



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-3.30pm

Email: bellpark@cam.org.au

Web Page Address:

www.stmichaelsbellpark.org.au
[www.facebook.com/michaelparish .st](https://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st)

PARISH SECRETARY:

Bernadette Bilogrevic Email: bellpark@cam.org.au Phone 5278 1343

PASTORALWORKER:

Sr Anne Lourey Email: anne.lourey@mercy.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:

Gelsomina Bocchetti; Ulissa Guardiano; Ruth Da Costa; Marta Colaso; Lidia Fernandes; Geraldine O'Shea; Fr Kevin Bates SM



ANNIVERSARIES:

Antonio Cicero; Antonio Bagnato; Giovanni Ambrosio; Alison Da Costa; Franjo Ribaric; Mary Smith; 10 year anniversary of Frank Kennedy

BAPTISMS:

Caleb Gittins; Tyler Fidge; Alaia Noble; Ollie Sodomaco; Nell Tehan

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Hugo Riedl; Daryl Squires; Harry Howard



St Michael's Parish is committed to upholding the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. Through our behaviour we show we are followers of Jesus who cares for all children, the vulnerable.... If you have any questions or concerns, the parish safeguarding committee of Louise Kearney; Bernadette Bilogrevic; Marg Gifford or Joan Mann can be contacted on 5278 1343.

A REMINDER: Children must be accompanied to the toilet area by a parent or guardian at all times!

We acknowledge the living culture of the Wathaurong People, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in this region.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Year B—4 February 2024)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS

1st: Job 7:1-4 6-7
2nd: 1 Cor 9:16-19 22-23
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46
2nd: 1 Cor 10:31—11:1
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

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.



Ashes to Easter Lenten Concert-Reflection

**St Michael's Parish invites you to an evening of
Lenten Concert-Reflection
with Peter Kearney.**

**Tuesday 27th February, 7.00pm at Holy Family Church, Bell Park.
Free admission.**

Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic songwriter, singer and guitarist whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House', 'The Beatitudes' and 'Where is Your Song, my Lord?' His 'Ashes to Easter' concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter. Mainly for adults though upper-primary and older students could also enjoy.

"A beautiful Lenten reflection...prayerful and spiritual...a worthwhile part of our Lenten journey"
To book your place, please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email to: bellpark@cam.org.au.

St Michael's Parish at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English...9.00am Sunday
Croatian 5.00pm 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**, 9.15am **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...	<i>Meditation Group</i>	5.30pm	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
	<i>Legion of Mary</i>	10.00am	<i>Parish Community Centre</i>
Friday	<i>Divine Mercy</i>	3.00pm	<i>Holy Spirit Church</i>

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. We meet in the St Michael's Parish Meeting room, next to Holy Family Church and we would love you to visit our meeting and see what we do. All are most welcome.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S—5.00PM

Commentators	M Carson
Lectors	R Perera
Special Ministers	P McGlinchey
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Middleton
Co-Ordinator	M Gifford, 5229 1656

HOLY SPIRIT—11AM

L Strzelecki
M Martin
L Fossey
L Fossey
R Martin

HOLY FAMILY

9.00AM

Commentator	K Saunders
Lectors	D Lunn, A Negro
Special Ministers	J Genova, C Marcantonio; H Verdnik
Welcomers	C Marcantonio
Projectionist	C Resciniti
Co-Ordinator	J Mann 0488 784 802

Liturgy at St Michael's:

◆ ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES—FEBRUARY 14

9.15am.... Holy Spirit Church (Whole school in attendance)

2.15pm.... Holy Family Church (Whole school in attendance)

7.00pm.... Holy Family Church



- ◆ **St Michael's Lenten Program** - An invitation goes out to those who would like to be involved in small group conversations on the Readings for Lent. **When: Thursday evenings during Lent at 7pm starting on 15 February** in the sun room at the Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. To be part of this, please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au.

- ◆ **PARISH LITURGY MEETING:** Thursday February 8, 4.00pm at the Parish Community Centre

- ◆ **SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** This program is for children Gr3 or above who attend non-Catholic primary schools but are Catholic. The course will run over 4 Sunday morning sessions, from 8.45am—10am. Enrolments close on Mon 12 February. To enrol or enquire about the program, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.

- ◆ **PROJECT COMPASSION 2024:** This year, Project Compassion showcases how we work with our local partners around the world to walk alongside communities as they strive to be the architects of their own development.

Your generosity is helping some of the world's most vulnerable people create a future full of hope for their families, communities and for all future generations. Project Compassion boxes will be available in the churches from next weekend.

St Michael's News:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Lunch this Monday 5 February 12.30pm at The Sphinx Hotel, Thompson Rd, North Geelong. See you all there!
- ◆ **CWL:** The first meeting of the Manifold branch of the CWL for 2024 will be held on Wednesday the 7th of February, 1.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave, Manifold Heights. All St Michael's parish ladies are most welcome. For transport please contact Tricia 0431 512 354 or Bernadette 0417 514 598.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT HOLY SPIRIT HALL:** The next catch up is this Sunday February 4 after the 11am Mass. All most welcome.
- ◆ **CUPPA & CHAT AT PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE:** after the 9am Mass every Sunday. All most welcome.
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE CHANGE OF HOURS ON FRIDAYS:** Just a reminder, the Parish office now closes at 3.30pm on Fridays.
- ◆ **ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOLS 2025 Enrolment Information—**St Patrick's School, West Geelong Ph: 5229 4412; Holy Spirit School, Manifold Heights Ph: 5229 8298; Holy Family School, Bell Park Ph: 5278 4634, from Feb 6—March 5, 2024. All new students welcomed. See each schools website for tour details and information.

