



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	Web Page Address:
OFFICE:	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215. Phone: 5278 1343	www.https://melbcatholic.org/bellpark
OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm & Fri: 9am-3pm Email: bellpark@cam.org.au	www.facebook.com/stmichaelparish
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 Holy Spirit, Rachel Holdsworth, Minerva Rd Manifold Hts, St Patrick's, Luke, Sheehan, Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone: 5278 4634 Phone 5229 8298 Phone 5229 4412

As a Community We Pray For:

RECENT DEATHS:	Sheila Balkin; Sr. Mary Rosata (Sri Lanka)
ANNIVERSARIES:	Soria & Jonbd Al-Sakkal; Patricia Fickel; Ron & Joan Southall; Kathleen Welsh (Birch); Andrew Marshallsea (10 Year anniversary); Richard Verzosa (20 Year anniversary)
BAPTISMS:	Oliver & Maddison Bell; Rhett Blythe; Charlotte & Bonnie Cooper; Henry Currie
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Stephen Dean; Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Gayla Sullivan; Gail Pollock; Brian Rainbow

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.

18 OCTOBER 2026 - (Year A)
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the
apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give the Lord glory and honour.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
2nd: 1 Thess 1:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Exodus 22:20-26
2nd: 1 Thess 1: 5-10
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

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.

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.

OCTOBER 18 IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY.

World Mission Sunday is the Catholic Church's annual worldwide day of prayer and support for missionary work. Established by Pope Pius XI in 1926 and universally observed since 1927 and held every year on the second last Sunday of October, this year marking the **centenary celebration**.

THEME FOR 2026

Pope Leo XIV selected the theme '**One in Christ, United in Mission**', emphasizing unity in Christ, missionary zeal, and renewed commitment to evangelization in the Holy Spirit. His message encourages all Catholics to contribute according to their vocation and gifts.

MELBOURNE SYNODAL

With the notion of "synodality", The late Pope Francis brought to synthesis many of the salient features of what Vatican II envisioned for renewing the church. "Participation" was at the heart of that renewal. This essay explores three dimensions of that participation. Firstly, in divine revelation, all the baptised are invited to participate in the very life of God; and, with the Holy Spirit's gift of faith (the loving response to God's revelatory outreach), comes a "participatory knowledge" of God, a "sense of the faith" (sensus fidei), which the Holy Spirit gives the faithful to guide their living of their faith. Secondly, the whole People of God (along with the hierarchy who serve it) are called to participate in the three basic aspects of ecclesial life and mission, the so-called "three offices of Christ" as prophet, priest, and king. Thirdly, the context within which that life and mission is lived is "the world". How the church most effectively lives out that mission is best achieved by listening to the Holy Spirit speaking through the People of God's "sensus fidei". Consequently, the starting point for a local theologian's reflection must be the sensus fidelium of their local church.

AMEN

EUCHARIST28 PRAYER



Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the sacramental 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 defenseless 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.

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASSES:

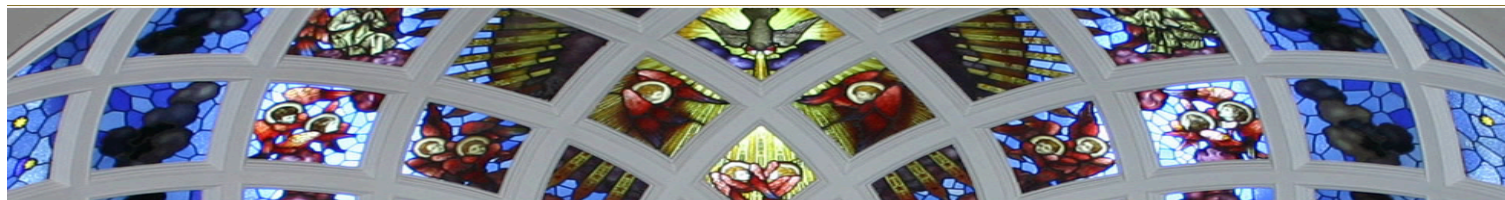
On the weekend of **October 31 & November 1** at all Masses, the focus will be "*Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones*". As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "in Loving Memory of"...The notelets are now available at all churches. Please complete and bring with you to the Bereavement Mass.

