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
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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: Raymond Ambrose; Giovanni Ladich; Ivanka Ilicic; Roy Erfort (South Africa); Gojko Brkic; Virgilio & Ruben Tecson

ANNIVERSARIES: Diana & James Horoba; Joe Lichtenfeld; Keerthi Perera; Moya McVeigh

BAPTISMS: Beau McDonald

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Stephen Dean; Jacinta Fernando (Sri Lanka); Olimpia Louro (Portugal); Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Saskia Saunders; Agnes Vanjek.

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.

2 AUG 2026 - (Year A)
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make hast to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O lord, do not delay.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS		***NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:***	
1st:	Isaiah 55:1-3	**1st:**	1 Kings 19:9, 11-13
2nd:	Romans 8:35, 37-39	**2nd:**	Romans 9:1-5
Gospel:	Matthew 14:13-21	**Gospel:**	Matthew 14:22-33

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!

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

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM		**HOLY SPIRIT—11AM**
Commentators	M Gifford	L Strzelecki
Lectors	R Perera ; J Lewis	M Martin
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey	Holy Angels Sisters
Welcomers		L Fossey
Projectionist	M Carson	R Martin
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656	

HOLY FAMILY	**9.00AM**
Commentator	C. Simpson
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:

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.

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.

We pray for the Melbourne Synod:

That our preparations will be marked by wisdom in decision-making, courage in leadership, and humility in listening to one another.
May the Spirit guide our every conversation and action. Amen.

The website: Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic is regularly updated with new information.

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- **FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION MASSES – SATURDAY 15 AUGUST:**
  9.15am Holy Family Church Bell Park
  Friday August 14 - **12pm** St Patrick's School Geelong West
- **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATON:** This program is for children Grade 6 or above, who attend non-Catholic schools and are Catholic. The course will run over 5 Sunday morning sessions from 8.45am-10am. Enrolments close on Mon Aug 10. For enrolments or to enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.

St Michael's News:

- **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch at the **Great Western Hotel**, cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave, Newtown **12.30pm this Monday August 3.** Look forward to seeing you all there!
- **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 today Aug 2. All most welcome!
- **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** All welcome. BYO craft, or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tues**, on the following dates, **11 Aug, 25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov.** Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945.**
- **COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE:** Thank you St Michael's Parish Parishioners. There were 150 raffle books available, 130 now in circulation. I have 20 books left, so if you missed out, and would like a book please ring me on **0408 378 982** and I will deliver. **David Lunn**.
- **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS—SPRING 2026:** The focus of this Youth edition 'To Go Boldly…' 'It takes courage to leave the comfort of the familiar and journey somewhere new…..' Please take home your copy now available at all churches.
- **PARISH CENSUS 2026 - SHAPE THE FUTURE: BE COUNTED AS CATHOLICS THIS CENSUS:** Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services—guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

Community News:

- **NATIONAL VOCATIONS WEEK - 2 August:** National Vocations Awareness Week – Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.
- **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**
- **'MUSIC IN THE BASILICA: Friday Aug 14, 7.30pm LONDON CALLING'** Step into the vibrant musical world of early 18th century London, where a remarkable group of expatriate composers found fame and opportunity in the city's thriving theatre scene. Tickets $40/$35 from **www.trybooking.com/DLCXX** or at the door. Children and school students, free.
- **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our dinner for August. Tuesday August 11; 6pm at the Great Western Hotel, cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave Newtown. Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. Please RSVP by phone or text to Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday August 7.
- **CIRCLE OF MERCY:** Session 3: **The Work:** Anchored in Hope. Acting in Mercy. Join us as we learn to widen the circle of Mercy and turn our Hope into a lived experience for all. **Presenter:** Fr Richard Leonard; **Tuesday Aug 4, 6pm - 7.30pm.** This PL will be offered in person in the College's Celies dining room (please enter via Aphrasia St gates) or online via Google Meet. **Registration:** This PL is recognised for accreditation. **Cost:** Free. **Google Meet:** Link.

Community News cont'd:

- **SAINTS OF ITALY (2nd-16th Oct 2026)—**Fr Franco Filipetto from St Mary's in Warrick, invites you on a 14 day pilgrimage to Milan; Padua, Florence, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, and Rome, walking in the footsteps of the saints.. All-inclusive price: $9,990
- **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**. **Wednesdays 10am-2.30pm**.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

There is an old line that runs, 'If you feel distant from God – guess who has moved?' It picks up the theme in the Romans reading which we have just heard, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.'

In the midst of persecution and suffering, St Paul writes to the community at Rome to tell them that, even in their fear, desolation and grief, nothing, and no one, can separate them from God's love. This shows us that when we feel separated from God we may have walked away from him, usually through destructive behaviour that sets up and maintains distance between us and the source of our faith, hope and love.

St Matthew and Isaiah also knew that nothing can separate us from God's love. Isaiah's river of plenty and Matthew's loaves and fish are all about the *plenty* of God's kingdom, the abundance of God's goodness.

Too often we focus on the miracle of transformation that occurs in Matthew's Gospel when all he tells about the actual miracle is that Jesus 'breaks and shares'. Matthew is more interested in the leftovers than he is in the miracle itself. From five loaves and two fish we are told twelve baskets of scraps are left over.

Numbers are rarely random in the Bible. The echo of the seven days of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of this story as Jesus takes seven fruits of the earth to feed the crowd. Similarly, the twelve baskets of scraps, the remnants of the meal at which all were filled and satisfied, echo the sign of God through the twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament.

For us today this story also has consoling resonance. Matthew is telling us that Jesus sees our need, does not turn us away, comes to where we are, as we are, and recreates us through the abundance of his love, so we can be signs of His kingdom in the world.

The Church has always believed that the feeding of the crowd prefigured the Eucharist, this weekly time where we receive the fullness of God in his Word, in the life of the community, in the minister and through the transformation of the Bread and Wine.

It's all about abundance. Our God has abundantly provided for us so that we can abundantly provide for all the world which is given into our care. 'Those to whom much is given, much is required.' The problem is that when we look around we see that while some of us have so much, others have nothing at all.

If this reality doesn't move us to a change of heart and right action then we have not understood the story of the loaves and the fish, that God's goodness is never intended for a select few.

Sometimes people look at the poverty in the world and think, 'How could God allow that?' This question can cause us to feel distant from God, but in light of what God has given us and our ability to share from this abundance, when we think like and feel like this, guess who has moved away from whom?

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Nick Brodie

Jesus did not ask the crowds for identification before he fed them. He encountered need and responded generously.

Pope Leo comments on how 'Catholics are called to imbue every dimension of their existence with the charity of Christ.' As the Pope noted, 'living out the Gospel in the circumstances of daily life ... has given rise to the many benefits that the Church has provided over the years.' Advances in education, welfare, healthcare, and so on, all flow from this straightforward principle.

But none of this is done for Catholics alone. Living out the Gospel means truly seeing that every person is 'endowed with an inherent worth that calls for reverence, protection and care.' As the Pope reminds us, we all have a part to play in 'building a society in which the vulnerable, the suffering and the forgotten are always met with compassion, solidarity and love.' They do not need to be Christian before they can be helped.

This, the Pope adds, especially 'includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants' who help build up the nations in which we live. 'To receive them with compassion and generosity is not only an act of charity,' he points out, 'but also a recognition of the dignity that belongs to every human person.'

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