



# 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-3pm

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

## **PASTORAL WORKER:**

Kanisha Tantanouvong Email: [kanisha.tantan@cam.org.au](mailto:kanisha.tantan@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:**

Pauline Gilmore; Kata Piskor.

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Sipe & Lucija Cacic; Francisco Alfaiate; Stephen Emmanuel; Miroslav Macarol; Ercole Iezzi; Rocco Resciniti; Bruno Di Cristoforo; Romeo & Milagros Zanoria; Salvatore & Antonio Rotiroti; Giuseppina Rotiroti; Therese Puttay; Amelia Louro (1 month since death); Gabriele Di Filippo (1 month since death); Isabel Magoffin (1 month since death)

## **BAPTISMS:**

## **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Stephen Dean; Jacinta Fernando (Sri Lanka); Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Saskia Saunders; Agnes Vanjek.



## ***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

- Children are special and will always be welcome in our Church -

- All children have the right to express their views openly and honestly in all matters affecting them, and also to respect other people's views -

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 whilst on church property, and must also be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian!**

In the spirit of reconciliation, St Michael's Parish acknowledges the living culture of the Wathaurong People, the Traditional Owners and Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

**9 AUG 2026 - (Year A)**

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.  
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.



## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

**1st:** 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

**2nd:** Romans 9:1-5

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:22-33

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

**1st:** Isaiah 56:1,6-7

**2nd:** Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

**Gospel:** Matthew 15:21-28

## **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.



## 2026 Archbishop's Campaign:

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Priests Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre, University of Divinity for the Catholic Theological College as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift.

Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at [melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign](http://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign) or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

**Your completed pledge cards will be collected after Communion over the next two weekends!**

The Archbishop's Campaign invites us to proclaim the Good News by supporting ministries that serve those in need across our Archdiocese. Your generous gift helps bring this mission to life — not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



**THE  
ARCHBISHOP'S  
CAMPAIGN**  
2026



[melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign](http://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign)

## 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** M Carson  
**Co-Ordinator** M Gifford, 5229 1656

### HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

M Garrilo Lucay  
J McKenzie  
M Drake-Bemelmans  
L Fossey  
C Hullin



### HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

**Commentators** A Scaddan  
**Lectors** H Verdnik; ....  
**Special Ministers** M Fiorillo; M Perera; Sr Concepta  
**Welcomers**  
**Projectionist** C Resciniti  
**Co-Ordinator** K Tantanouvong

## St Michael's Parish at Prayer

### WEEKEND MASSES:

#### Ss PETER & PAUL'S, GEELONG WEST:

Saturday 5.00pm

#### HOLY FAMILY, BELL PARK:

English...9.00am Sunday  
Croatian 11.30am Sunday

#### HOLY SPIRIT, MANIFOLD HTS:

11am 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 in the Parish meeting room, next to Holy Family Church.



## Youth Fundraising Events:

Our youth are preparing to attend World Youth Day 2027 in South Korea, and will be leading fundraising initiatives in the coming months. We would greatly appreciate your support and kindly ask parishioners to contribute with cash where possible. Thank you for your generosity!

**August 30—Face painting/balloon animal making**  
**September 27—Live music**

## Liturgy at St Michael's:

### ♦ FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION MASSES – SATURDAY 15 AUGUST:

9.15am Holy Family Church Bell Park

Friday August 14 - 12pm St Patrick's School Geelong West

- ♦ **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** This program is for children Grade 6 or above, who attend non-Catholic schools and are Catholic. The course will run over 5 Sunday morning sessions from 8.45am-10am. Enrolments close on Mon Aug 10. For enrolments or to enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.
- ♦ **NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK:** Please pray for our priests today in thanksgiving for their ministry and presence in our community. Please pray for the religious who do so much in pastoral care, education, health care and many other ministries. Pray also that the saints may inspire many vocations to consecrated life and priesthood, especially from our community.

