



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:

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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:

Steven Mack; Emilia Bindokas; Lucy Grima; Emilija Sutalo

ANNIVERSARIES:

Damiano Fazio; Ilario Preiato; Ana Cengija; Peter Javni (Jnr); Anka Javni; Silvestra, Gilacio & Cristito Ramirez; Jun Pira; Merlyn Aquino; Antolin Tambuli; Carmelo De Luca; Francesco Altieri; Walter Augustyn; Marta Mrhar (1st Anniversary); Caitlin Ross (1st Anniversary); Giuseppe Santoro (25th Anniversary).

BAPTISMS:

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Denise Pollard; Fr Prakash Cutinha; Stephen Dean; Jacinta Fernando (Sri Lanka); Davor Sikic; Gary Murphy; Ignacia Garcia; Saskia Saunders; Agnes Vanjek; Aldo Siketa

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.

30 AUG 2026 - (Year A)

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Jeremiah 20:7-9

2nd: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1st: Ezekiel 33:7-9

2nd: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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.

Social Justice Sunday — August 30 to September 6, 2026

Social Justice Sunday Catholic Bishops statement

In a tradition reaching back to 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops release major social justice statements each year in time for Social Justice Sunday. Through this tradition they contribute to the development of local Catholic Social Teaching. The statements encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. They remind us of the social dimension of the mission of the Church.

"Let us remember that love lives through sacrifice and is nourished by giving... without sacrifice there is no love."

These words were spoken by Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest imprisoned and executed in Auschwitz during the Second World War, who stepped forward to take the place of another prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek, a husband and father who had been condemned to die. In that dark place and in that moment, St Maximilian didn't respond out of fear or self-preservation. In offering his own life so that another man might live, Kolbe demonstrated the power of a radical Christ-like, sacrificial love. His example reminds us that the deepest foundation of a healthy and humane society is found in the way that we treat one another; not as threats or competitors or burdens, but as neighbours who possess an inherent God given dignity and goodness. (taken from the 2026 Social Justice Statement).

There is a limited supply of the 2026 Social Justice statement in all churches this weekend for parishioners to take a copy. You can also view the statement online by visiting: Social Justice Sunday Catholic Bishops statement.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(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, next to Holy Family Church.



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!

Today August 30—Face painting/balloon animal making
September 27—Live music

Liturgy at St Michael's:

- ♦ **RCIA PROGRAM 2026:** St Michael's Parish RCIA program led by Susanga Costa is for candidates who wish to join the Catholic Faith. The lessons will run fortnightly on Sunday evenings from 6pm-7.30pm at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. There will be 11 sessions beginning on September 6 (with a break during January school holidays) until February 2027. Candidates will then be Received into the Catholic Faith in March 2027. For more information or to book your place, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343 or by email to bellpark@cam.org.au by September 1.

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 is on Sunday September 6 - Father's Day. All most welcome!
- ♦ **CUPPA-CRAFT FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** BYO craft, or just come along for a cuppa and chat. **2-4pm Tues**, on the following dates, **8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov**. Contact **Debbie** on **0409 416 945**.
- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for lunch on **Monday 7 September** at the **Shell Club**, Purnell Road, Corio at 12.30pm.
- ♦ **HOLY SPIRIT PRIMARY SCHOOL - 'LEGACY PAVER PROJECT':** Our parish primary school is excited to be running a 'Legacy Paver Project' - a unique opportunity for parishioners, families, past students, staff and members of the wider community to purchase your own piece of Holy Spirit history. Each personalised paver will become a permanent part of the new entrance area at the front of the school, creating a welcoming and meaningful space that celebrates the people, families and connections that have shaped Holy Spirit over the years. For \$50 you can personalise a paver with your chosen wording and create a lasting connection to Holy Spirit Parish School for generations to come. Thank you for helping us celebrate and preserve the legacy of our wonderful community.
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1619842>.
- ♦ **MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON: Tuesday 3 Nov - Holy Spirit Church Hall, Manifold Heights.** So come along and bring a friend and enjoy the day. If you are interested in attending or helping on the day please call the Parish Office on 5278 1343.

