



# 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](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)

**Web Page Address:**  
[www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto: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:** Umberto Milokanovic; Rocco Mazza; Francesco Fiala

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Tim Tolan; Antonia Tassone; Giuseppa Pardo; Georg, Lorenz & Katharina Hoffmann; Angela-Rosa Zuclich; Margaret Stewart; Charlotte Henderson; Jacques Jouana; Marianna Mamone (5th anniversary).



**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.

### SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION (Year C) - 20 April 2025

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.  
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.  
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,  
alleluia, alleluia



#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

This the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
Alleluia!

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**1st:** Acts 10:34, 37-43  
**2nd:** Col 3:1-4  
**Gospel:** John 20: 1-9

#### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**1st** Acts 5:12-16  
**2nd:** Rev 1: 9-13, 17-19  
**Gospel:** John 20: 19-31

#### **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.

# Happy Easter

## Alleluia, Alleluia! Rejoice in the Risen Lord!

Dear parishioners and visitors,

Easter is the glorious celebration of Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death. Through His resurrection, He has conquered the darkness, opening the way to eternal life for all who believe in Him. This is our hope through Christ, we, too, are promised new life. Just as He was transformed in His resurrection, so too will we be transformed when we share in His glory.

As we continue our pilgrimage of faith and hope, Easter reminds us that no suffering, no darkness, and no death is greater than God's love and power. The empty tomb is our assurance that Christ walks with us, guiding us toward the fullness of life in Him. May this Easter season renew our hearts with joy, strengthen our faith, and deepen our trust in God's promise of salvation.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. To our dedicated parish staff, readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, collectors, the Holy Angels Sisters, choirs, altar servers, sacristans, those who took part in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, our cleaners, and all who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, thank you very much. Your efforts have made this Easter a truly blessed and meaningful celebration for our parish community.

May the Risen Lord fill your hearts and homes with His peace, love, and abundant blessings.

Happy Easter to you and your families!

God bless,

Fr. Minh Tran



### St Michael's Parish at Prayer

#### WEEKEND MASSES:

##### Holy Family, Bell Park:

English...9.00am Sunday  
Croatian 5.00pm Sunday

##### Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

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:

<b>Tuesday...</b>	<i>Meditation Group</i>	5.30pm	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	10.00am	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	3.00pm	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

**STATUE OF OUR LADY:** Our Lady's statue is ready to be taken to your home call Cristita: 0435 780 716 or Vickie: 0401 213 505.

We will collect Our Lady's statue, when you ask us.

**LEGION OF MARY:** The group meets after Mass every Tuesday at 10am. We meet in the St Michael's Parish Meeting room, next to Holy Family Church and we would love you to visit our meeting and see what we do. All are most welcome.

## 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

### **St Michael's news:**

- ◆ **THE PARISH OFFICE:** Is closed for the Easter break and will reopen on Tuesday April 22.
- ◆ **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. Please add your name to the sign-up boards, now in the three churches.
- ◆ **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 is this Sunday April 20.
- ◆ **ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY:** The Parish office will be closed on Friday April 25 due to the Public Holiday.



### **Community News:**

- ◆ **CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT CORIO:** Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will be held at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio on April 27; beginning at 2pm Holy Hour with Rosary and Chaplet, 3pm Holy Mass and 4pm. Veneration of 1st Class Relic of St Faustina. Confessions available from 2pm-4.30pm. Celebrant: Fr Marcus Goulding. Enquiries to Chris Kenworthy 0407 522 055.
- ◆ **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 (afternoon) 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); and walking paths along the Southbank precinct. Registrations will open early May. Pricing will range from \$390-\$410pp. Contact [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au) or [acyf@cam.org.au](mailto:acyf@cam.org.au) or Ph: **03 7064 3995** during business hours.
- ◆ **PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION 3 MAY 2025:** Following the success of the permanent diaconate information sessions in 2024, we will be holding another session for those interested. The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 to 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The information session is open to **everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate**. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. Wives most welcome. **Venue Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne Saturday 3 May 10am-11.30am.** If you are interested, email [Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au](mailto:Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au) with full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.
- ◆ **VOLUNTEER ABROAD!** Use your knowledge to build self-reliance for those with little opportunity. Join Palms **online** for a special session showcasing how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities, from those who've done it before. Explore our **unique opportunities** and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime! **Thursday 22 May, 6-7pm** . For more information, please ring (02) 9560 5333 or email [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au) .

Your generosity through Project Compassion this year, empowers the world's most vulnerable people, build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities—Thank you so much for being part of Project Compassion 2025!

### Reflection by Richard Leonard:

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see.

The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all:

'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

© Richard Leonard SJ

### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

© Dianne Bergant CSA