every year, Caritas Australia is overwhelmed and grateful that our Catholic communities are so clearly on the side of justice and life.

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. 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*.



St Michael's news:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish office will be closed this Monday March 10 due to the Labour Day Public holiday.
- ◆ **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** 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!
- ◆ **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 March 16.
- ◆ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** 2.30pm, every Friday during Lent at Holy Spirit Church followed by Adoration at 3pm.
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 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**.

Lent: A Journey of Hope and Conversion

Dear Friends,

As we begin our Lenten journey, the Church invites us to open our hearts to God's grace. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we prepare to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death: *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"* (1 Cor 15:55).

Lent calls us to conversion. First, we reflect on our journey of faith. Like the Israelites in the desert, we are pilgrims, called to leave behind sin and move toward God. Let us ask ourselves: Are we growing in faith, or are we still, trapped by fear or satisfaction? This season is an opportunity to step forward in trust, drawing closer to Christ.

Second, we journey together. Faith is not a solitary path but a communal pilgrimage. As members of the Church, we are called to walk in unity, showing love, patience, and kindness. Do we make others feel welcome in our parish, workplaces, and homes? Or do we remain self-absorbed? True conversion leads us to love one another and serve those in need.

Finally, we journey in hope. Christ's resurrection assures us that God's promise is unshakable. Hope sustains us, even in trials, and calls us to live with justice and compassion. This Lent, let us turn to the sacraments, deepen our prayer life, and support *Project Compassion*, sharing what we have with those who suffer.

May this season of Lent renew our hearts and lead us closer to Christ. May Mary, Mother of Hope, accompany us on our journey.

Blessings,
Fr. Minh Tran

Reflection by Nick Brodie

'Jesus does not converse with the devil', observes Pope Francis.

The Pope points out that Jesus never seeks the devil's opinion, nor does he get into a dialogue with the devil. Jesus only gives firm answers, rebuffing the devil with Scripture, even when the devil tries to warp Scripture to his own ends.

Hoping that Lent can be 'a time of the desert' for each one of us, a time when we can find silence and make time for prayer, the Pope also warns us against falling into a 'slumber of the conscience'.

Silence and prayer must never become dialogue with the devil. If we start to think of ourselves as holier than others, excuse ourselves from helping the poor, or judge others whose lives appear different from our own, then perhaps we have started listening to the devil's opinion.

This Lent we might reflect on this temptation to self-justify, to dialogue with evil. 'The devil does this with us', the Pope suggests. Too easily the devil can, as the Pope puts it, 'disguise himself with sacred, apparently religious motives!'

Therefore, we might begin Lent by praying for the fortitude to answer our own inner temptations with firm resolve.

© Nick Brodie

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.

