



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

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: bellpark@cam.org.au Phone 5278 1343

PASTORAL WORKER:

Kanisha Tantanouvong Email: 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:

Frank Dubrovic; Ruza Benasic

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eileen Pollard; Maria Sciarrone; John & Julie Da Costa; Alki Da Costa; Louisa Rodrigues; Marija Masljak; Wassela Al-Sakkal; Majed & Johnothn Karakchi; Jose Medeiros; Rosalyn Connolly; Madalena Ferraz & Family; Angela Bove (1 month since death); Almor Mairos (10 year anniversary)

BAPTISMS:

Scarlett Long; Daisy Macdonald

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; Aldo Siketa



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.

16 AUG 2026 - (Year A) TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts is better than a
thousand elsewhere.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O God, let all the nations praise you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom,
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 56:1,6-7

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

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Isaiah 22:19-23

2nd: Romans 11: 33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20



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 or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

There will be an extra 3rd collection to be taken up at all Masses this weekend 16&17 Aug and next weekend of Aug 22&23.

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

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 M Carson
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

S Tighe
J Fraatz
Holy Angels Sisters
L Fossey
C Hullin



HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators M Lukesic
Lectors F O'Neill; E Siketa
Special Ministers D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti
Welcomers V Resciniti
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.

Congratulations to Fr Denis Ryan:

Dear Parishioners, On 22nd of August, 2026 I will celebrate 40 years of Priestly Ministry. It has been a real privilege by God's grace to celebrate the sacraments with so many people over the years as well as being able to offer them pastoral support at key moments of people's lives. I am a Priest of the Ballarat Diocese who semi-retired here in Geelong 10 years ago. I also have been both a cricket and football umpire for over 20 years as well as being a lover of theatre and I love the Geelong area with its waterways and parklands!

Fr Denis will concelebrate Mass at St Mary's Church Geelong at 10am on Saturday August 22. All most welcome to attend!



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:

- ♦ **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Please keep in your prayers the children from the Parish Sacramental Program as they begin lessons this Sunday in preparation for their Confirmation in October.

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 today, 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**.
- ♦ **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.

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:** Sunday Sept 13, 3pm Sacred Heart Chapel, Newtown. **THE ART OF PERSUASION** music from the **Age of Eloquence**. Greg Dikmans, baroque flute; Samatha Cohen, theorbo. In the 18th century music was often compared to eloquent speech. A great performer was expected not merely to play the notes, but to persuade the listener—to stir the emotions, awaken the imagination and move the heart. Tickets \$35/\$30 from www.trybooking.com/DLCYM or at the door. Children and school students free.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **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. Fridays 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 limited.' (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 Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection:

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

Scriptural Context:

This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew's gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.