



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
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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: Pope Francis; Ante Jankovic; Rodolfo Moron; David Kelly; Marina Lelekovic

ANNIVERSARIES: Hannah Barr; Marcella Conti; Aldo Scarpetti; Issa Sciotto; Johnthan Karakchi; Angelo Negro; Antonio Puglia; Steven, Jack & Robert Cummins; Maria Ivelja; Members of the Ivelja & Tabain Families.

BAPTISMS: Xavier McCormick; Mailah & Landon Rowe

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



Anzac Day—April 25, 2025

'.....as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.....'

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (Year C) - 27 April 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
2nd: Rev 5:11-14
Gospel: John 21:1-19



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.



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.

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:

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 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

(1st Sunday of the Month)



Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators P McGlinchey
Lectors P Balkin
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist B Middleton
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
M Kroger
L Fossey
L Coles

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators J Siketa
Lectors M Bird, S Costa
Special Ministers E Karakchi; B Kline; Sr Concepta
Welcomers K McArthur
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinators C Simpson; B Kline

POPE FRANCIS

Jorge Mario Bergoglio: 17 December 1936 - 21 April 2025

May he Rest in Peace

As the Church enters this time of Easter filled with the light and hope of the world, it is with deep sadness that we have received the news of the death of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

We unite with all the People of God in praying for the eternal rest of his soul and entrust him to the tender loving mercy of the Father.

Pope Francis, who came from the peripheries of the world, has been the father of the poor, and a witness of joy and hope. May the Lord, he so faithfully trusted, now welcome him into eternal life.

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne will be open early Tuesday morning to receive those who may wish to visit for prayer and remembrance.

In the coming days, more information will be available regarding opportunities to come together in gratitude, and to pray for the Holy Father.

May he rest in God's gracious and gentle peace.

Mary, Our Blessed Mother of God, pray for him.

St Francis of Assisi, pray for him.

All Holy Men and Women, Saints of God, pray for him.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne



St Michael's news:

- ◆ **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 is provided and shared with parishioners of Queenscliff Parish. Transport by bus. Please add your name to the sign-up boards.
- ◆ **PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES:** Thank you to all Parishioners for your generous donations to Project Compassion 2025. So that we can finalise payment, please return the boxes to the parish office or place on the collection plate at the weekend Masses.
- ◆ **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 May 11.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP LUNCH: Monday 5 May 12.30pm**, at the Great Western Hotel, SEE YOU ALL THERE!



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 this Sunday, 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.
- ◆ **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 South-bank 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.
- ◆ **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 with full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.
- ◆ **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** Christian Community for those with a disability, family and friends. We will celebrate Christ's Easter message next Tuesday April 29; from 2pm at St Mary's Hibernian Hall. All most welcome! **RSVP/Enquiries : Tricia O'Keefe 0414 672 267.**

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

The earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ, now raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and also to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds.

We know the community of Ephesus, for which this Gospel is written, was experiencing great persecution. Is it any wonder, one generation from the earliest disciples, that the sign of Christ's risen presence are *his* marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Do you remember when a well-known television reporter went in search of mystics and stigmatics? The television network ratings soared. Everyone from the true believer to the cynic wanted to see if the hands really bled, or the wounds really wept. Whatever the truth of these private revelations and experiences, it seems words and wounds still make a claim on us today.

You and I know, however, that we don't have to go to a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life, that our doubts in the presence of God are greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this, or pretend it doesn't happen. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake and with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven.

I remember struggling with some personal issues in the Jesuit novitiate. I'm told that's what these places are for! One day, when I felt lowest about myself, the novice master, adapting Psalm 118, said to me, 'you realise that the stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone.' By this he meant that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fear, his doubts and his disbelief and through the wounds of healing and peace transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us, or among us, is that which God wants to use as the cornerstone. And when this happens we can cry with the psalmist, 'This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the Sundays after Easter all provide mystagogical catechesis for the entire church, with a special emphasis for the newly baptised. This instruction is meant to help us recognise the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst. The overarching theme for the Second Sunday of Easter is the celebration of this presence in several manifestations.

While we might seek some obvious, tangible manifestation, each reading speaks of the presence of Christ in a way that we would not expect Christ to be present. He is there in the very throes of sickness, in fear and doubt, in the celebration of the liturgy. These presences challenge us to go beneath appearances, beneath the mundane and banal of life, and there discover the risen Lord in personal mystical experience, in the ministry of the believing community, and in the transformative possibilities of the liturgy.

Experiences of the Risen Lord are not reserved for extraordinarily holy people. Any one of us can be invited into a deep personal encounter when we least expect it, in the most unlikely places, with effects that overwhelm us. In fact, the Risen Christ is always just around the next corner, eager to enter our lives with the transforming power of the resurrection. Being part of a community of believers in prayer can be one of the most profound religious experiences. It not only transforms the present, but it also entrusts us with a vision of what is yet to be, an eschatological hope for a glorious future.

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