



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:

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OFFICE HOURS:

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www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
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PARISH SECRETARY:

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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:

Bill Canty; Ofelia Louro (Portugal).

ANNIVERSARIES:

Walter Booth;

BAPTISMS:

Lexie Anajao; Ayla & Saffia Sheedy

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; Gayla Sullivan; Gail Pollock



Safeguarding Sunday 2026: 'Love Protects'

This weekend, Catholics around Australia mark Safeguarding Sunday and the 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

"Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet.

"Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence."

Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities.

Their dedication strengthens the Church's commitment to preventing harm, responding appropriately to concerns and promoting the dignity of every person.

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!

13 September 2026 - (Year A)

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers
of your servant,
and of your people Israel.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

Love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Sirach 27:30—28:7

2nd: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Isaiah 55:6-9

2nd: Phil 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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

(3rd Sunday of the Month)



Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators C. Marshallsea
Lectors K Maddalena, S O'Shea
Special Ministers K Maddalena
Welcomers
Projectionist M Carson
Co-Ordinator M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

J McKenzie
M Drake-Bemelmans
L Fossey
C Hullin

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM

Commentators A Scaddan
Lectors H Verdnik; Fedel
Special Ministers M Fiorillo; M Perera; Sr Concepta
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.



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH incorporating the churches of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul Geelong West and Holy Spirit Manifold Heights

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



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!

September 27—Live music

St Michael's News:

- ♦ **ST MICHAEL'S PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS:** On Sunday September 27, our Parish will celebrate it's Feast Day. On this day only, there will be a one-off change to the scheduled Masses and times. There will be just the **one Sunday Mass, 10am, Holy Family Church and no 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church**. At the conclusion of Mass, we invite you to stay for morning tea. The 5pm Mass on Saturday evening, September 26 at Ss Peter & Paul's Church will go ahead as normal.
- ♦ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** Thursday Sept 17 as Bernadette & Lynne are attending the Parish Administration Forum in Melbourne.
- ♦ **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 on 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 IN THE BASILICA: Today 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.**
- ♦ **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:

Charged with the rape and murder of a young woman, it only took the jury twenty minutes to return a guilty verdict for the three men in the dock. The courtroom erupted in cheers as the verdict was read out.

As the men were being led out of the courtroom the mother of two of them ran toward the dock yelling, 'I think what you've done is despicable, but I want you to know that I love you.'

Outside the courthouse, the media were expecting the parents of the victim to advocate capital punishment for the criminals. Instead, they said they wanted to forgive the perpetrators of this vicious crime. Everyone listened in disbelief.

No one at that courthouse was running away from the heinous nature of the crimes, nor from the punishment the men deserved, but the parents involved chose to focus on love and forgiveness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us we should forgive each other seventy-seven times. Numbers are not randomly used in the Bible. One, three, seven, twelve and forty all have specific meanings. To number something as seven is to describe it as being perfect. When we hear Jesus use this phrase we recall the story in the Book of Genesis of the seven days of creation where, on the seventh day, God looks at the result of his creative love and sees that it is very good. Jesus, using some shorthand, says that not only is forgiveness good, but that it is a creative act that gives life to the world and gives glory to those who exercise it.

In the 5th Century St Augustine said that forgiveness was like a mother who has two wonderful daughters named justice and compassion. In using such a metaphor Augustine knew that forgiveness was not a once-off event, it was a process that involved other virtues as well. Jesus teaches a similar lesson in today's Gospel, where he uses the image of the King settling his debts. Because the King is just, compassionate and forgiving, he rightly expects that, in turn, his steward will be so as well.

It's easy to be forgiving in the big picture. We can preach strongly about war, peace and reconciliation. It's quite another to forgive those closest to us. Sometimes the hardest place to be compassionate and just is our own home. If we are not speaking to a husband, wife, child, parent, sibling or friend then today's Gospel has a strong challenge right where we live.

Part of the problem is that we could have accepted the film *Love Story's* motto, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry'. This idea is many things, but it's not Christian. For followers of Jesus the exact opposite is true. We seek opportunities to forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Jesus doesn't tell us that forgiveness is easy, just necessary. To forgive someone in our family, our workplace, our circle of friends or in our Church is not to pretend that a sinful situation did not occur, but to face it head on and demand justice with compassion.

For when we stand before God with the weakness and sinfulness of our own life, God will not settle old scores, take revenge and exact retribution. Rather God, will be perfectly just and completely compassionate. When we choose forgiveness over revenge, and love over hate we begin to glimpse God's creative goodness coming to perfection in us, because forgiveness is a participation in the very heart of God.

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Season of Creation Reflection by Nick Brodie:

Twice in today's gospel we hear indebted servants cry 'Give me time'. Through this parable Jesus shows us that patience and forgiveness are high virtues. These inform the Church's teaching on what Pope Francis called an 'integral ecology', which basically insists that human progress should be sustainable and compassionate. All human beings exist as part of nature and in relation with each other. God too is part of this dynamic by virtue of the mystery of Creation, but also in a special way through Jesus in the Incarnation and through the Spirit in the Church. We Christians are called, therefore, to be patient and forgiving with nature and with each other as part of God's transcendent plan.

Our opportunities to do this come in many forms. We can reconsider whether our consumer habits are too burdensome on our planet, extracting resources more quickly than they can be replenished. We can choose to buy foods that are sustainably produced, and which justly supports small farmers. And we can encourage our political leaders to be like the good master, supporting debt relief for impoverished countries, abiding by international climate agreements, and taking other such actions that might give our world and its people time to heal.

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