## St Michael's News:

- ♦ **CUPPA & CHAT:** After the 9am Mass on Sunday and every Thursday after the 9.15am daily Mass in the Parish Community Centre. The next cuppa after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church is Aug 16. All most welcome!
- ♦ **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** All welcome. BYO craft, or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tues**, on the following dates, **25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945**.
- ♦ **COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE:** Thank you St Michael's Parish Parishioners. There were 150 raffle books available, 130 now in circulation. I have 20 books left, so if you missed out, and would like a book please ring me on **0408 378 982** and I will deliver.  
**David Lunn.**
- ♦ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS—SPRING 2026:** The focus of this Youth edition 'To Go Boldly...' 'It takes courage to leave the comfort of the familiar and journey somewhere new.....' Please take home your copy now available at all churches.
- ♦ **PARISH CENSUS 2026 - SHAPE THE FUTURE: BE COUNTED AS CATHOLICS THIS CENSUS:** Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services—guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

## Community News:

- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for lunch on Monday 7 September at the Shell Club, Purnell Road, Corio at 12.30pm.
- ♦ **CLONARD COLLEGE:** 70th Anniversary Celebration Dinner—an evening of reflection, gratitude and celebration as we honour our rich history and the remarkable community that has shaped Clonard across 70 years. The Celebration Dinner will be held on **Friday 28 August at Truffle Duck, 66 Hyland St, Fyansford at 6pm**. Tickets available at <https://www.trybooking.com/DKEPU>
- ♦ **'MUSIC IN THE BASILICA: Friday Aug 14, 7.30pm LONDON CALLING'** Step into the vibrant musical world of early 18th century London, where a remarkable group of expatriate composers found fame and opportunity in the city's thriving theatre scene. Tickets \$40/\$35 from [www.trybooking.com/DLCXX](https://www.trybooking.com/DLCXX) or at the door. Children and school students, free.
- ♦ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our dinner for August. Tuesday August 11; 6pm at the Great Western Hotel, cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave Newtown. Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. Please RSVP by phone or text to Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584.+
- ♦ **SAINTS OF ITALY (2nd-16th Oct 2026)—**Fr Franco Filipetto from St Mary's in Warrick, invites you on a 14 day pilgrimage to Milan; Padua, Florence, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, and Rome, walking in the footsteps of the saints.. All-inclusive price: \$9,990
- ♦ **FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL (5th –19th October 2026)—**Fr Sebastian A.M from St. Mary's Parish, Dandenong invites you on a 15-day pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, visiting Athens, Corinth, Meteora, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Istanbul and Cappadocia. All-inclusive price: \$9,790 (20+ pilgrims). The tour cost includes return economy airfares, local transfers in deluxe coaches, accommodation in 4-star premium hotels, daily meals, English-speaking professional guides, and entrance fees. Enquiries: 03 8839 6615 | [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)
- ♦ **MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS:** A variety of Social Support Groups for communities from different multicultural backgrounds for seniors over 65 years, at a small fee. Seniors who are under the Commonwealth Home Support Program can join with a referral code from My Aged Care. There are a variety of activities with interests in mind where everyone is most welcome. Venue: **White Eagle House, 46-48 Fellmongers Road, Breakwater. Wednesdays 10am-2.30pm.**

## A TIME FOR EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL

**THE YEAR OF PRAYER:** 2026 commences our preparation for Eucharist28 as a year dedicated to prayer; deepening our own personal relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist. Christ has already accomplished the salvation of the world. Our task is to lead our communities into deeper communion with him. As Pope St John-Paul II reminded us, 'the programme already exists... It has its centre in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated.' (Ecclesia de Eucharistia,60)



### **EUCHARIST28 PRAYER—**

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. **AMEN.**

### **Walking together on the synodal path**

**A series of regional consultations has begun across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli inviting the faithful into a process of 'spiritual conversations'.**

The gatherings are part of a journey that includes broader consultation involving parishes, schools, agencies and religious communities, and will culminate in the Archdiocesan synod this December.

Archbishop Comensoli described the practice of spiritual conversation being undertaken by participants from Melbourne's northern and western parishes as something 'begun and sustained through prayer'.

