



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

Web Page Address:**OFFICE:**

147 Separation St Bell Park 3215. Phone: 5278 1343

www.https://melbcatholic.org/bellpark

OFFICE HOURS:

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

www.facebook.com/stmichaelparish

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:

Claudia Leitich; Elizabeth (Betty) Courtney; Ofelia Louro (Portugal)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Stephen Dean; Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Gayla Sullivan; Gail Pollock; Brian Rainbow

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASSES: This weekend the focus is "*Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones*". As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "*In Loving Memory of*"..... Your notelets will be collected by the collectors and placed at the foot of the Altar on your behalf.

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.

1 NOVEMBER 2026 - (Year A) ALL SAINTS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Rev 7:2-4, 9-14

2nd: 1 John 3: 1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Wisdom 6:12-16

2nd: 1 Thessal 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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.

NEXT WEEK ROSTER
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: 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 **Legion of Mary:** 10am. The group meets after Mass every Tuesday. Parish meeting room.
 Tuesday **Meditation Group:** 5.30pm. Every Tuesday during the school term. Parish Community Centre
 Sunroom
 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.

MELBOURNE SYNODAL update!

The Synod Commission reviewed the report and has drawn on its findings as the foundation for preparing the Working Document.

3. Working Document:

The Working Document plays an important role in the process of synodal discernment. It brings together the fruits of the consultation, presents them for prayerful reflection, and provides a framework for the Synod Assembly to listen together for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and discern the path forward for our Archdiocese. The first draft of the Working Document has now been received. Once finalised, it will be made available for broader review and feedback. The Working Document is organised around the three consultation themes, reflecting complementary movements at the heart of Christian life:

- **Listening to God:** Young Discipleship asks, Who are we becoming as God's pilgrim people? It focuses on helping young people encounter Christ, grow as disciples and discover their place in the life and mission of the Church.
 - **Growing Together:** Formation and Participation asks, How do we grow as the Body of Christ? It explores lifelong formation, Eucharistic renewal, participation in community, and the development of the gifts and charisms of all the baptised.
 - **Sent into the World:** Missionary Leadership asks, How do we live and act in the Spirit? It considers how the Church can exercise leadership, stewardship and shared responsibility in service of God's mission.
- Together, these themes invite us to reflect on how we listen to God, grow in communion and respond faithfully to the call to mission.



EUCHARIST28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the sacramental 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 defenseless 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.



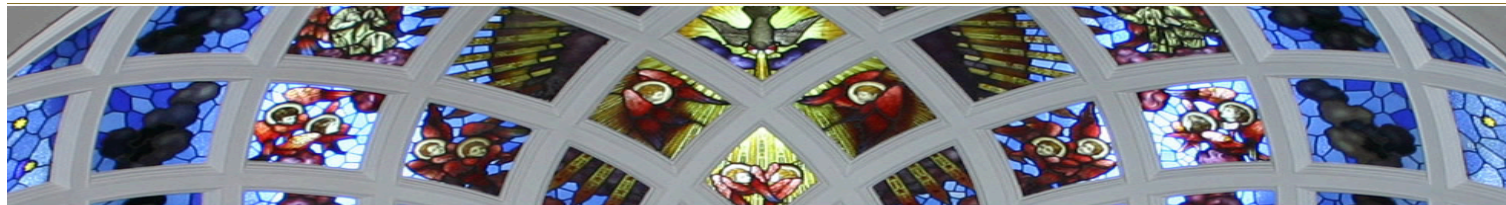
*Congratulations and Happy 80th Birthday
to David Lunn who celebrates this important milestone tomorrow November 2.*

St Michael's News:

- **MASS FOR ALL SOUL'S DAY - MONDAY NOVEMBER 2:** There is an extra daily Mass tomorrow, 9.15am at Holy Family Church Bell Park for the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed.
- **CHILD SAFEGUARDING NEW MEMBERS:** Looking for new volunteers to continue the great work of the Child Safeguarding Committee to come on board in 2027. Please contact Bernadette at the Parish office for more information.
- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** Tuesday November 3 due to the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.
- **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 this Sunday November 1. All most welcome!
- **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for lunch on Monday 2nd November at the Shell Club Purnell Rd Corio 12.30pm. Please contact Vera on 0422 001 908 if you are attending.
- **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for contributors (including credit cards; direct debits etc) in all churches. They are in order, alphabetically by **SURNAME**. If your pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email: bellpark@cam.org.au. If you would like to start contributing to the Thanksgiving program, please contact the Parish office. Thank you for your continuing, regular support.
- **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** BYO craft or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tues**, on the following dates, **10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945**.

