

**** PLEASE TAKE YOUR COPY OF THE GOOD NEWS HOME ****

St Michael's Parish Good News



PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE: 121-123 High Street, Berwick 3806 Ph: 9707 1355

WEB: www.stmichaelsparish.org.au **FACEBOOK:** fb.me/StMichaelsBerwick

PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE CLOSED UNTIL 13 JANUARY 2025



St Michael's Catholic Parish acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Bunurong People. We pay respect to all elders, past, present, and future, and we are committed to achieving Reconciliation.

Welcome to St Michael's Parish, where we foster the wellbeing and safety of all children and adults at risk. Since we take the safety of our young and vulnerable parishioners seriously, we have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to abuse. All our parishioners have the right to feel safe and welcome at St Michael's Parish. Any concerns, please contact the Safeguarding Officer on 9707 1355 or secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR C 21/22 DEC 2024

MASSES

SUNDAY

Saturday vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am,
10.30am, 6.00pm,

WEEKDAYS

Thu-Sat: 9.30am

All preceded by Divine Mercy and Rosary

RECONCILIATION

Sat: 10.00am - 10.30am

5.15pm - 5.30pm

EXPOSITION (Blessed Sacrament)

Wednesday: 10.00am - 11.00am

Cenacle Prayer (**Subject to change**)

Cancelled

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Paul Zaher

paul.zaher@cdsale.org.au

PRESBYTERY

119 High Street, Berwick

Phone: 9769 7430

SECRETARY

Dorota Shields (Safeguarding Officer)

Geraldine Martin

secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Peggy Harvey

Phone: 9707 4072

associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au

SACRAMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Tara Bau

sacraments@stmichaelsparish.org.au

PARISH INFORMATION

BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Centre

MARRIAGES

At least six months' notice requested.

FACEBOOK: St Michael's page, website

or www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBerwick/

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

[www.sale.catholic.org.au/professional-](http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/professional-standards)

[standards](http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/professional-standards)

KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 55 1800 or

kidshelpline.com.au

(Concerned adults can call for advice)



PARISH PRAYER

St Michael the Archangel,
patron of our parish, be with us as we strive
to be faithful to our Baptismal call,
to love God and our neighbours.
Spread your protective wings over us
and our entire parish.
Protect us from fear, lies and everything
that prevents us from experiencing
God's love for us in all its fullness.
Help us to always choose what is
good, right, and true and nurture within us
the courage, love, and respect
we need to face our fears
and to protect all of God's creation. Amen.

ADVENT

The fourth week of Advent symbolizes **LOVE**. It has perhaps the most sentimental meaning of all the advent candles, a meaning that is often seen as just a cliché. However, that candle's meaning is unexpectedly powerful.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December
(No 9.30am Mass on Tuesday)

6.00pm Stadium ***Children are encouraged to dress up as angels and shepherds.**

7.30pm Church

9.00pm Church

Midnight Church

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December

9.00am Church

10.30am Church

Help required for Stadium set up on Monday 23 at 3.00pm.

SIMBANG GABI – 9 DAY NOVENA MASSES

Monday December 23

7.30pm

Tuesday December 24

6.00pm Stadium



Fr Paul and the Parish staff would like to wish all our Parishioners a Safe and Peaceful Christmas.



MEETINGS

MONTHLY CUPPA

2nd Sunday after 9.00am Mass

RCIA Thursday 7.30pm

FILIPINO MASS

3rd Sunday at 3.00pm – Jan 19

INDONESIAN MASS

1st Saturday at 5.00pm PSC – Jan 4

LEGION OF MARY

Tuesday 10.15am - 1.00pm PSC

Prayer Box in foyer for intentions

MENS LEGION

Wednesday 7.00pm PSC

JUNIOR LEGION: No meetings currently

PRAYER GROUP: Monday 2.30pm

Zoom 829 9519 6798

ROSARY FOR PEACE

Monday 1.45pm Church

SVDP CONFERENCE

2nd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm PSC

CBS BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Resumes 2025

TIMELINE BIBLE STUDY

Friday at PSC Resumes 2025

RISEN LORD COMMUNITY

Friday 7.15pm

PARISH SCHOOLS

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY

16 Scanlan Street, Berwick

Phone: 8794 2400

ST CATHERINE'S PRIMARY

73 Ridgemont Drive, Berwick

Phone: 9702 1466

ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY

25 Bayview Road, Officer

Phone: 5943 2447

ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE

Phone: 9707 3111

SERVICES AVAILABLE

SHALOM WORLD: Catholic channel.

