



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

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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:

Angela Bove; Slavko Jurcic; Ivanka Ilicic; Pietro Ricciardi, Una McCann (nee McGlinchey in Ireland).

ANNIVERSARIES:

Stjepan & Tereza Kolberger; Gary Dougherty; Desma Dougherty (1st Anniversary); Cosimo Mileto; Harry Seales; Matilda Matjasic;

BAPTISMS:

Rafael Davis; Sabrina Dela Cruz

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Denise Pollard; Nhan Phan; Stephen Dean; Jacinta Fernando (Sri Lanka); Olimpia Louro (Portugal); 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.

26 July 2026 - (Year A)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, I love your commands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

2nd: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Isaiah 55:1-3

2nd: Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

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.



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!

July 26—Raffle

August 30—Face painting/balloon animal making

September 27—Live music

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.**

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S -

5.00PM

Commentators

P McGlinchey

Lectors

P Balkin

Special Ministers

P Webb

Welcomers

Projectionist M Carson

A Zarb

Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson

M Kroger

M Kroger

L Fossey



HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentators

J Siketa

Lectors

M Bird, S Costa

Special Ministers

E Karakchi; B Kline; S Fernando

Welcomers

K McArthur

Projectionist

C Resciniti

Co-Ordinator

K Tantanouvong

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

HOLY FAMILY, BELL PARK:

English...9.00am Sunday

Croatian 11.30am Sunday

HOLY SPIRIT, MANIFOLD HTS: Ss PETER & PAUL'S, GEELONG WEST:

11am Sunday

Saturday 5.00pm



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.

Melbourne synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt questions can be provided via the QR code which is at the end of each paper.

Regional consultation opportunities

To complement the parish/community consultation, we are also offering an opportunity to gather as regions. In July and August there will be Synod Consultation sessions held in each region of the Archdiocese. I warmly invite your parish to nominate two representatives to participate in your regional Synod Consultation Session, with at least one representative being a lay person. These gatherings, hosted by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, are an important opportunity to prayerfully listen, discern and another way we can contribute to the Archbishop's consultation with the People of God across the Archdiocese. By ensuring each parish is represented, we hope to hear a broad range of voices, strengthen awareness and engagement with the Synod, and foster a shared commitment to the missionary future of our local Church. We encourage you to prayerfully select representatives who will participate actively in the conversation and bring back the fruits of the consultation to your parish community.

We pray for the Melbourne Synod:

That our preparations will be marked by wisdom in decision-making, courage in leadership, and humility in listening to one another. May the Spirit guide our every conversation and action. Amen.

The website: [Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#) is regularly updated with new information,

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 Sunday Aug 2. 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, **28 July, 11 Aug, 25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 17 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945**.

Community News:

- ♦ **WE ARE CALLED VOCATIONS EXPO** : ACU Campus Ministry and Vocations Melbourne invite you to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic Religious Orders, Diocesan Priesthood, and Married life. Hear from speakers who will share what answering a call looks like, what challenges lie ahead and the many joys you find along the way. Saturday 1 Aug 9am-1pm. Greg Craven Centre, Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building, ACU Melbourne. Free event. Book via—trybooking.com/DNKHK
- ♦ **MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS** We run 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 Programme 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.
- ♦ **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG**—Christian community for people with a disability and friends, are all welcome to join us next **Tues July 28** for our gathering at **St Mary's Hibernian Hall. 1.30-4.30pm**. Shared news, Gospel, prayer, music, fun and Afternoon tea. RSVP essential by **27 July**. Please phone **Tricia 0414 672 267**.
- ♦ **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>
- ♦ **'IS THERE DIVERSITY IN CHAPLAINCY?' DISCOVER MORE...** The Association of Pastoral Ministry Leaders, Melbourne (APMLM) and Garratt Publishing invite you to **Webinar—Week two: Aged Care, Thurs 30 July 7.00pm** **Speakers: Mariangela Prib; Aileen Martin; & Cynthia White** will speak from their areas of expertise. Registrations details available at www.garrattpublishing.com.au/event/is-there-diversity-in-chaplaincy-webinar-series/
- ♦ **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 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 (20+ pilgrims).
- ♦ **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

Reflection by Richard Leonard

After being nearly snowbound for two weeks, a Seattle man departed for his vacation in Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day at the conclusion of her business trip to Minneapolis. They were looking forward to pleasant weather and a nice time together. Unfortunately, there was some sort of mix up at the boarding gate, and the man was told he would have to wait for a later flight. He tried to appeal to a supervisor but was told the airline was not responsible for the problem and it would do no good to complain.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle's was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an e-mail, but due to his haste, he made an error in the e-mail address.

His message therefore arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's wife whose even older husband had died only the day before.

When the grieving widow opened her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream, and fell to the floor dead. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:

Dearest wife,
Departed yesterday as you know.
Just now got checked in.
Some confusion at the gate.
Appeal was denied.
Received confirmation of your arrival tomorrow.
Your loving husband.

P.S. Things are not as we thought. You're going to be surprised at how hot it is down here.

Old-time missionaries used to have a field day with today's gospel, or at least with part of it. While they may have liked the passages that suggested that heaven was *like* a treasure in a field or *like* a pearl of great price, they told us that hell was a furnace of fire where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some of those preachers seemed to know an awful lot about hell! It's as though they were travel writers who had visited the place several times just to warn us about what to expect when we got there. And do you remember how easy it was to get in? Many of us thought we had a first class ticket in our pocket most of the time.

Once, during a parish mission, where the visiting priest had given us an excruciatingly detailed description of hell, he told us, 'You could be dipping your hand in the holy water font as you leave the Church tonight and be struck down dead and sent to hell for eternity!' At the end of that session my cousin stood by the holy water font and watched everyone else dip their hand in, saying as they did, 'After you, after you.' She wasn't taking any chances!

All this is not to underestimate the reality of hell. If we believe in heaven and free will, it has to be logically true that hell exists and that, consistent with some people's free, knowing and serious rejection of God and of love all their lives, these choices will destine decisions made for, and by, them in the next world as well.

There are two major differences, however, between how we used to speak about heaven and hell and what we say now. Just as we know the treasure hidden in the field or the pearl of great price are metaphors for heaven, rich and wonderful ones at that, they remain images that enable us to grasp an unimaginable concept. So it is with hell. How can we imagine life without love and God? We have learnt that our guidebook regarding hell needs to be more circumscribed about what that destination or state of being holds. All we can confidently say is that hell is non-God.

The second change is that we are more careful about being so confident in regard to who is going there. Jesus tells us that God wants all humanity to be saved. We can't take that seriously and then have people slip into hell for a small infringement of the rules.

If we read today's Gospel in a different way it can be a commentary on what God has done for us. Humanity can be seen as the treasure in the field that God has sold everything to own. We are the pearl of great price that God has moved heaven and earth to possess and we are the fish caught up in the net of God's love.

Our God is the one who became one like us, in Jesus the Lord, so that we might know, love and serve him. That's what today's Gospel is all about.

Jesus reminds his disciples that in glimpsing the things of heaven they have to be like the master of a household. That's a rich image. In Jesus' day such a person would have provided protection, love, security and justice for all.

God has given us free will and treasures, both new and old, to help us protect each other, love each other, feel secure in the truth and act justly. But we need to know that the choices we make in regard to these things have implications for how we live now and in the life to come.

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