



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: Vita Vacirca; Mirosława Sitarska (Poland)
ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph Ribaric; Becky Lunn; Peter Gizycki; Anna Kot; Stanley Millns; Sebastiano Di Mauro; Fr Josip Vranjes; Angela Oddi (1 month since death); Neven Mikin (1st Anniversary); Faye Hullin (1st anniversary); Jacinta De Silva (25th Anniversary)
BAPTISMS: Nash Asad; Rafe Knezevic; Ryder & Hunter Veale; Mara Waymouth
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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C) - 23 March 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

2nd: 1 Cor 10: 1-6 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Joshua 5: 9-12

2nd: 2 Cor 5: 17-21

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

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.



Congratulations to our Parish Community as we gather today on this special occasion to celebrant, and give thanks for 50 wonderful years since Holy Family Church Bell Park was officially opened & blessed on 23rd March 1975!

We extend a warm welcome to our officiating Celebrant: Bishop Martin Ashe; past Parish Priests Fr Ted Teale & Fr Gerard Keith and our Parish Priest Fr Minh Tran.

Holy Family Church on Sunday March 23, 2025

Please join us for morning tea in the Parish Community Centre at the conclusion of Mass.

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English...9.00am Sunday
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

Holy Spirit, Manifold Heights:

11am Sunday

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

Saturday 5.00pm



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 -

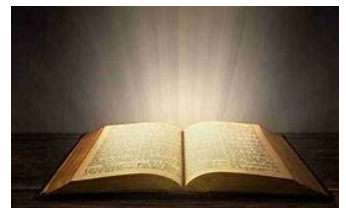
(5th Sunday of the Month—3rd Sunday Roster)

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

Commentators 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

Third Sunday of Lent - Reflection



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Growing up, Lam often felt isolated due to limited job opportunities and difficulty moving around his community. While his friends started jobs after high school, Lam stayed home with his parents, becoming a graphic designer.

Everything changed when Lam joined the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia. Through this initiative Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. Along the way, he built confidence, made friends and gained a sense of connection.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. Lam hopes his story will encourage other young people with disabilities to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams.

Lam's journey shows how your support of Project Compassion empowers individuals to break barriers and transform their lives. Will you walk alongside people like Lam 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:

- ◆ **CONGRATULATIONS:** To the students from our three primary schools and parish sacramental program who are to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, over the next few weeks.
- ◆ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** 2.30pm, every Friday during Lent at Holy Spirit Church followed by Adoration at 3pm.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT:** After the 9am Mass and every Thursday after the 9.15am daily Mass in the Parish Community Centre. Next cuppa after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church on Sunday April 6.

Community News

- ◆ **SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE** invites you to celebrate our faith, chocolate and community at our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday March 30th**. Join us from **10.30am** for **'the hunt face painting ; a petting zoo and more!**. Register your hunt via this link → <https://www.trybooking.com/CYZLQ> We look forward to you joining us for this eggcellent event!
- ◆ **MUSIC IN THE BASILICA** - Sunday March 23 - 5pm-5.30pm - Emily Swanson (soprano), Helen Seymour (alto), Alex McAuley (tenor), Tom Healey (bass). Music by JS Bach, Telemann, Bohm, Langlais. Admission **FREE**. Join the artists for refreshments after each presentation.
- ◆ **ACIES:** You are invited to join our annual consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday March 29 at St Francis Xavier Church 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA**—needs **VOLUNTEER TUTORS** to support Homework Clubs at schools for newly-arrived Year 7-12 students from refugee backgrounds. Apply now if you: Have good interpersonal skills and cross cultural communication; Have social & language development skills; Are a university student, retired teacher or have adequate knowledge of the topic of study. General Maths / English / Biology / Science / Humanities / Legal Studies / Business Management 12.40pm—1.30pm / 3.15pm—4.30pm during school terms; Mondays—Year 9 and 10 / Thursday—Years 7 and 12 Training sessions will be provided to tutors about the school curriculum and working with students who speak English as a second language. If you can help, please contact Sally Madigan - Manager, People and culture. Email: SALLY.MADIGAN@CATHOLICCAREVIC.ORG.AU Mobile 0477 005 108.
- ◆ **FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG:** Christian Community for those with Disability and their families. Next monthly meeting on Tuesday March 25, 2-4pm. Chat, Prayer, Songs. Afternoon tea. St. Mary's Parish: Hibernian room; RSVP to Tricia 0414 672 267. All welcome!

JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE - DAY TRIP TO QUEENSCLIFF —22 May 2025

As part of 'Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrimage of Hope', St Michael's Parish invites parishioners to join us on a day trip to Holy Trinity Church Queenscliff - Thursday May 22, leaving from the Parish office at 10am for an 11.00am start and return by 3.00pm. Lunch will be provided and shared with parishioners of Queenscliff Parish. Transport by bus, and more information on this event, including sign up boards will be available in the next few weeks.





WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE

You are warmly invited to share in our Holy Week celebrations 2025

MASS OF ANOINTING:

Wednesday April 9... 11.00am Holy Spirit, followed by lunch at the Parish Hall.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - SECOND RITE:

Tuesday April 15... 7.00pm Holy Family

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Holy Thursday April 17... 7.00pm Holy Spirit Church followed by Adoration until 9.00pm

WAY OF THE CROSS:

Good Friday April 18... 10.00am Holy Family (outdoors—School oval)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION:

Good Friday April 18...
Includes Communion 3.00pm Holy Family

EASTER VIGIL:

Saturday April 19... 5.00pm Holy Family (Croatian)
7.30pm Holy Family

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES:

Sunday April 20...
9.00am Holy Family
10.00am Ss Peter & Paul's
11.00am Holy Spirit
5.00pm Holy Family (Croatian)

Blessing of Easter Food: Saturday April 19... 3.00pm Holy Family

Holy Family
Separation Street
Bell Park

Ss Peter & Paul
Malone Street
Geelong West

Holy Spirit
Bostock Avenue
Manifold Heights

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA © Dianne Bergant CSA

One major theme emerges from today's readings: incomprehensibility of God. We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives. Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.

In the midst of this ambiguity we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.

These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.

Reflection by Nick Brodie © Nick Brodie

In today's Gospel reading, Pope Francis explains, we see that 'Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God' for the world's misfortunes.

God does not send disasters to punish people. God is not vindictive, but ever merciful. And we are all called to respond to God's mercy, the Pope says, 'especially during this time of Lent.'

This includes learning how to stop blaming God. We should try to turn our attention to those times when, as the Pope puts it, it is 'our selfishness that tears apart relationships; ... our wrong and violent choices that unleash evil.' We are called to become the kind of people who can acknowledge our own faults.

'But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy,' the Pope adds, 'and he wants to help us here.' This is why Jesus 'encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God.'

The fig tree is an obvious symbol for each one of us. 'More time is given to it,' the Pope says, 'another possibility. I like to think', he adds, 'that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity.'

Such a chance is here, now. It is up to us to seize it.