



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: Trevor O'Neil; Cameron Considine; Milan Jakobovic; Anna Kim Khanh; Maria Montalto; Angelina De Palma;
ANNIVERSARIES: Kitty Millns; Anne McClinchey; Richard Tolkin; Vivica Sariego
BAPTISMS: Odelia & Xavier Biase-McInally; Fiadh O'Leary; Lucy Warren; Luke Batson; Penny Fitzgerald; Sage Gray; Leonardo Lombardo
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Lorraine McDonald; Joseph Akande; Feliks Szulcz



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 EASTER (Year C) - 4 May 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;
he has shown pity on all people.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st Acts 13:14, 43-52
2nd: Rev 7: 9, 14-17
Gospel: John 10: 27-30

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.



*St Michael's Parish warmly invites you to
Celebrate all mothers and mother figures in our lives next weekend
"Mother's Day" - May 10 & 11.*



Please join us for a cuppa & cake after the 9am Mass at Holy Family
and after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit!

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park: **Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:** **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 & 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

(2nd Sunday of the Month)



Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

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

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

C Nielson
M Martin
L Fossey
L Fossey
R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator K Saunders
Lectors D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers V O'Malley; S Jouana
Projectionist C Resciniti
Co-Ordinators C Simpson; B Kline

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; Thurs 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. N.B. This is the last opportunity to add your name to the sign-up boards.
- ◆ **ROSARY AT ALL CHURCHES DURING MAY:** Beginning this weekend and during the month of May, please join us to recite the Rosary at all weekend Masses **to begin 20mins before the start of Mass.** All most welcome.
- ◆ **FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM:** Today we welcome and pray for the children from the Parish Sacramental Group as they begin classes in preparation for their First Eucharist in June.
- ◆ **MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL FLOWERS:** The Holy Angels Sisters will have bouquets of flowers available to purchase next Sunday, May 11 after the 9am Mass at Holy Family Church.
- ◆ **2025 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** The Annual Mass Count in the Parish will take place over four weekends: 3-4 May; 10-11 May; 17-18 May & 24-25 May.
- ◆ **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**, cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave. SEE YOU ALL THERE!
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S GROUP:** - Our next get together is lunch at **The Sphinx Hotel, 2 Thompson's Road, North Geelong** on **Wednesday 7 May at 12.30pm.** Any St Michael's Parish ladies who wish to join us are most welcome. Details phone Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE DAY:** Thursday May 15 as Bernadette and Lynne will be attending the Archdiocese Parish Administration Forum held in Melbourne.
- ◆ **CHILD SAFEGUARDING MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Friday May 16; 2pm at the Parish office.
- ◆ **CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL:** On the **weekend of May 17-18** is the CatholicCare Vic. Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). As the Catholic Church's mission in action, CatholicCare Vic. delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. Donations from our parish help CatholicCare support the most vulnerable in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full. There will be an **extra 3rd collection** taken up after Communion. You can also donate using the appeal envelope available in all churches next weekend. Or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.

Community News:

- ◆ **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 2025** - Next Sunday May 11 we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday- World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may know like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.
- ◆ **BOOK FAIR: St. Bernard's Church Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Road Belmont.** Will be held **this Sunday May 4, 8am-2pm.** Come along and browse through a huge selection of second-hand books— Fiction; non-fiction & children's, all at bargain prices. Jigsaw puzzles; DVD's, CDs & Cake stall. Something for everyone, all most welcome!
- ◆ **THE BARWON HEADS CHORALE AND SACRED HEART COLLEGE GEELONG:** 'Sing Joyfully' a concert of sacred and secular choral music 4pm - 5pm; Saturday May 17 at Sacred Heart College Chapel, 61 Retreat Rd Newtown 3220. Tickets: General Admission \$10, Concession \$5. Book your tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/DAXYY>. Proceeds will benefit the Sacred Heart College Music Program.
- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our dinner in May. Tuesday May 13, 6pm at the Great Western Hotel, "Western Room", cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave, Newtown. Cost: Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. To RSVP **please phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday May 9!**
- ◆ **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 Tues 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 or acyf@cam.org.au or **Ph: 03 7064 3995** during business hours.
- ◆ **MUSIC IN THE BASILICA:**—Faith, Hope and Love Ballarat Choral Society. Sunday 25 May, 4pm. Ballarat Choral Society presents the delightful Mass in D Major for SATB soloists/semi-chorus, SATB choir and organ by Antonin Dvorak. Tickets \$35 Full and Seniors; \$30 Concession available from www.trybooking.com/CYIWT or at the door. Children and school students—free.



