



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
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm & Fri: 9am-3.30pm
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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: Feliks Szulc
;
ANNIVERSARIES: Barry McFarlane; Ken Gallagher; Marjorie Hill; Antonio Patti;
Francesco Fiala (1 month since death)
BAPTISMS: Arthur Abreu; Lucy Baker; Sylas Western
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Lorraine McDonald; Joseph Akande



A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

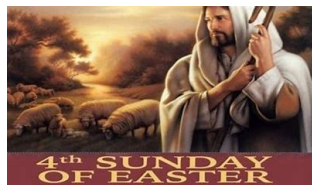
Dear Lord, I give thanks for all mothers and all who have a mothering/nurturing role in our lives. Those who so generously and freely give love, comfort and guidance to their children every day.

I ask you, Lord, to give them strength to carry on doing their work. Give them patience and let them see that they are loved, appreciated and respected. I thank you for the sacrifice each of them makes every day. And I pray you bless them and touch them with your Grace. Amen.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year C) - 11 May 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**
1st: Acts 13:14, 43-52 **1st** Acts 14: 21-27
2nd: Rev 7: 9, 14-17 **2nd:** Rev 21: 1-5
Gospel: John 10: 27-30 **Gospel:** John 13: 31-35

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 "Mother's Day"
Please join us for a cuppa & cake after the 9am Mass at Holy Family and after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit!
The Holy Angels Sisters will have bouquets of flowers to
purchase today after the 9am Mass.*



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

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

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



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 news:

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** there is a set of envelopes for all **weekly and monthly** contributors in the foyer today. They are in order alphabetically by **SURNAME**. If you can't see your set of envelopes, please contact the parish office. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, contact Bernadette at the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au. Thank you for your continuing regular support.
- ◆ **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, May 15 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Come and rest in the presence of the Lord. All are welcome!
- ◆ **ROSARY AT ALL CHURCHES DURING MAY:** 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.
- ◆ **2025 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE:** Continues over the following weekends: 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.
- ◆ **CRAFT/CUPPA FELLOWSHIP GROUP:** Beginning next month, we will meet at the Parish Community Centre on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month from 2pm-4pm. Bring along your current craft project, or just join us for friendship and chat over a cuppa. For more information, please contact Debbie on 0409 416 945.
- ◆ **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: Next 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. or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.
- ◆ **THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Is considering 2 Events this year: **Melbourne Cup Luncheon** in the Holy Spirit Hall and a **Christmas Luncheon for the needy in our Parish**. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed to plan & organise these events. If you are available to assist with the organisation, please advise Bernadette at the Parish Office. We would also require extra helpers on the days!

Community News:

- ◆ **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 2025** - Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis told us:
There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him.
Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.
- ◆ **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**.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL (7-18 Oct 2025)** Fr Joseph Panackal IVdei invites you to journey in the footsteps of St Paul, reliving the Acts of the Apostles and exploring the letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece & Turkey in this 12-day pilgrimage for a price of \$8290 + tips (20 + pilgrims).



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 passages from the Gospels where Jesus likens us to being sheep leave me a bit cold. I think I must lose something in the translation from first century Palestine to today. Most of the sheep I have ever watched may well be cute, in a woolly sort of way, but they are anxious creatures often running in packs in every direction, are notoriously stupid and difficult to manage or direct. On second thoughts maybe the analogy is not so bad after all! We, the people of God, can certainly be an anxious lot, a bit slow on the uptake and difficult to lead. It also true, however, that sheep are incredibly useful and adaptable animals. Think about all the places they have been taken throughout the world. They thrive. With all due respect to the vegans, vegetarians and animal liberationists here today, think about the multiple ways they have served humanity.

The point of the shepherd analogy in the Gospels, of course, is about the importance of intimacy. A sheep in those days is similar to the central role some domestic cats and dogs have in our homes. They are members of the family. Shepherds in Jesus' day belonged to nomadic tribes that moved with their small flock throughout Israel. Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. In an agrarian society every sheep was a vital economic unit. To lose one caused trouble not only to the individual, but also to the tribe. To lose a flock was financial ruin for a generation. As a result when Jesus invokes the image of the shepherd he draws attention to the intimate knowledge and care the shepherd has of them.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus' lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.

The possibility of being stolen away from the Christian family is a real one. We know many people who, for a variety of reasons, have left the fold and been seduced into pursuing other leads. Whereas every Sunday we affirm that we cannot find a better way to live than following the Way, the Truth and the Life which is Christ present here and now. No one can suggest it is always easy to follow the Gospel and hang in here with one another. Jesus was never under any illusions about what following his lead may cost, but he underlines how much we need each other to survive in this world.

In this Eucharist, then, let's steal a few moments to experience again the intimate love of the Risen Lord who knows, claims and loves us. May we respond by following his lead by enfolding all our world in our care and welcoming all his children into his flock.

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. However, the readings for today focus more on the flock than on the shepherd. The overarching theme appears to be unity in diversity. Placing this theme within the context of the Easter season, we might refocus it slightly and suggest that today we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in communities of difference.

Unity in diversity is first found in the divine union of the Trinity. All other models of unity flow from it. Both the first and the second readings depict communities made up of people from every nation, race, people and tongue, Jews and Gentile alike. This is precisely the makeup of most communities today. Parishes and religious groups that were born with a particular cultural identity have changed in complexion and composition. Despite the obvious differences, all are children of the one God, all are joined in their common confession of faith.

Not everyone is happy with diversity. Some within the early community resented the success of Paul and Barnabas and they tried to turn the people against them. This sounds strangely familiar to us. Religious groups born out of struggle and hard work, that were lovingly nurtured and that grew strong, often resist what they perceived to be the invasion of foreigners. If these people could only take as their model the company of the blessed revealed in John's vision, they would see that those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb come from every nation and race and people and tongue.

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A prayer for vocations

O God,

Who chose the apostles to make disciples of all nations, and who by Baptism and Confirmation has called us to build up your Holy Church, we implore you to choose from among us, your children, many priests and religious who will love you with their whole hearts and will gladly spend their lives to make you better known and loved by all.

Through Christ our Lord, *Amen*