SWTV via

<https://www.stmichaelsparish.org.au>

CATHOLIC CARE: 1800 522 076

SVDP SOUP VAN THUR/SUN:

Narre Warren IGA - 6.30pm / 6.45pm

Hampton Park Shops - 7.30pm / 8.00pm

MOBILE PANTRY VAN: 1st & 3rd Tue

Narre Warren IGA - 11.30am-11.45am

Hampton Park Shops - 12.00pm-12.30pm

Cranb Lyall St Bus Stop - 12.45pm - 1pm

Vinnies Welfare Assistance

Mon-Fri - 1800 305 330

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP

ORANGE DOOR: 1800 319 354

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

SAFE STEPS: 1800 015 188

NO TO VIOLENCE - MEN'S

REFERRAL SERVICE: 1300 766 491

Mon-Fri: 8am - 9pm, Sat-Sun: 9am - 6pm

MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE AGAINST

FAMILY VIOLENCE: 1800 755 988

WAYS Emergency Accommodation:

9703 0044 or after 5pm 1800 825 955

LIFELINE: 13 11 14

BEYOND BLUE: 1300 22 4636

or <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: Valerie Wilson, Margaret Monaghan, Maria Hubai, Nikola Vukmirovic and all those who died recently and for Ernesto Mastroianni, Maria Mastroianni, Rosy Machado, Ron Resuggan, Joan Lopes, Shirley Wilkins, Rob Bennett, Christine Broadbent, Daniel McGuire and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

THOSE WHO SEEK OUR PRAYERS: Elsie Stirling, Cedric Wilson, John Daly, Betty Guerin, Colin Goldsmith, Genevieve Silvapulle, Frances Watterson, Nathaniel Byers, Tanya Clarke-Murphy, Virginia & Robert Potts, Jeremy Fahie, Kerrie Stock, Carmel Stephens-Mullins, Silvana Bernaudo, Elvira Racelis, Michelle Wright, Pete Spance, Joan O'Shea, Andrew Comport, Kath Angrave, Nick Bowden, Ivor Silvapulle, Chris Olejarz, Donald Burns, Marilu Collins, Gill Vissenga.

[Names will be removed after one month, unless we are advised otherwise]

GOOD NEWS: Notices required by 10.00am, Thursday. Thank you.

PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE: Will be closed from December 20, at 4.30pm until January 13 at 9.00am.

AUSTRALIA DAY MASS: On Monday January 27 at 9.30am.

CATHOLIC MISSION: Thanks the parish of St Michael's for your generous support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity helps us to share a message of hope and compassion with communities around the world.

2025 CALENDAR: We are preparing our Parish Calendar for next year and want to hear what you would like to see happening at St Michael's. 2025 is a Jubilee year with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. Your ideas could be a social event, a speaker from within or outside our parish, faith formation.....the list goes on. Please email Tara with your suggestions to sacraments@stmichaelsparish.org.au

CHURCH PREPARATION ROSTER: Was emailed out this week, there are copies in the foyer for those who do not have an email address. Thank you to those who volunteered to help fill the void left by 'retirement' and thank you to those parishioners for your years of assistance.

PIETY: God's Word, Columban Calendar, 'The Light' Advent Daily Reflection. All books are available at the Parish Support Centre or Piety Stall.

READERS & PIETY ROSTERS: Will be prepared shortly. If you would like to join this ministry or your availability has changed, contact Geraldine at the Parish Support Centre. Thank you.

CBS BIBLE STUDY: Are you seeking to deepen your understanding of the Bible and strengthen your faith? Berwick's CBS Bible Study will be meeting Thursday nights from 7.00pm - 8.30pm again in 2025. Next year we will look at the books of Samuel and Peter. For more info: roytinabaker@gmail.com or Roy 0402 784 027, Felim 0418 811 952

THE PARISH GIVING TREE: Thank you for your generosity for the many gifts.