May is the month of Mary

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. May is a month of growth, when nature is reborn. This month normally belongs to the Easter season, between Easter and Pentecost. Many Catholics may be aware that May is consecrated to Mary, but it may be unclear why this month was selected for this particular distinction. Other months have more important feasts dedicated to Our Lady, such as August (Feast of the Assumption) and December (Feast of the Immaculate Conception). What is it about this month that makes it a fitting time to reflect on the Virgin Mary's role in salvation and to honour her as the Mother of God?

Reflection by Richard Leonard:

The Shawshank Redemption was the hit film of 1994. In it we follow the incarceration and escape plans of Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Robbins is condemned to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife and her lover. Freeman says he is the 'only guilty man in Shawshank Prison'. Based on Stephen King's novella, this uplifting film is a surprise package from a writer whose fame comes from the horror genre.

The longer we watch the film, the more we realise that Stephen King has modelled his story on the Gospel of John. It is, in many respects a more modern parable about John's portrait of Jesus. Tim Robbins' character, Andy, like Jesus, is an innocent man, treated harshly by the authorities of his day. He has to endure the condemnation and cruelty of the leading religious zealots who are keepers of law and order, while he inspires others to think of a world free of subjection and oppression where they can be free to live the life of which they dream. Like John's Jesus, Andy has big dreams and often talks in riddles, but he leaves clues for others to follow him in their quest for freedom.

In the last part of the film, after Andy has successfully escaped and the governor of the prison has been exposed for the hypocrite he is, Freeman is paroled after serving 35 years hard labour. He decides to go where Andy has gone and, just as Andy promised when they were together in prison, he finds that Andy has prepared the way for him to follow. The moving climax of the film comes as Robbins and Freeman meet on a beach, embrace each other and share food and drink to celebrate the new life both of them have discovered.

Stephen King understands John's portrait of Jesus very well. For all of Jesus' assuredness and composure throughout the Gospel, the sense of care and intimacy in the encounters with his friends is deeply moving.

In the Easter Gospel to which we have just listened, Jesus returns to where his friends have fled from Jerusalem. In a parable about the growing numbers of the early Church, the Eucharist and the suffering they are enduring, John reaffirms that Jesus is intimately present in their following of him and their suffering for the Kingdom. The only sense John can make of Jesus' death, the martyrdom of the apostles or the persecution of the early church is to see them all as acts of love. 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

Those of us who have been caught up in the net of God's love are heirs to the same promises of Jesus' fidelity. Christ is intimately present to us in every act of loving sacrifice we undertake for him. He continues to send us out to tell people of the place that has been prepared for them at the banquet of life and he gives us strength to gird our loins for the times when life takes us to places we would rather not go.

In this Eucharist let's be grateful for this Easter season when we celebrate again that we have been set free from the prison of our fears and shown the way to live a life of sacrificial love and undeserved redemption.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

You know I love you

You and I, like Peter, are enabled by grace to repent of our betrayals of Our Lord, some major, most minor, and to claim: "Lord, you know that I love you."

But, this claim has to be evidenced by concrete action. In the case of Peter it was to feed and shepherd "my lambs, my sheep." What will manifest our professed love? In the words of Father Richard Rohr, it is *to love what God loves*.

Of course, we have to love our fellow human beings, but leaving it there would be inadequate. "For God so *loved the cosmos* as to give the Son." (Jn 3:16,17) So what must we do?

Recall, Our Lord says elsewhere, "You are the Salt of the Earth." You must preserve the Earth so that it does not decay and so that it is a suitable habitation for all the creatures, including us, for whom the Earth is a common home.

He went on: "You are the Light of the Cosmos." You are the enlightened mind and the enflamed heart of the whole cosmos, enabling it to understand its existence and to love God for it.

We could pause for a moment to reflect on the words of Pope Francis: "We, the women and men of the Church, we are in the middle of a love story and each of us is a link in this chain of love. And if we do not understand this, we have understood nothing of what the Church is."

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