Community News:

- ♦ **MUSIC IN THE BASILICA: Sunday Sept 13, 3pm Sacred Heart Chapel, Newtown. THE ART OF PERSUASION music from the age of Eloquence.** Greg Dikmans, baroque flute; Samatha Cohen, Theorbo. In the 18th century music was often compared to eloquent speech. A great performer was expected not merely to play the notes, but to persuade the listener—to stir the emotions, awaken the imagination and move the heart. Tickets \$35/\$30 from www.trybooking.com/DLCYM or at the door. Children and school students free.
- ♦ **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. Fridays 10am-2.30pm.**
- ♦ **SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PARENT & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION:** Are a vibrant part of our College Community and are currently hosting a '\$1000 Fuel Card Raffle'. The Raffle is drawn on **September the 13th** with all money raised going towards student resources at the College. To purchase tickets, please go to <https://events.humanitix.com/2026-pfa-usd1000-fuel-card-affle/tickets>.
- ♦ **ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE:** The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting: **Tuesday, 22 September 2026. Time: 19:00 – 20:00. Location: via ZOOM. Attendance will be by invitation.** Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison, Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

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.**



Walking together on the synodal path

A series of regional consultations has begun across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli inviting the faithful into a process of 'spiritual conversations'.

The gatherings are part of a journey that includes broader consultation involving parishes, schools, agencies and religious communities, and will culminate in the Archdiocesan synod this December.

Archbishop Comensoli described the practice of spiritual conversation being undertaken by participants from Melbourne's northern and western parishes as something 'begun and sustained through prayer'.

Everyone will be invited to speak honestly from their own experience, he said, but mostly they will be listening attentively and respectfully to one another. 'Only then do we ask a deeper question ... What is the Holy Spirit revealing among us?'

'This is the way of Jesus. He listened. He spoke. He accompanied. He revealed, and then he sent.'

It's my hope that the voice of the whole People of God may be heard on this journey towards the synod in December.

The [Melbourne Synod](#), formally convoked by Archbishop Comensoli in March 2026, represents a significant moment for the local Church. Its purpose is to help shape the Archdiocese's evangelical and missionary priorities for the years ahead and to discern how to proclaim the Gospel more faithfully in our time and place.

'And it's my hope that the voice of the whole People of God may be heard on this journey towards the synod in December this year,' Archbishop Comensoli said at the gathering in the western metropolitan region.

'Through baptism, each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and each of us has something to contribute to the mission of the Church. While our vocations all differ, our dignity in Christ is shared.'

Our hope is not resting on ourselves. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ.

This calls for a synodal way of being, he said, 'a way of walking together with Christ and in Christ and allowing him to reveal where he is leading us as his Church.'

Acknowledging the challenges facing the Church, Archbishop Comensoli offered a message of hope. 'We carry the wounds of the past and face the challenges of the present. Many communities experience pressures that can seem overwhelming. Yet our hope is not resting on ourselves. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ.'

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

At the morning parade in Dachau on 22nd July 1943, six prisoners were found to have escaped. Retribution was swift and brutal. Randomly selected, 12 people were hanged. As the other prisoners watched their 12 fellow inmates gasp for breath, someone in the crowd cried out, 'Where is God?' Silence descended on the yard. The 12 bodies were now in spasm, jerking and struggling for breath. As everyone watched, the voice came again, this time more urgently, 'Where is God now?' 'My God', another voice yelled back, 'My God is hanging there'.

This sort of faith is what today's Gospel is all about. Christianity is the only world religion that holds that God took our flesh, suffered, died and was raised to life.

It is certainly true that we have domesticated the scandal of the cross, even to the point that, these days, it dangles from various parts of people's anatomies. I often wonder, had Jesus been electrocuted to death, whether we would have little golden chairs around our necks? But while we have tried to tame the reality of Jesus' tortured hours in Jerusalem, the reality of the cross in each of our lives cannot be so commercially soothed.

Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. We are not meant to be lovers of pain – just bearers of it.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world. This is easier said than done. When we suffer in our daily lives, thoughts of others rarely come to mind easily, but it can be consoling to keep our suffering in context and know that we are not facing it alone.

We are encouraged to see that suffering can be an opportunity to grow in love. If we understand our crosses as our particular schools of love, then we learn more about ourselves and God and are able to help others carry their crosses as well.

Carrying our cross, however, is not just about bearing physical, personal, sexual, spiritual or emotional pain; it can also be in the sharing of our gifts and talents, our love and compassion. In every gift there is a burden. Following Christ's example, we are called to share our gifts heroically with anyone in need, even to the end.

Some people complain these days that God is often presented as a big marshmallow, all sweet and soft. Today's Gospel shows the 'edge' involved in being a follower of Christ. I don't know of a more demanding vocation in our world than that of taking up the cross of being faithful, loving and selfless.

And while we are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we never do it alone. If we have the eyes to see it and the humility to accept it, Christ, literally, hangs in there with us every step of the way.

So let's recall the first cross from which we take comfort as we bear our own crosses. 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'