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: Sr Carmel O'Dwyer (RSM); Sr Aileen Moloney (RSM); Catherine Moon; Leonard Makowski; Ernie Kilmartin; Isabel Magoffin

ANNIVERSARIES: Martin Simic; Bozo Cacic; Tindara Rao; Gemma, Antonino, Giuseppa & Vincenzo Salvo; Ripalda Sicuro. Kieley Magri (1st Anniversary);

BAPTISMS: Cooper Brown; Genevieve Heyns; Ava Zampatti; Alexander Andjelkovic

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.

12 July 2026 - (Year A)
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

***TODAY'S* READINGS**
1st: Isaiah 55:10-11
2nd: Romans: 8:18-23
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:
1st: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
2nd: Romans 8: 26-27
Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

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

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM		**HOLY SPIRIT—11AM**
Commentators	C. Marshallsea	M Garrido Lucay
Lectors	K Maddalena, S O'Shea	J McKenzie
Special Ministers	K Maddalena	M Drake-Bemelmans
Welcomers		L Fossey
Projectionist	M Carson	C Hullin
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656	

HOLY FAMILY	**9.00AM**
Commentators	A Scaddan
Lectors	H Verdnik; ….
Special Ministers	M Fiorillo; M Perera; Sr Concepta
Welcomers	
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	K Tantanouvong

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

HOLY FAMILY, BELL PARK:	**HOLY SPIRIT, MANIFOLD HTS:**	**SS PETER & PAUL'S, GEELONG WEST:**
English…9.00am Sunday	*11am Sunday*	*Saturday 5.00pm*
Croatian 11.30am 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.

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 it 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.

Saturday 25 July 2026	Northern Region (morning)	Western Region (afternoon)
Saturday 8 August 2026	Southern Region (morning)	Eastern Region (afternoon)

Further logistical details will follow in a direct email to Parish Priests in the coming days, including venues, start times and booking process.

Timeline

Given that it has taken longer than we had anticipated to prepare the theme papers, the consultation period will conclude at the end of August. Throughout September, feedback will be compiled and this will form the draft of the Working Document in preparation for Synod member discernment. There will be an opportunity in October to provide further feedback to the Working Document.

Further information

The website: Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic is regularly updated with new information, so do please keep checking for updates.

St Michael's News:

- **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Wednesday July 15, 5pm
- **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 July 19. 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 416 945.**

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**

- **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.

- **FOOTSTEPS OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENA + MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE: 18 September—2nd October 2026**
  Fr Richard Rosse from St Cathrine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs, warmly invites you to join a spiritually enriching pilgrimage to Italy, visiting Rome, Siena, Assisi, Lanciano, Rotondo, and Medjugorje, walking in the footsteps of the saints, and drawing inspiration from their lives, witness, an enduring legacy in the very places where they lived and served.
  This all-inclusive pilgrimage is priced at $10,230 (20+ pilgrims). The fare includes return economy airfares, local transfers in deluxe coaches, accommodation in 4-star premium hotels, daily meals, English-speaking professional guides, entrance fees as per the itinerary, and more. We would be delighted for you to join us on this unforgettable journey of faith. Limited seats available. For inquiries & bookings, call (03) 8839 6615 or email **pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.**

Community News cont'd:

- **'IS THERE DIVERSITY IN CHAPLAINCY?'** DISCOVER MORE… a Webinar 2 Part in two parts—**23 July & 30 July, 7.00-8.30pm**.
  The Association of Pastoral Ministry Leaders, Melbourne (APMLM) and Garratt Publishing invite you to two webinars titled
  IS THERE DIVERSITY IN CHAPLAINCY The Who, What and Why of Chaplaincy. What is given and received in the role of Chaplaincy?
  WEBINAR—WEEK ONE: Emergency Services, Ambulance Victoria, Police Chaplaincy. Thurs 23 July, 7.00pm
  Speakers will speak from their areas of expertise.**:**
  Maria van der Weert (Community Chaplain, VCCEM),
  Joan Ferguson (Chaplain, Ambulance Victoria) and
  Janet Boyle (Chaplain, Victoria Police.
  WEBINAR—WEEK TWO: Aged Care, Catholic Prison ministry, Hospital Pastoral & Spiritual Care. Thurs 30 July 7.00pm
  Speakers will speak from their areas of expertise.**:**
  Mariangela Prib (Retired Pastoral & Spiritual Care Practitioner),
  Aileen Martin (Prison Chaplain)
  Cynthia White (Pastoral & Spiritual Care Practitioner) will speak from their areas of expertise.
  Registrations details available at www.garrattpublishing.com.au/event/is-there-diversity-in-chaplaincy-webinar-series/

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

A newcomer to a city known for its wind and rain arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young child and, out of despair, asks, 'Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?' To which the child replies, 'How should I know? I'm only six.'

With the three readings we have just heard, we could easily celebrate Environment Sunday today. Rain, snow, seeds, sowers, fertile soil and a labouring creation giving birth to the fruits of the Spirit, are all rich ground upon which we can reflect on the importance of our earth's ecology.

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit.

If this means we must limit our consumption, change our priorities in regard to energy and trade and show the third world the way in developing eco-friendly industries, then all the better for us. Most of us know that we cannot keep going as we are, with ever increasing unsustainable demands on our planet. There is no point any of us crying over the demise of our environment in the future, if we are doing nothing to help it now.

Every small thing we do from being conscious of the issues, to recycling and using our cars less, is not unimportant. Some of us are in positions to do a lot more than these things as well and we should take our Christian responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

One creative reading of today's Gospel is that it parallels how we can respond to the news of the degradation of the environment.

For some of us the facts and figures about the planet's ecosystem fall on rocky ground. We are not receptive to hearing anything that might demand a change in our lifestyle or a lessening of our comfort.

For others of us, recent debates fall among the thorns. Competing with other issues for our attention and action, the plight of the earth is not able to take root in our consciousness or sympathies. We think it can all wait for another generation who will have the ability to fix the problems then.

For some of us, however, recent surveys and our own sense of environmental changes means that what experts are saying falls on fertile soil. We want to do whatever we can to see that the earth continues to bear fruit for as many generations as God intends.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with the importance of our relationships to the earth. In the book of Genesis humanity is told to care for and subdue the earth, not wreck it. We cannot be irresponsible about the world's finite resources in the hope that we will find solutions in the future. Avarice is not one of the seven deadly sins for nothing.

We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.

© Richard Leonard SJ