Community News:

- **FAITH IN ACTION: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria.** Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. You are invited to read the statement and prayerfully discern 'how your vote can contribute to the common good'. View the statement online at: bit.ly/StateElection2026.
- **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends for our dinner for November. **Tuesday November 10, 2026, at 6pm. Great Western Hotel, Cnr Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave, Newtown.** 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 November 6**. We need numbers for the booking.
- **GEELONG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS LUNCHEON:** The Archdiocese is delighted to bring its networking lunches to Geelong for the first time. All Catholic professionals in the Geelong region are warmly invited to join us for the inaugural Geelong Catholic Professionals luncheon, an opportunity to connect with fellow Catholics in the workplace and be encouraged in living out your faith in your profession. Our guest speaker is Dr Edward Simons, Executive Director of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). **When:** Thursday 19 November, 12pm-2pm **Where:** Captain's Room, GMHBA Stadium, Gate 11, 370 Moorabool Street, South Geelong 3220 **Register:** trybooking.com/DQVIR
- **GEELONG TERTIARY STUDENTS END OF YEAR MASS & DINNER:** Catholic university & TAFE students who live in the Geelong region are invited to celebrate the end of the academic year with Mass and Dinner **this Sunday 1 November 2026**. Mass will be at 5pm, St Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, Geelong. Family and friends are most welcome to attend Mass. Dinner will follow at Edge Bar & Restaurant Geelong. Attendance at the dinner is limited to students and partners. Booking for dinner is essential at www.trybooking.com/DQKKB. For more information, contact Fr Marcus Goulding corio@cam.org.au.
- **THE BETHANY WAY:** Is the Archdiocese of Melbourne's flagship formation initiative. Developed in response to the desire of many throughout our Archdiocese for greater information, its 'cornerstone' offering is a 20-week immersive formation journey, and it is designed to equip people to live the real project of formation. **The Bethany Way Introductory Retreat - At the feet of Jesus: on retreat with Mary, Martha and Lazarus** is this Saturday Oct 31 12pm - 4pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.
- **MUSIC IN THE BASILICA: LEST WE FORGET REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT.** Sunday November 8, 5pm. Through beautiful moving music and poetry, we remember those who lost their lives in war and reflect on the courage, sacrifice, grief and personal tragedies experienced by so many. more info www.trybooking.com/DLCYO.



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Dates for the Diary—Events in the Parish over the coming months!

Nov 1	Annual Bereavement Mass
Nov 2.....	All Souls' Day - Mass 9.15am Holy Family Church, Bell Park.
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

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Do you remember the old hymn, *Faith of our Fathers*? These days we would, of course, want to explicitly name the extraordinary faith of 'our mothers' as well. But do you recall how we once used to stand and sing,

'Faith of our fathers living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword.
Oh how our hearts beat high with joy...
If we like them could die for thee.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to Thee 'till death.
We will be true to Thee 'till death.'

In one of his letters St Ignatius Loyola tells us we should never pray for something we don't want, because we might just get it. Let's think about what we ask for in this hymn: that if needs be we will die for our Christian faith.

For the first 400 years of the Church's history, Christian women and men were dead at lunch for taking the waters of baptism at dawn. It is on the basis of their fidelity and sacrifice that we gather here in freedom and peace.

Many of us are wimps when it comes to pain, so all we can hope and pray for is that, given a similar context, we may have the grace to witness to our faith in whatever way is demanded of us. It remains true that when most of us hear about the faith of modern-day martyrs we are still deeply affected, our own faith is challenged and our values are shaken up. Mothers and fathers are still dying for the faith which we so often take for granted.

All Saints Day has its roots in the early Church's 'Martyrs Day', attested to by a hymn written in 359 by St Ephraim. It was called All Saints Day in the seventh century.

A Saint is someone who the Church believes is in heaven with God. Wrongly, we often think saints are perfect, but in fact their greatest witness is how they coped with the ordinary difficulties of life and how they reflected in a variety of ways the love of God.

For most of us sanctity and martyrdom will not come in dramatic ways. The daily routine of looking after a sick child, spouse or parent, of living with a mental, physical, emotional or spiritual illness, the scourge of being unemployed, homeless or addicted and the feeling that we are unlovable brings with it the reality of sharing in the lot of the martyrs and saints.

All Saints Day is the feast which commemorates all those we know who may never be publicly proclaimed in the canon or list of saints, but who nonetheless are in heaven. Some of them may only be known to God. Others are people whose love, sacrifice and fidelity we have seen for ourselves and who have inspired us. Sometimes they can be our own mothers and fathers.

These, too, we believe belong to the great multitude of witnesses who went through their own persecutions and found the blessings within their daily lives. They saw God in this world and are now fully alive to him in the next.

In this Mass may we have the grace to live a holy life that, in ordinary ways, demonstrates the extraordinary power of God working in us. In doing so, in our sacrifices, forgiveness and love may we remain faithful to the women and men who are our saintly heroes and pray that we remain faithful to the Gospel of Christ as they did.

'We will be true to Thee 'till death.
We will be true to Thee 'till death.'