THE JOHN MC FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: Are you in need, spending Christmas on your own, or looking for good company? Wednesday, December 25. Transit Soup Kitchen-5/3 Webb Street, Narre Warren. Doors Open 11.00am with Lunch Served: 12.00pm. 2 course lunch with live music. Bookings are essential, contact John 0403 118 854

THANK YOU: To all who helped in any way throughout 2024 with liturgies, assisting with ministries, altar serving, singing, playing music, cleaning, or volunteering in any capacity. We are very grateful for your help.

POPES PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: That the Jubilee Year of 2025 will strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE: In 2025 Pope Francis has invited all followers of Christ to a year of Jubilee, a year of grace and conversion. A jubilee is held every 25 years or during other years as called by the Pope. In 2000 we celebrated the Great Jubilee and in 2015 the Holy Year of Mercy.

In our Diocese the Jubilee Committee has set a calendar providing opportunity for parishes and diocese to come together and to rejoice in the work of God in our lives. Each month we will be recognising ministries and charisms in our community. Throughout the year we will have many opportunities to encourage, evangelise and affirm each other as Pilgrim of Hope. Don't let fear prevent us from committing to our Jubilee.

We invite all parishioners to an opening Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on New Year's Day at 11.00am celebrated by Bishop Greg.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL: Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability, leaving countless families without access to basic needs like food, water, and medical care. Caritas Australia partners desperately need your help. Go to www.caritas.org.au/lebanon or 1800 024 413

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: Enrolments are open for 2025. Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality. More information: view the 2025 Prospectus or go to ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY: Will be held at Federation University, Gippsland Campus, Churchill February 14 & 15. Delegates from parishes, schools, Diocesan bodies and organisations, and other Churches, will aim, (a) to acknowledge and affirm the strengths and best practices of our Diocese that we wish to continue to build on; (b) to identify the significant challenges we face in our Diocese as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, and, (c) to gain a clear picture of which pastoral goals and actions need to be given priority over the next five years, for our Diocese to develop towards becoming more Christ-centred, synodal and missionary. Please join with the people of the Diocese in praying that the Holy Spirit will guide the planning and outcomes of this important event.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: Final Document of the XVI Assembly

On October 26, members of the Second Assembly of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops voted on and approved the final document. Unlike previous Synods, the Pope chose not to publish a separate apostolic exhortation but instead approved the publication of the Final Document as the direct implementation of the assembly's conclusions.

The Final Document: Toward a Synodal Church in Mission is divided into five parts:

The Heart of Synodality: Called by the Holy Spirit to Conversion

On the Boat, Together: The Conversion of Relationships

Cast the Net: The Conversion of Processes

An Abundant Catch: The Conversion of Bonds

"So I Send You": Forming a People for Missionary Discipleship

The Final Document can be found at <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>

REFLECTION – Nick Brodie

Pope Francis draws our attention to the way that Elizabeth greets Mary with joyful astonishment! He sees this an exemplar of how we should live our faith in this coming festive season. We need to be astonished again!

'To celebrate Christmas in a fruitful manner,' the Pope says, 'we are called to pause in "places" of astonishment.' He offers three examples of what this means.

Firstly, he draws attention to astonished recognition of other people. At a time of year when many of us will reunite with friends and family, we are called to see how 'every face is marked with a semblance to the Son of God.'

The second place of astonishment to which the Pope suggests we turn is 'history'. We need to look beyond markets and finances and see with faith the work of the Lord who exalts the lowly and uplifts the poor. 'The God of Christmas', the Pope quips, 'shuffles the cards' of history. Economics does not rule human destiny, God does.

Thirdly, we should find astonishment in 'the Church'. The Pope longs for us to embrace an understanding of the Church 'that is able to recognise the many signs of faithful love that God continuously sends her.' He hopes that 'Mother Church ... always has her doors open wide, and her arms open to welcome everyone.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: Micah 5: 1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**
3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. **R.**

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10: 5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered,

that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

