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: Julie Connolley; Zlata Seljak; Stoja Paleka

ANNIVERSARIES: Rolando Pacheco; Judith Hayes; Josip Dubrovic; Pat Carroll; Breda Gajic; Vincenzo, Elizabetta & Giuseppe Pitaro; Francesco, Caterina & Bruno Iannuzzi; Francesco & Serafina Lecchino; John Cummings; Aurora Santoro; Fr Mick Fitzpatrick (10th Year Anniversary)

BAPTISMS: Malakai Leech; Marlowe Spiteri; Thea & Cora Cicak

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

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.

28 June 2026 - (Year A)
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.
Alleluia!

***TODAY'S* READINGS**
1st: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16
2nd: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:
1st: Zechariah 9:9-10
2nd: Romans: 8:9, 11-13
Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

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.

Reflection by Greg Sunter: Feast of Saints Peter and Paul - June 29

Throughout most of its history, the Church has linked the two major figures of Peter and Paul, so it is fitting that they share this feast day. However, also throughout most of the Church's history, Peter has been given greater regard and has held a more significant place in the tradition. In fact, the Church itself is often described as 'Petrine' – in the tradition of Peter. Much is made of the line of Popes being traced back to Peter. The authority and structure of the Church is linked to the Petrine model of Church. Describing Peter as the 'rock' upon which the Church was built is an excellent image of stability and constancy.

In something of a contrast, the apostle Paul is best known as the great traveller who spread the message of Jesus all around the shores of the Mediterranean, establishing communities of faith wherever he went. His letters – or epistles - to these communities were some of the first Christian writings; predating by 20 years or more the four gospels of the New Testament. Rather than stability and constancy, Paul is identified with growth and change; expansion and openness. Many would argue that without Paul the early Christian communities may not have survived beyond the end of the 1st Century.

Peter and Paul represent two great traditions within the Church: the strength of tradition and oneness associated with Peter; and the valuing of new ideas and outreach to others that typified the work of Paul. Although the Petrine tradition has been dominant for most of the Church's history, the Pauline tradition was rediscovered in the latter part of the 20th Century and it is now clearly evident that the church needs both of these arms to embrace the world.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(1st Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S - 5.00PM		HOLY SPIRIT - 11AM
Commentators	P McGlinchey	C Nielson
Lectors	P Balkin	M Kroger
Special Ministers	P Webb	M Kroger
Welcomers		L Fossey
Projectionist	D Fernando (covering)	A Zarb
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656	

HOLY FAMILY	9.00AM
Commentators	J Siketa
Lectors	M Bird, S Costa
Special Ministers	*****; B Kline; S Fernando
Welcomers	K McArthur
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	K Tantanouvong

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

HOLY FAMILY, BELL PARK:
English…9.00am Sunday
Croatian 11.30am Sunday

HOLY SPIRIT, MANIFOLD HTS:
11am Sunday

SS PETER & PAUL'S, GEELONG WEST:
Saturday 5.00pm

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.

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!

June 28—Bake sale this Sunday! July 26—Raffle
August 30—Face painting/balloon animal making
September 27—Live music

St Michael's News:

- **FUNERAL DETAILS - PHILOMENA CARVALHO:** Friday July 3 at St Mary's Church Geelong. Rosary to be recited at 11am followed by Mass at 11.30am. All most welcome!
- **PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION:** At the conclusion of our Masses this weekend, there will be a leaving collection to be taken up for 'Peter's Pence'.
- **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for lunch on Monday 6th July, 12.30pm at the Shell Club, 76 Purnell Road, Corio. All Welcome!
- **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 July 5. 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, **14 July, 28 July, 11 Aug, 25 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept, 13 Ocvt, 17 Oct, 27 Oct, 10 Nov & 24 Nov.** Contact **Debbie on 0409 416 946.**

Community News:

- **BELIEVE—CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S RETREAT:** Run by Missionaries of God's Love. Retreat for children Grade 3 to Year 7 during the school holidays on Friday July 3 from 10am - 12.30pm at Holy Spirit Church Hall, Manifold Heights. Morning Tea will be provided. This is a free event. Bookings are essential. https://www.trybooking.com/DNJHL. Event Organisers: Risha or Gudrun 0406 230 580.
- **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**
- **menALIVE reunion:** Sunday July 5 at St Mary Mackillop Church Bannockburn. For information and to register for the event, please use the link or the code: https://forms.gle/CaguM9YTFtE24pyK8
- **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG GROUP:** A welcoming Christian community for those with a disability and friends. Next Gathering, Tuesday 30 June from 1.30pm-4.30pm at St Mary's Hibernian Hall. RSVP essential: Tricia 0414 672 267.
- **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI 'SHOWCASE':** Calling all performers! To celebrate the **Franciscan Jubilee Year,** COG Theatre is hosting a musical showcase highlighting the life of St Francis of Assisi. **Expressions of interest welcome!** If you are a performer, technician, administrant or are just eager to get involved, please contact cogtheatregroup@gmail.com OR by phone 0413 398 528.

