



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: Almor & Jose Mairos; Judita da Rosa & Family; Nikola & Jela Skulic; Ugo & Provvidenza Semilia; Sr Gabriella McDonald (RSM); Rosaria Traficante; Stephen Kirley (1st Anniversary); Narciso Baldasso (5th Anniversary); Antonino (Nino) Battaglia (20th anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Max & Millie Collishaw; Matilda, Charles & Adelaide Cox; Pippa & Marty Giuricin; Cooper & Alirah Mason; Xavier Hawkins; Logan & Ivy Seephonexai; Cecilia, Dalia & Phillip Thiep; Charlie Cahill; Billy Nyeholt; Raffael Di Girolamo; Sadie & Andy Grenfell

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Fay & Gayla Sullivan; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Lorraine McDonald; Joseph Akande



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C) - 16 March 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
2nd: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9



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.

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 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 -

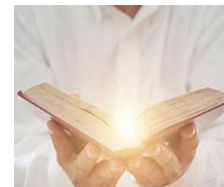
(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators M Gifford
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

Second Sunday of Lent - Reflection



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Toefuata'iga—Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) is a 13 year old primary school student from Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Toefuata'iga's school community struggled without reliable access to clean water, which impacted students; education and hygiene. Teachers often had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, disrupting lessons and adding strain to the community. When the water ran out at the school. Students were sent home which meant they missed out on valuable learning time.

Thanks to the support of Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, Toefuata'iga's school now has a 10,000L water tank through a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

***'Now that we have the water tank, things are so much better, we can stay at school all day, and I get to spend more time learning and playing with my friends. I'm happy that we don't have to go home early anymore.'* said Toefuata'iga.**

This transformative story is just one example of how Caritas Australia's Project Compassion creates waves of change around the world. Will you stand with students like Toefuata'iga this Lent?



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:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** 2.30pm, every Friday during Lent at Holy Spirit Church followed by Adoration at 3pm.
- ◆ **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 this Sunday after the 11am Mass 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:

- ◆ **ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS:** You are invited to the...150th Anniversary Mass, this 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:** 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 March 16— 5pm-5.30pm.—Vicki Hallett (clarinet) Brigid Mantelli (Flute) Salvador Blasco (oboe)** Music by Michael Hannan, Carson Cooman. Admission **FREE**. Join the artists for refreshments after each presentation
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL:** We have begun the year hope-filled and energised in our planning of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) and eagerly look forward to welcoming the young people of Australia to Melbourne this November, **Date: Sunday 30 November 9afternoon) and finish Tuesday 2 December (late evening)**. Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, it is widely accessible via trams, trains (via Southern Cross Station or Flinders St Station; walking paths along the Southbank precinct. Registrations will open early May. Pricing will range from \$390-\$410pp. Contact www.acyf.org.au or acyf@cam.org.au or Ph: **03 7064 3995** during business hours.
- ◆ **ACIES:** You are invited to join our annual consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday March 29 at St Francis Corio from 8.30am Rosary followed by Mass and Consecration. All are welcome and please bring all family and friends and a plate to share. For more info contact Adela 0409 135 589.

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 Richard Leonard

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago.

At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us.

God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'

Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too. © Richard Leonard SJ

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope. In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'

© Richard Leonard SJ