St Michael's News:

- **PARISH WEBSITE UPDATE:** To access our newly updated parish website please go to: <https://melbcatholic.org/bellpark>
- **PARISH SYNODAL CONSULTATION SESSION:** We invite parishioners to participate in these important discussions, and we require at least **20 people** to be involved in the consultation with 2-3 facilitators to run the groups. John Lam from the Archdiocese will lead the session. **Venue:** Parish Community Centre, on **Friday October 30**, 5.30-7pm. For registrations, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 or via the signup boards at all Masses.
- **CHILD SAFEGUARDING NEW MEMBERS NEEDED:** Looking for new volunteers to continue the great work of the Child Safeguarding Committee to come on board in 2027. Please contact Bernadette at the Parish office for more information.
- **TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE:** At St Michael's Parish, Holy Spirit Church Manifold Heights. We warmly invite everyone to join us for the next Taizé service on Thursday, Oct 22, 7-8.00pm. Come and rest in the presence of the Lord. All are welcome!
- **ROSARY at all weekend Masses:** During the month of October, the Rosary will be recited 20 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass in honour of '**Our Lady of Rosary**'.
- **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 on Sunday October 18. All most welcome!
- **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** BYO craft or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tues**, on the following dates, **27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945**.

Community News:

- **GEELONG TERTIARY STUDENTS END OF YEAR MASS & DINNER:** Catholic university & TAFE students who live in the Geelong region are invited to celebrate the end of the academic year with Mass and Dinner on Sunday 1 November 2026. Mass will be at 5pm, Ss Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, Geelong. Family and friends are most welcome to attend Mass. Dinner will follow at Edge Bar & Restaurant Geelong. Attendance at the dinner is limited to students and partners. Booking for dinner is essential at www.trybooking.com/DQKKB. For more information, contact Fr Marcus Goulding corio@cam.org.au.
- **ST BERNARD'S FICTION BOOK CLEARANCE SALE** - Sun 18 Oct, 8am -12noon. Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Rd, Belmont
- **LIFEBOAT GEELONG FOUNDATION:** Can you help people who have suffered church-related abuse? You could help this important work both by simply by bringing it to the attention of people who might consider donating a **motor vehicle, if possible in roadworthy or near-roadworthy condition** and which for whatever reason is no longer required, or contact: Fr. Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360 or frkdillon@outlook.com.au) or Damian Coyne (0400 170 374 or dkcoyne@hotmail.com) for more information.



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Dates for the Diary—Events in the Parish over the coming months!

Oct 22....	Taize Prayer - Holy Spirit Church; 7-8pm
Oct 31&Nov 1	Annual Bereavement Masses
Nov 2.....	All Souls Day
Nov 3....	Melbourne Cup Luncheon—Holy Spirit Church Hall
Nov 19...	Taize Prayer night - Holy Spirit Church; 7-8pm
Nov 29.....	Advent begins
Dec 15...	2nd Rite Reconciliation—Holy Family Church; 7pm
Dec 17....	St Michael's Parish Christmas Carols Evening
Dec 25....	Christmas Day

Reflection by Richard Leonard

There are people inside and outside the Church who think that Christ did not give the Church a mandate to speak about political matters. They regularly quote the Gospel we have just heard to support their case. But if one knows and understands the context and meaning within which this text was written it provides no ammunition for those who want the Church to stay indoors, reflect on things 'spiritual', preach the eternal verities, and sing hymns more ancient than modern.

In Jesus' day, we know that some people thought he was a Zealot. Zealots were a well-organised group who agitated for the end of the Roman occupation of Israel. One of the things Zealots did was withhold paying the Roman taxes. We can see why some people thought Jesus may have been a Zealot. He took the part of the poor, the sick, women and those who lived on the fringes of society. He attacked the religious authorities of his day and certainly stirred up trouble in many places he went. On the other hand he rejected violence, taught his followers to pray for their enemies and to return good for evil. Jesus showed us that the justice and equality God longs to see in the world comes from a community which is converted by love, not by weapons, fear or revenge. Jesus was no Zealot.

Rather than undermine civil authority, however, Jesus, in this passage, supports it. But he does more. 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's' is followed by 'And give to God, what is God's', which encompasses all the Caesars of this world, all civil authorities and states. The sense that we as the People of God can split off our obligations to the Gospel from the State is as false as it's dangerous.

We only have to think of some of the darkest chapters last century to see what happens when good, church-going people, like us, do not put their Sunday devotion in touch with their Monday politics. Evil can reign.

Christian leaders, who are charged to proclaim and defend the Gospel, are obliged to use whatever forum necessary to declare that God's personal love encompasses everyone and everything under heaven. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us today, God calls each one of us by name.

At times we may not agree with our religious leaders; we may think them ill informed; we may even think they have overstepped the mark. If this is the case we should tell them, enable them to consider other perspectives and to broaden the basis upon which they make their judgments. But we should never be seduced by those who want the Church sidelined from the mainstream of the debates that shape the way we live, the values we share, the laws we draft and the priorities we draw up for our human community.

If the Church shows disinterest in any of this, it is untrue to the very things for which Jesus lived, died, and was raised from the dead. By all means we should give to Caesar all that Caesar is justly entitled to have for the sake of the common good. A higher allegiance, however, goes to God, who will call all Caesars to account for what they have done and what they failed to do. And we might be asked to explain how we let them get away with it in the first place.