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.***

CDF

Save for a Greater Reward

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates,
it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund
or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ:

For all the great things the Church of yesteryear achieved, it also did some terrible things. One of the worst demands it made was that a Catholic who married a person who was not a Catholic did so at a side altar, oratory or in the sacristy of the Church. How humiliating this directive was. For how long were we going to punish the Protestant Reformers and young Catholic woman or man who fell in love with someone from these denominations? In these ecumenical days, it's hard for us to understand these actions.

Today, especially at weddings, I hear older Catholics talk about this experience more than anything else. It's often given as the reason why the person or their family stopped practising their Catholic faith. Recently an older wedding guest told me that her wedding day at the side altar was the last day she came to the Church of her own free will. She never had her children baptised and her painful experience was still palpable forty years on as she compared and contrasted her wedding day with the Catholic marriage ceremony of a couple in a similar religious circumstance to her own which we had just celebrated. All I can do in such circumstances is apologise for the hurt our shortsightedness caused and be full of admiration for those who were subjected to similar treatment but have remained constant to our Catholic community.

These days inter-denominational marriages are rarely the reasons over which a family will divide. But we know that other religious issues can still break up a family. It's always a tragedy when this happens. For example, maybe you've had a son, daughter or a grandchild join a religious sect or cult. It's heartbreaking stuff for parents who wonder what their child sees in the sect and where it will all end.

The Church has sometimes let families down in this regard. Appearing to prefer dogma to the complexities of people's lives, formal liturgy to creating communities of hospitality, care and justice, the church can appear to be out of touch, especially with our young. I know that every person in authority in the Church today knows that the Catholic Church needs to listen to our young people, hear about the issues that concern them and present our faith in a way they find accessible and engaging. Very often it's not what we say about our rich faith, it's how we say it. Many people don't leave the mainstream churches because they are attracted by another group's doctrine, though some do want the world to be very black and white. Many leave for smaller groups offering a tightly knit community.

From today's Gospel we know that the same family heartbreak occurred in the early church. At this time, however, Christianity was the small sect drawing believers away from Judaism, to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah. It ripped families apart. The early church became the new family of many followers who were disowned. They lost their life and found a new one in Christ.

There can be moments when a family's lifestyle, beliefs, behaviour or values are such that one member feels that, in conscience, or by conviction, he or she does not belong anymore.

When this happens we can listen carefully to reasons the family member gives. Maybe we have lost something essential in our life together that needs challenging and change. And maybe it's the family member who is in the wrong.

Keeping the lines of communication open, speaking the truth with calmness and love and remaining as compassionate as possible are the best Christian responses.

I can't pretend that any of this is easy, but, when I have seen families do it, the prophetic, truthful and charitable rewards Jesus offers in today's Gospel are powerfully in evidence.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The gospel for today can be a difficult one to hear. It calls us to place our discipleship before our loyalty to family and even before our own life. It is important to place this passage in the broader context of not only the chapter in which it sits, but also within the gospel as a whole.

Today's passage appears at the conclusion of Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Matthew. The entire chapter deals with the commissioning and sending out of the disciples to 'proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons.' (Mt 10:8) The previous chapter concludes with the words, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Mt 9:37-38) Chapter 10 is a response to this call. Jesus sends the disciples to 'work the harvest' through proclamation, healing and exorcism.

At the end of the chapter, having spelt out all the difficulties a disciple must face, Jesus assures them that even the smallest act of welcoming the disciple will be rewarded.

It's also important to understand that the Jewish audience of the Gospel of Matthew found themselves under increasing persecution and there was often division within families between those holding to orthodox Jewish beliefs and those following the new Christian way. For some early Christians, there was the very real choice to be made between following their faith and remaining loyal to family. The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly affirms Jesus as the promised Jewish messiah; as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. For early followers of the Christian way, this difficult message about being a follower was in the context of an affirmation that the message of Jesus was deeply grounded in their Jewish faith.

From the perspective of …

What must it have been like to be one of those disciples of Jesus? Having followed their Rabbi, or teacher, for some time, he sends them out to 'have a go' at doing what he has been doing: preaching; proclaiming the good news; healing; curing lepers and casting out demons. The focus of a disciple is to be like their Rabbi. This is their first real test of being a disciple … seeking to go out into the world without Jesus and do the things that they've seen their Rabbi do; to be like their Rabbi!

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