



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 Holy Spirit, Rachel Holdsworth, Minerva Rd Manifold Hts, St Patrick's, Luke, Sheehan, Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone: 5278 4634 Phone 5229 8298 Phone 5229 4412

As a Community We Pray For:

RECENT DEATHS: Esther Wong

ANNIVERSARIES: Jakov Juraga; Franjo Bacvar; Almor Mairos; Jose Medeiros; Madalena Ferras & family; Jozef Kot; Francis Murphy; Joe Cappy (Capicchiano); Margaret Roberts (Carra); Manuel Silvestre; Maria De Jesus; Ercole Iezzi; Colleen Carroll; Reg Doherty; Antonio Romeo

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Stephen Dean; Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Gayla Sullivan; Gail Pollock; Brian Rainbow

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.

25 OCTOBER 2026 - (Year A) THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I love you, Lord, my strength

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Exodus 22:20-26
2nd: 1 Thess 1: 5-1
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Rev 7:2-4, 9-14
2nd: 1 John 3: 1-3
Gospel: Matthew 11: 28



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

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S — 5.00PM

Commentators: P McGlinchey
Lectors: P Balkin
Special Ministers: P Webb
Welcomers:
Projectionist: M Carson
Co-Ordinator: M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT — 11AM

C Nielson
M Kroger
M Kroger
L Fossey
A Zarb

HOLY FAMILY — 9.00AM

Commentators: J Siketa
Lectors: M Bird, S Costa
Special Ministers: E Karakchi; B Kline; S Fernando
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.

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.



EUCCHARIST28 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.



ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASSES:

On the weekend of **October 31 & November 1** at all Masses, the focus will be "*Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones*". As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "in Loving Memory of"... The notelets are now available at all churches. Please complete and bring with you to the Bereavement Mass.

MASS FOR ALL SOULS' DAY-MONDAY NOVEMBER 2

There will be an extra daily Mass beginning at 9.15am, Holy Family Church, Bell Park, to commemorate this very important Feast Day.

St Michael's News:

- **PARISH WEBSITE UPDATE:** To access our newly updated parish website please go to: <https://melbcatholic.org/bellpark>
- **PARISH SYNODAL CONSULTATION SESSION:** We invite parishioners to participate in these important discussions, and we require at least **20 people** to be involved in the consultation with 2-3 facilitators to run the groups. John Lam from the Archdiocese will lead the session. **Venue:** Parish Community Centre, on **Friday October 30**, 5.30-7pm. For registrations, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 or via the signup boards at all Masses.
- **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.
- **ROSARY AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES:** During the month of October, the Rosary will be recited 20 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass in honour of 'Our Lady of Rosary'.
- **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.
- **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** BYO craft or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tues**, on the following dates, **27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 945**.

Community News:

- **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 on 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** Saturday 31 October 2026 12pm-4pm: (optional Mass at 11.30am) Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.
- **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG GROUP:** Christian community for people with a disability, family and friends. All welcome to our next Meeting. Scripture Prayer, Music, Sharing, Fun. **CREATION THEME: The wonder of creation: land.** **Venue:** St Mary's Hibernian, 150 Yarra Street, Geelong. Tuesday October 27: Gather at 1.30pm-4.30pm. Shared afternoon tea, at 3.30pm. RSVP/Enquiries by 26 Oct. to Tricia O'Keeffe Co-ordinator 0414 672 267.



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!

Oct 31&Nov 1	Annual Bereavement Masses
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

Nguyen Van Mah is one of eight sons. In 1978 his poor farming parents had to decide which one of their twelve children would be sent on a boat from Vietnam. They knew there was a great risk that they would be sending their son to his death on the South China Sea.

At 4.00 am, a knock on the door of the family home came and Mah said his goodbyes. He has not seen his parents since. Mah was blindfolded and travelled in the back of a truck for eight hours. He was led through the jungle to a beach where the blindfold was removed. Mah told me that sometimes at this moment people are shot by evil traders who collect the money without any intention of dispatching a boat. That families never hear from their children is no surprise.

Mah told me, 'We were lucky, we made it off the beach.' There were 29 adults in a boat built for ten. Inadequately prepared for the two-week trip, all the boat people were sick, hungry and exposed. Thai pirates attacked their boat, executed three men and raped all the women on board. They were to bury another six people at sea who died from the effects of the journey.

On sighting land, the remaining twenty people in Mah's boat thought hope had arrived. But the Malaysian Navy, under orders to fire on all Vietnamese boats, forced it to return to international waters. Mah told me, 'At this point I almost lost my faith in God and human beings. I was going to die.'

The boat began to take water and was noticed by a Dutch trading ship which rescued them and deposited them in the Philippines. Mah migrated to Australia twelve months later and is now the local doctor in an outback community that could not get a doctor for two years.

Isaiah tells us today 'You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.' Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the love of God is fulfilled precisely in as much as we love our neighbour.

No pressing issue in the Western World, it seems to me, invites such hysteria as does immigration. Until recently, most western countries have been good in offering hospitality to people who have chosen to leave or have had to flee their country of birth. Given our comparative wealth this hospitality is entirely appropriate. And it is also appropriate for our countries to have a threshold number for the sake of the common good.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus does not promise us that the love of God and neighbour is going to cost us nothing. Jesus' law of love involves sacrifice for us individually and as a nation. Through the acceptance of this teaching we are committing ourselves to being our neighbour's keeper. In another part of the same Gospel, Jesus tells us that 'those to whom much has been given, much will be required.' Sadly, many of us want the good life for ourselves, while doing very little to help other countries become more liveable, and then we can reject people who want to share in the blessings we have worked for and inherited.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus being forced to flee Israel for Egypt as refugees. If the Holy Family were coming our way these days, they might be sent back to King Herod. May this Eucharist see in us a change of heart that enables our faith to act justly toward all people everywhere. May our goodness and hospitality mirror on earth the welcome we hope to enjoy from Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the kingdom which is promised to all, irrespective of where any of us has been born.