Community News:

- ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends at our February dinner on Tuesday 13 February, 6.00pm at The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Rd, Belmont. Cost: Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. If you wish to attend the dinner, *please phone or text Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by Friday 9 February.*
- ◆ **FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG:** Christian community for people with a disability, families and friends. You are warmly invited to our next Gathering on Saturday 10 February, 1.30-4.30pm at St Mary's Parish Office, 1st floor, 150 Yarra St. Lift. Open at 1pm. Theme: Epiphany & New Year Reflection. Faith and Light International 53rd Anniversary. Gospel, Prayer time, Music. Share Fiesta Afternoon tea. "Persons with disabilities come to the meeting as people who are waiting for that special moment of gathering, fellowship, prayer and sharing." Fr. Louis. Please **RSVP by Friday 9 February**. For more information visit the website www.faithandlight.org or contact the joint co-ordinators Tricia O'Keefe 0414 672 267, Kevin Mark, kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au.
- ◆ **TAIZE PRAYER:** Santa Casa, Queenscliff. All welcome. **Save these dates for 2024: Saturday 17 February; 23 March; 19 May; 31 August; 5 October; 14 December.** 2.30pm-3.30pm followed by afternoon tea. For catering and seating purposes please **RSVP Sr Lizzie 0418 194 261 or via santacasa@ismapng.org.au**.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY:** Regional Council is seeking a skilled IT person to help record the important information pertaining to the various good works that we are engaged in. There is a template that is being designed to ensure that information is correctly inputted. For further information please call Martin P. Butler GRC President M 0418 572 967, mpbutler@bigpond.com.
- ◆ **NAZARETH PARISH—GROVEDALE, TORQUAY, ANGLESEA:** Are currently looking to employ a Liturgical & Sacramental Co-ordinator at Nazareth Parish encompassing Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea. However the role can be separated. The position is approximately 10 hours per week and is located at St Therese Catholic Church, Torquay. For further information, including a Position Description, email the Parish office, grovedale@cam.org.au. Applications are to be sent to Fr Linh Tran at grovedale@cam.org.au and should include a cover letter together with a current resume. Closing date for applications is February 26 2024.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

In the time of Jesus almost everything they couldn't understand was put down to a demon or an evil spirit. In the Talmud, (a large book dating from around the time of Jesus that contains the collected teachings of the Rabbis), several pages are devoted to the healing of 'fevers'. Even though we have become more advanced in our medical knowledge, it's surprising how this thinking still persists. While most people don't blame evil for their ailments, they can think God has a direct hand in sending an illness or an injury. Such faulty theology cannot be reconciled with the New Testament.

There is not a single instance where Jesus inflicts pain and suffering on others. He regularly tells us we have to carry our cross and bear our burdens, but this is vastly different from personally laying a cross on our shoulders or giving us the burdens in the first place. By contrast, every time that Jesus encounters suffering and pain he works to heal it and restore the person to new life.

The differences between the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and the other healing stories in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel are striking. Rather than in a public space and in front of crowds this personal healing occurs in the privacy of Peter's house. By contrast to the command for the demons to be gone, in his bedside ministry Jesus never mentions a demon and uses no words. Instead he gently takes her by the hand and helps her to her feet. Unlike the others Jesus heals, of whom we never hear about their response, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law leads her to an act of service. Given all the details Mark gives us of this encounter it's a pity he never tells us her name.

Sometimes we can think of Jesus' miracles, then and now, as acts of dazzling power. The problem with this idea is that if we see Jesus as going around 'zapping' people it's hard to figure out why there were times when he could not perform any miracles at all, or that they happened in stages. Whatever else miracles are, they are deeply personal encounters of faith.

As Catholics we believe in the power of miracles and that the source of them is always the grace of God. But we do not have to see them as something done to us from without. Rather, we can see them as unlocking something from within. For some people Jesus' word or touch set free the healing power God had placed in them. For others it came through another person's intercession. The same holds true for us today.

Furthermore, being anointed, celebrating Reconciliation or Eucharist, going to a place of pilgrimage, fasting, being prayed over or meditating can have a similar effect. Looked at in this way we can see why some people are healed and others are not. If a personal encounter with Jesus did not always lead to healing, then why should it surprise us that some other encounters these days do not always unlock God's healing within us.

Small and large-scale miracles are happening every day. Today's Gospel reminds us that they do not happen for show or for the sake of the crowd. They are realisations of faith. Taking Peter's mother-in-law as our model we are healed and strengthened so that we can witness to God's saving power, serve the Kingdom of God in any way we can, and continue to wait on the Lord.

© Richard Leonard SJ

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we see three snapshots from the photo album of life.

Suffering comes to everyone. It can take such a hold of us that the happiness of the past is swallowed up, the beauty of better days is forgotten, and the hope of a brighter future is imperilled. Life ceases to be an adventure and takes on the guise of drudgery. At such times suffering appears to be our permanent fate, and life seems too short for suffering to run its course. If we become identified with our distress, we will be tormented.

Jesus knew the harshness of life, because he was one of us. He saw it in the lives of those he loved, and he was touched by their torment. He came to release people from the demons that possess them, from the illness that undermined their lives. He came to bring the reign of God, the reign of peace and fulfilment. He came to heal the brokenhearted, to bind up their wounds.

Paul was a messenger of this gospel of salvation and fulfilment. He was so committed to his mission that he empathised with all those who heard his preaching – the slaves, the weak, the brokenhearted, all those who knew well the harshness of life. Now it is our turn. We are the disciples who must bring the good news to the brokenhearted, to those who are enslaved, to those who are weak. We are the ones who will then share in the blessings of this good news.

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At the heart of who we are is not all the buildings but the person of Jesus Christ,
who enters into our lives and who we then share with others.

ARCHBISHOP PETER A. COMENSOLI