



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:

Kathleen Hogan; Maria Guarnaccia (Italy)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Pieter Verhoeven (Jnr); Francesco Bocchicchio; Michael Degoldi; Guerrino, Francesco & Caterino Jerman;
 Julio Verzosa; Anica & Nadia Siketa; Denis Mann, Tony Millns; Olly & Kath McDonald;
 Una McCann (1 month since death); Peter Ricciardi (1 month since death); Slavica Boskovich (1st Anniversary);
 Veronika Leban (1st Anniversary).

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; 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.

23 AUG 2026 - (Year A)

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, your love is eternal;
 do not forsake the work of your hands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Isaiah 22:19-23

2nd: Romans 11: 33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Jeremiah 20:7-9

2nd: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew: 16: 21-27

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 one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information and campaign envelopes can be found in the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or via cash directly onto the collection plate. **There will be an extra 3rd collection to be taken up at all Masses this weekend of Aug 22 & 23.** This is a final reminder to complete your pledge to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign and to play your part in supporting the vital ministries that serve our faith community across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

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

(5th Sunday of the Month—1st Sunday Roster)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM

Commentators P McGlinchey
Lectors P Balkin
Special Ministers P Webb
Welcomers
Projectionist M Carson
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
M Kroger
L Fossey
A Zarb



HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators J Siketa
Lectors M Bird, S Costa
Special Ministers E Karakchi; B Kline; S Fernando
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.

Congratulations to Fr Denis Ryan:

Congratulations Fr Denis Ryan on the celebration of your 40 years of Priestly Ministry and we wish you many more years of Faithful Service to the Ministry.

We take this opportunity also, to thank Fr Denis for providing Supply at our Parish whilst Fr Minh has been on leave.



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:

- ♦ **RCIA PROGRAM 2026:** St Michael's Parish RCIA program led by Susanga Costa is for candidates who wish to join the Catholic Faith. The lessons will run fortnightly on Sunday evenings from 6pm-7.30pm at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. There will be 11 sessions beginning on September 6 (with a break during January school holidays) until February 2027. Candidates will then be Received into the Catholic Faith in March 2027. For more information or to book your place, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 or by email to bellpark@cam.org.au by September 1.
- ♦ **COMMUNION SERVICES:** Please note! there will be Communion Services only, on August 26 & August 28 at Holy Spirit Church and August 27 at Holy Family Church as Fr Denis finishes at the Parish on August 25 and Fr Minh returns for the weekend Masses on August 29 & 30.

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 on Sunday September 6 - Father's Day. 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, **25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945**.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON: Monday 2 Nov; Holy Sprit Hall, Manifold Heights.** So come along and bring a friend and enjoy. If you are interested in attending or helping on the day please call the Parish Office on 5278 1343

Community News:

- ♦ **FAITH & LIGHT GEELONG:** Christian community for people with a disability, Family and Friends. THEME: the wonder of Light. All welcome next Tuesday August 25th for our gathering at St Mary's Hibernian Hall, 1.30p—4.30pm. Shared news, Gospel, prayer, music, friendship, afternoon tea. RSVP essential by 24 August. Thankyou Tricia O'Keeffe Coordinator Ph: 0414 672 267
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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 for Young People – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

Keys are a symbol of trust and authority, along with responsibility.

When have you been given keys? Do you have a key to your family's house? your family's car? your place of work? a room at school? What responsibility comes with being entrusted with a key?

Have you ever locked your keys in a car? Have you ever locked yourself out of the house? If so, how did it happen? How did you feel? What did you do?

A rock is a symbol of solidness and strength. Rocks are hard to break, but they can break other things easily.

Why is a rock a good symbol for faith?

How would you describe your own faith? Is it as strong as a rock? Or is it more like a soft, weak substance, such as mashed potatoes, shaving cream, or a dried-out, crumbling leaf?

Peter isn't perfect. Remember, before Jesus is crucified, Peter denies him three times, just as Jesus predicted he would. Yet Jesus trusts him to be the leader of his disciples.

Why would Jesus trust Peter to be the leader of his disciples?

If being perfect is not a condition for having faith, what are the qualities that mark a strong faith?