Everyone will be invited to speak honestly from their own experience, he said, but mostly they will be listening attentively and respectfully to one another. 'Only then do we ask a deeper question ... What is the Holy Spirit revealing among us?

'This is the way of Jesus. He listened. He spoke. He accompanied. He revealed, and then he sent.'

***It's my hope that the voice of the whole People of God may be heard on this journey towards the synod in December.***

The [Melbourne Synod](#), formally convoked by Archbishop Comensoli in March 2026, represents a significant moment for the local Church. Its purpose is to help shape the Archdiocese's evangelical and missionary priorities for the years ahead and to discern how to proclaim the Gospel more faithfully in our time and place.

'And it's my hope that the voice of the whole People of God may be heard on this journey towards the synod in December this year,' Archbishop Comensoli said at the gathering in the western metropolitan region.

'Through baptism, each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and each of us has something to contribute to the mission of the Church. While our vocations all differ, our dignity in Christ is shared.

***Our hope is not resting on ourselves. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ.***

This calls for a synodal way of being, he said, 'a way of walking together with Christ and in Christ and allowing him to reveal where he is leading us as his Church.'

Acknowledging the challenges facing the Church, Archbishop Comensoli offered a message of hope. 'We carry the wounds of the past and face the challenges of the present. Many communities experience pressures that can seem overwhelming. Yet our hope is not resting on ourselves. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ**

A conservative Protestant Church in a sleepy fishing village had to find a new minister. Over the protests of Jimmy, the senior Elder, a woman was hired as the new Pastor.

After the Reverend Gayle had been there a few weeks, Tom, a member of the congregation, offered to take her out fishing. Jimmy reluctantly agreed to allow them to use his boat for the day's outing, but insisted that he lead the expedition.

The trio got into the boat and motored out on the lake. When they got ready to fish, they realised that all their tackle had been left on the dock. Tom concluded that they would just have to go back and get it. Reverend Gayle said that wouldn't be necessary, and she got out of the boat and started walking across the water toward the dock.

Jimmy, who refused to be impressed by Gayle's miraculous abilities observed, 'See I told you we never should have hired that woman. She can't even swim.'

The hit animation film *Shrek* was praised by critics for many things but most especially for the clever way it quoted from several other much-loved animation films. When writers do this it's called 'intertextuality', where one text uses another text to tell the story. Some of the references in *Shrek* were obvious; others took a little longer to reveal themselves. Some were used in a new way that turned the original story upside down. Whether any of us got all or none of the references didn't affect the enjoyment we derived from the film, it only added to what was already a great tale.

The story of Jesus walking on the water is in a similar vein to *Shrek*. In eleven verses Matthew quotes several other stories in the Old Testament, uses them in his own way and re-interprets all of them in reference to Jesus. It might be lost on some of us who just enjoy the power of the story, but none of this intertextuality would have been lost on Matthew's first hearers.

Poor old Job found God in the midst of a storm, and winds and waves are a usual Old Testament shorthand for the perils of life. *The image of the boat was an early symbol for the Church and Matthew has all Jesus' disciples in it. Jesus hovering over the waters has echoes of the action of the Spirit in the first account of creation in Genesis. Even Jesus restoring calm to the sea follows on from what the Prophet Jonah had done before. For the keen student there is much more besides.*

Matthew's account is magnificent on its own terms, but with these details we can see he is also interested in a theological message. Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of creation, remains faithful to the disciples, no matter how treacherous the seas or how great their fear. He has come to them so that they may be saved and recreated as the Church who recognises that he is the fulfilment of creation, the one whom Israel has been longing to see and embrace.

And what does all this mean for us?

We are inheritors of Matthew's faith. We're here because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who has saved us from ourselves and from destruction. But it also means that in every storm that threatens our lifeboat Jesus comes to call us to faith, to catch us when we think we're drowning, to accompany us back to safety and to bring calm to the troubled seas of our life.

Aren't we lucky Jesus never learnt to swim?

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