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**
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm & Fri: 9am-3pm
Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

Web Page Address:
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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: Franjo Lehpamer; Agostinho Henriques (Venezuela); Adrian Kavenagh.

ANNIVERSARIES: Stanislaw Gwizdek & Apolonia Kakol; Antonio Tortoreto; Brian Lynch; Jean Allison; Antonio Fiorillo Ivan Cengija; Manuel Ramos & Family; Henriques Family Members; Damel & Matilda Fernandes; Julio Verzosa; Ernesto, Assunta, Frank, Helen & Tony De Lorenzo; Ivan Dzida; Anica Pavicic.

BAPTISMS: Enzo Knezevic; Adalynne & Ari Iorfino; Eddie Kahle; Sofia Trinchera

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.

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.

5 July 2026 - (Year A)
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

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**		***NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:***	
1st:	Zechariah 9:9-10	**1st:**	Isaiah 55:10-11
2nd:	Romans: 8:9, 11-13	**2nd:**	Romans: 8:18-23
Gospel:	Matthew 11:25-30	**Gospel:**	Matthew 13:1-23

PARISH PRAYER:

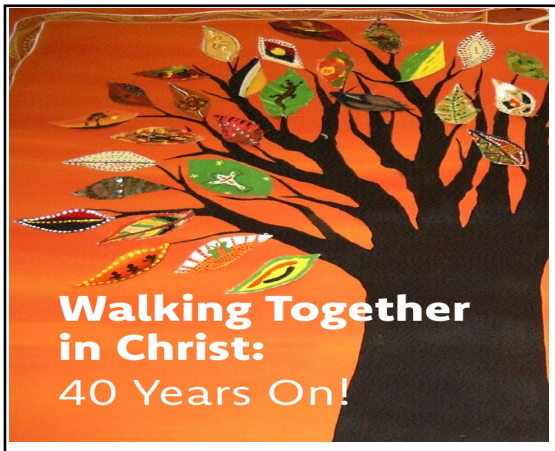
God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more. Help the parents to be a good example to the children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

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.



Welcome to this year's celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday! As we gather in faith, we do so as a people shaped by story - by the Gospel, by culture, and by the journeys that have brought us to this moment. We gather in the presence of God, who walks with us always, and who calls us into unity as one people.

This year invites us into reflection. We mark 40 years since St Pope John Paull II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs, and we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week. These milestones are more than anniversaries - they are reminders of enduring faith, resilience, and our shared call to walk together.

At times, it is important to look back. Not to dwell in the past, but to recognise the path that has been travelled - to see the strength, the challenges, and the grace that has carried us forward. In this, we trust in God's providence, present in every step of our journey.

Our theme, Walker Together in Christ: 40 Years On!, speaks to this moment. It calls us to continue the journey with humility and hope - listening deeply, and walking side by side as one Body in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

NATSICC Liturgy Team.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	M Gifford
Lectors	R Perera ; J Lewis
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey
Welcomers	
Projectionist	M Carson
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

L Strzelecki
M Martin
Holy Angels Sisters
L Fossey
R Martin

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentator	K Saunders
Lectors	D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers	J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers	V O'Malley; S Jouana
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:
11am Sunday

SS PETER & PAUL'S, GEELONG WEST:
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.

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

St Michael's News:

- **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for lunch this Monday 6th July, 12.30pm at the Shell Club, 76 Purnell Road, Corio. 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 July 5. All most welcome!
- **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** All welcome. BYO craft, or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tuesdays**, on the following dates, **14 July, 28 July, 11 Aug, 25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 17 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov.** Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 946.**
- **THANK YOU!** The Parish Youth team wish to thank our amazing parishioners for supporting the recent fundraising initiatives over the past few months. Your ongoing support is helping us to reach our goal to attend World Youth Day 2027!

Community News:

- **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**
- **menALIVE reunion:** This Sunday July 5 at St Mary Mackillop Church Bannockburn. For information and to register for the event, please use the link or the code: https://forms.gle/CaguM9YTFtE24pyK8
- **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for our dinner for July.
  Date: Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 6pm . **Venue: Great Western Hotel, cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave, Newtown**
  Cost: Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to come to the dinner **please phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584** by **Friday 10 July**. We need to know numbers for our booking.
- **SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:** Jodie, a new member of our Parish community, is a qualified Early Childhood educator and a customer service professional with a Master of Social Work, now seeking work in reception, administration, or customer service. If you know of any opportunities, please reach out to Jodie on (0460 935 027)—Jodie is available immediately, including weekends. Your support would be much appreciated.

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.

CDF

Save for a Greater Reward

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates,
it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund
or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

Before I said my first Mass an old priest gave me two great pieces of advice.

'You know when the congregation is filled with optimists. After a long series of announcements at the end of Mass and then you say, "and finally..." people take out their car keys!'

The second was, 'Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.'

I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace.

Now all this 'come and rest a while' talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality.

Today's Gospel, however, came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus' death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens.

They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ.

No wonder they held so strongly to the words, 'Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' And they found consolation in Jesus' example, 'take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.'

Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it.

Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and this parish Community, as with every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile.

What we celebrate here each Sunday is that God will have the last word, a just, joyous, loving and peaceful word, in this world and when we enter our final rest.

Jesus didn't come to us as a divine magician, waving a wand over our problems to wipe away all our tears. Rather, he accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life's burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties.

This type of spiritual sanity reminds me of the story of the nun who was teaching the communion class, and drew an analogy about how food is essential to life. She asked the class,

'What's small and furry and eats nuts?'

To which there was bemused silence.

So Sister tried again.

'What's small and furry and eats nuts?'

There was now stony silence. Sister then picked out Billy and asked him for the answer. After several awkward moments, Billy tentatively replied,

'Sister, I know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, because the answer to all your questions is always Jesus but, I have to tell you, it sounds like a bloody squirrel to me.'

Sometimes the answer is not simply 'Jesus'. As we all know, for some of our difficulties, there is no spiritual quick fix. There is no cheap grace. The answer is not simply Jesus.

In confronting issues, however, it is necessary for spiritual and mental health to take time out, to be as gentle with ourselves as possible, to know that the burden of life is shared so that we can make the decisions that will ease the situation.

I don't underestimate the burdens some of you have walked into this church with today. Whatever burden you may have brought with you, may you know a moment's rest, the companionship of fellow travellers and the gift of Christ's peace.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection for Young People – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

According to Jesus, children know more about some of God's secrets than do the most clever adults.

Have you ever held a crying baby? Have you seen anyone else do it? Can anything be done to stop a baby crying? When the baby finally stops crying, is it because the pain has gone away? How can rocking, singing and cuddling help?

As we grow older, we perhaps don't cry when we skin our knees or drop our toys, but we still have plenty of pain in our life. We never outgrow the ability to hurt or the need for comfort.

What might be one of God's secrets about dealing with suffering or about comforting someone in pain?

Jesus doesn't promise us a life without pain, but he says that the yoke and burden will be light and easy to bear.

When have you had to deal with great physical pain? What happened?

When have you had to deal with great emotional pain? What happened?

Which is easier to deal with – physical pain or emotional pain? Why?

How does living in the spirit of Jesus affect the way we deal with our pain?

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