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: Bernard Dragicevic.

ANNIVERSARIES: Lucy Murphy; Hilda Smith; Lojska & Vinko Jager; Anica & Alojz Rezelj; Giovanni Mamone (30 days since death); Philomena Carvalho (1 Month since death)

BAPTISMS: Luca Kallipolitis; Mia Malesic; Zachary Spence; Archibald Charlson; Maya Crublet; Ruby Harrington; Mabel & Posie Kirtley

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 -

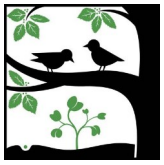
- All children have the right to express their views openly and honestly in all matters affecting them, and also to respect other people's views -

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.

19 July 2026 - (Year A)
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
Lord, you are good and forgiving.

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:	Wisdom 12:13, 16-19	**1st:**	1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
2nd:	Romans 8: 26-27	**2nd:**	Romans 8:28-30
Gospel:	Matthew 13: 24-43	**Gospel:**	Matthew 13: 44-52

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

(4th Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM		**HOLY SPIRIT—11AM**
Commentators	M Gifford	S Tighe
Lectors	G Tolan	J Fraatz
Special Ministers	P Webb	Holy Angels Sisters
Welcomers		L Fossey
Projectionist	M Carson	C Hullin
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656	

HOLY FAMILY 9.00AM	
Commentators	M Lukesic
Lectors	F O'Neill; E Siketa
Special Ministers	D Lunn; C Simpson; V Resciniti
Welcomers	V Resciniti
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:

- **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 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, **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**
- **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). For inquiries & bookings, call (03) 8839 6615 or email **pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.**
- **TAIZE PRAYER:** We are gathering at **Santa Casa on Sat 25 July, 2.30-3.30pm**, for Taizé prayer in "ordinary time**".** It is being led by Paul Spence. This will be followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea. Please feel free to bring a friend, as newcomers are always welcome.
- **'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:-**
  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/
- **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.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

Today's Gospel gives us both a parable and then an interpretation of that parable. I'm very grateful for this pattern in the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. It indicates to us that not everything that Jesus says should be taken literally. Clearly the disciples were sometimes confused and needed some private coaching to bring them up to speed with what Jesus was on about.

As much as I respect the faith of our fundamentalist Christian brothers and sisters, it is at this point, on the way we interpret the Scriptures, that we cannot agree. The catholic community has always taken the process outlined in Matthew's gospel very seriously. We have always held that the full richness of the scriptures needs careful study and tested interpretations.

Unfortunately, in previous generations, the anxiety over people's private interpretations of the scriptures led Catholics to be suspicious of the Bible and the private reading of it. To read the Bible was often seen as a 'very protestant thing to do'. Given that Jesus, Mary, the apostles and the disciples are all recorded in the New Testament as reading, meditating on, or hearing the scriptures, nothing could be further from the truth. To be a Christian is to ponder the Word of God.

That's why the Second Vatican Council encouraged us all to return to regular private reflection on the Bible. Along with this encouragement they also reminded us, however, that as strong as the feelings and revelations we experience in our private scriptural prayer may be, these may have little or no consequence for the wider community of faith. We believe that the whole Church has the task to discern where the Word of God is leading us.

To help this discernment, it's scholars who pay great attention to the history and the literary, textual and cultural issues in and around the Bible have always aided the catholic community. They look at how various interpretations and approaches of the Scriptures have helped or hindered the Church over the centuries. We place great weight on the 'here and now' of the faith community who listens to the Word of God and lives it out.

Our approach is a long way from those who hold that the entire truth of the scriptures is found in the text itself. Fundamentalist interpretations of the scriptures dismiss the importance of studying the scriptures by reducing it to a book of facts. In doing so they tie themselves up in all sorts of textual knots whenever the scriptures seem to contradict themselves.

We hold, however, that the scriptures are not books of facts, though they contain historical information. We believe we have seventy-three sacred books that 'cannot err in leading us to the truth about God'. The Word of God is for us the pathway to faith, a series of revealed and inspired portraits of God and a distillation of God's saving love for us and our response to him.

When there are inconsistencies or differences in any two scriptural texts, rather than unsettle us, we see these differences as examples of the varying rich approaches to the truth of our salvation in and through Christ. This is nicely summed up in the verse, *The Bible in 50 words.*

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

At this Eucharist let's give thanks that Jesus often used stories to communicate his truth and that he explained their meaning to those with ears to hear. Let's be grateful that we are inheritors of this intelligent legacy.

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