



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:

Agnes Vanjek; Angela Peko; Aldo Siketa

ANNIVERSARIES:

Nat Caruso; Joe Vanjek; Ivan & Tony Fantella; Hanne Badran; Raymond Ibrahim;
Louis Rezelj (1st Anniversary).

BAPTISMS:

Rowan Brewer; Cecily Nottage; Crew Douglas; Zara & Vada Wescon; Lainey Wilson

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Stephen Dean; Jacinta Fernando (Sri Lanka);
Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Gayla Sullivan; Gail Pollock



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.

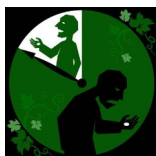
A REMINDER: Children are to be supervised by their parent/guardian at all times whilst on church property, and must also be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian!

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.

20 SEPTEMBER 2026 - (Year A) TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 55:6-9
2nd: Phil 1:20-24, 27
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Ezekiel 18:5-28
2nd: Phil: 2:1-11 or 2:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

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

No Mass at 11am on September 27

HOLY FAMILY 10.00AM

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.



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

Sept 27.... St Michael's Parish Feast Day
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

ST MICHAEL'S FEAST DAY
Sunday, 27 September 2026
10:00 AM Mass
Holy Family Church—Bell Park

We warmly invite all parishioners, families and friends to join us as
we celebrate the **Feast of St Michael, our patron saint.**

Please note: There will be NO 11:00AM Mass at Holy Spirit Church on Sunday 27 September.

After Mass

Please join us for **light refreshments and fellowship.**
Parishioners are warmly invited to **bring a plate to share** with others.

We look forward to celebrating this special feast day together as a parish community.
St. Michael, pray for us!

St Michael's News:

- ♦ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** The parish office will be closed next Friday Sept 25 due to AFL Public Holiday. The parish bulletin will be printed on Thursday morning and we ask that all anniversaries and bulletin notices be provided by 3pm on the Wednesday.
- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for lunch on Monday 5 October at the Shell Club Purnell Road, Corio 12.30pm. All welcome.
- ♦ **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 this Sunday September 20. 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, **22 Sept, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov.** Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945.**
- ♦ **MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON: Tuesday 3 Nov - Holy Spirit Church Hall, Manifold Heights.** So far interest has been slow and with just over 7 weeks to the day, we would love to hear from you. If you are planning to book a table or purchasing just the one ticket, we really need to know. For this event to proceed, the aim is for at least 50 tickets sold and lots of helpers are required. Tickets are on sale now at a cost of \$25 which includes lunch. If you are interested in attending or helping on the day please call the Parish Office on 5278 1343.
- ♦ **HOLY SPIRIT PRIMARY SCHOOL - 'LEGACY PAVER PROJECT':** Our parish primary school is excited to be running a 'Legacy Paver Project' - a unique opportunity for parishioners, families, past students, staff and members of the wider community to purchase your own piece of Holy Spirit history. Each personalised paver will become a permanent part of the new entrance area at the front of the school, creating a welcoming and meaningful space that celebrates the people, families and connections that have shaped Holy Spirit over the years. For \$50 you can personalise a paver with your chosen wording and create a lasting connection to Holy Spirit Parish School for generations to come. Thank you for helping us celebrate and preserve the legacy of our wonderful community.
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1619842>.

Community News:

- ♦ **TAIZE-STYLE PRAYER:** You are warmly welcome to join us for Taize-style Prayer on **Saturday 3 October, at Santa Casa, Queenscliff 2.30pm—3.30pm.** Afternoon tea will follow. All are welcome. **RSVP Lizzie on 03 5258 2661 or email santacasa@ismapng.org.au** for seating and catering purposes.
- ♦ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: 17th Annual Windfire Music Festival, Geelong from 2 to 11 October.** There will be 6 concerts featuring some of our finest local and national musicians. The concerts range from classical choral music by the Australian Chamber Choir and The Vocal Consort (of the Australian Boys Choir), a flute, viola and harp trio, Opera star – Lee Abrahmsen, Axes saxophone quartet and the Evergreen Ensemble. During the week there will be 5 free short concerts with some unusual instruments. For details of concerts, dates, times and venues please visit www.musicatthebasilica.org.au or email us at music.basilica@bigpond.com
- ♦ **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.**
- ♦ **ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE:** The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting: **Tuesday, 22 September 2026. Time: 19:00 – 20:00.** Location: **via ZOOM. Attendance will be by invitation.** Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison, Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

EUCCHARIST28 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.



Reflection by Richard Leonard (SJ):

The film *Forrest Gump* was once described as the ‘battler’s triumph’. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off.

Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God’s first name?

Forrest answers straight away, ‘Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T – Today and Tomorrow.’ St Peter replies,

‘That’s not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?’ ‘I think the only answer can be twelve.’ ‘Twelve?’ St Peter asks. ‘Shucks, there’s gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .’ ‘Hold it’, interrupts St Peter, ‘I see where you’re going with this. Let’s go to the final question.’ ‘Sure’, says Forrest, it’s Andy!’ ‘Andy?’ exclaims an exasperated St Peter. ‘OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God’s first name?’ ‘Shucks, that was the easiest one of all’, Forrest replied. ‘I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.’ St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, ‘Run Forrest, run!’

In today’s Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn’t reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal.

We would cynically call the afternoon workers, ‘Johnny-come-latelies’ and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation we would be with the complainers.

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus’ Kingdom as well.

We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn’t how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That’s why those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, *Things You Get for Free*, argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it’s not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let’s thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

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