

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

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.00am-4.30pm, Tue: 1.00pm-4.30pm, Thurs: 9.00am-12.00pm

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.

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 01/02 AUGUST 2026

COMING WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

WEEKDAYS

Tues: 7.30am

Wed: 7.30am
9.30am Communion Service

Thu-Fri: 9.30am

Sat: 9.30am & Baptisms

All preceded by the Rosary

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: **No Reconciliations**
5.00pm

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Confidence Masvosva
confidence.masvosva@cdsale.org.au

SECRETARY

Dorota Shields (Safeguarding Officer)
Geraldine Martin
Phone: 9707 1355
secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au

PASTORAL/SACRAMENTAL TEAM

Pastoral Associate

Tara Bau
Phone: 9707 4072
associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au

Sacrament Co-Ordinator

Diana Bernal

Pastoral Team Member

Tina Nicholson
Phone: 9707 1355
Sacrament enquiries:
sacraments@stmichaelsparish.org.au

PRESBYTERY

119 High Street, Berwick
Phone: 9769 7430

PARISH INFORMATION

BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Centre

MARRIAGES

At least six months' notice requested

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBerwick/

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/safeguarding-resources>

Dear Parishioners

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a part of Catholic faith and life. The core of this Sacrament is God's love for us and his desire to heal us and set us free when we turn to him and seek his mercy. As a Sacrament of healing, Reconciliation brings many graces to the person receiving it.

The Catechism explains the relationship of the two sacraments:

"Anyone who desires to receive Christ in the Eucharistic Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive Communion without having received absolution in the Sacrament of Penance." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1415).

During Mass, when we ask for God's forgiveness, our venial sins are forgiven. Mortal sins are more serious and need to be confessed to a priest beforehand. It is in this context that Reconciliations are to be heard before Mass.

Starting from **August 22** the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be heard from 8.30am to 9.45am followed by Mass at 10.00am.

Every Sunday is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church where Catholics must attend Mass. In addition to those, The Feast of the Assumption (August 15) is a Holy Day of Obligation as well as Christmas Day (December 25) here in Australia. Since this year the Feast of Assumption is on Saturday there will be two masses in the morning for the Assumption obligation 7.30am and 9.30am.

Evening mass will be for Sunday obligation.

Fr Confidence



THE L.A.M.P. YOUTH EVENT

All young parishioners from Year 7 and above, please keep **November 21** free!!! More details to follow.

Archangel Youth will help at a 'Youth Mass' this Sunday at 10.30am followed by a BBQ to raise funds for our L.A.M.P. event.

THE TRANSFIGURATION: Celebrated on August 6 is one of the miracles of Jesus in the Gospels. Thomas Aquinas considers the Transfiguration "the greatest miracle", in that it complemented baptism and showed the perfection of life in Heaven. The Transfiguration is one of the five major milestones in the gospel narrative of the life of Jesus, the others being Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. In 2002, Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries in the rosary, which include the Transfiguration.

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him".

MEETINGS

MONTHLY CUPPA

2nd Sunday after 9.00am Mass – Aug 9

3rd Sunday after 10.30am Mass – Aug 16

RCIA

Wednesday 7.30pm

MONTHLY PRAYER MINISTRY:

1st Sun of each month from 10.00am

FILIPINO MASS

3rd Sunday at 3.00pm – August 16

INDONESIAN MASS

1st Saturday at 5.00pm PSC – Sept 6

LEGION OF MARY

Tuesday 10.15am - 11.45am PSC

Prayer Box in foyer for intentions

MENS GROUP

Tuesday 7.30pm PSC

PARISH ROSARY:

Monday 2.30pm

Zoom 829 9519 6798

SVDP CONFERENCE

2nd Tuesday of the month 4.30pm PSC

CBS BIBLE STUDY

Thursday 7.00pm PSC

MEDITATION SESSIONS

1st Tuesday of the month 7.30pm PSC

August 4

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 Baptist Church

- 7.30pm / 8.00pm

MOBILE PANTRY VAN: 1st & 3rd Tue

Narre Warren IGA - 11.30am-11.45am

Hampton Park Baptist Church

- 12.00pm-12.30pm

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: 8.00am – 9.00pm,

Sat-Sun: 9.00am – 6.00pm

MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE AGAINST

FAMILY VIOLENCE: 1800 755 988

WAYS Emergency Accommodation:

9703 0044 or after 5.00pm 1800 825 955

LIFELINE: 13 11 14

BEYOND BLUE: 1300 22 4636

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

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: Maria Marvelli and all those who died recently and for Marcial Guillen, Benjamin Seneviratne, Fr Chris Riley, Margaret McKeown, Paul Smith, Karen Pratt, Kevin Clarke, Bruno Crestani, Lachlan Thompson, Richard Corrie, Arnold Corrie and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

THOSE WHO SEEK OUR PRAYERS: Una Martin, Marielle Steinhage, Marie Restituto, Joan O'Shea, Robert Cullen, Danielle Tobin, Hilda Newstead, Maureen Donnelly, Mary Hughes, Mary Clarke, Jackie Otoole, Jeremy Fahie, Rita Rowland, Anna Tekin, Betty Guerin, Kath Angrave, Ivor Silvapulle, Rex Clair [Names will be removed after one month, unless we are advised otherwise]

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

MONTHLY PRAYER MINISTRY: This Sunday from 10.00am until 10.30am Mass in the adoration area. Prayer is gentle, private and confidential. Just come, no booking needed, we would love to pray for you.

CONGRATULATIONS: It is with great joy that we would like to acknowledge that one of our parishioners, Rose Josephine Chong, was Professed into the Order of Secular Franciscans (ofs) over the weekend. It is a very special occasion as the Pope has declared this The Year of St Francis of Assisi, and the Franciscan order was founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209. They are dedicated to the ideals of poverty, charity, and simplicity, living out the Gospel while serving the poor, the marginalized, and all of creation.

HEATING IN THE CHURCH: Has been repaired and seems to be working well. In an effort to ensure it continues to do so **PLEASE DO NOT** touch the control or adjust the temperature. Thank you.

THE WELCOME GROUP MINISTRY: Helps create a warm, caring environment where parishioners and visitors feel seen, and connected within our parish community. Volunteers are needed at all Masses, especially the 6.00pm Sunday Mass. No special skills are required, just a willing heart and a desire to serve. If you are called to help others feel at home in our church community, please email Tina at associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au

SAFEGUARDING: Everyone employed or volunteering at St Michael's has a responsibility to understand the important and significant role he or she plays to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of each person is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Due to the length of the document, we advise you to read it on the Diocesan or St Michael's websites. There is a separate Declaration form that will need to be signed and these will also be available in the foyer.

Thank you to all our volunteers that keep our church a great place to pray, grow, and belong. We are truly grateful for each one of you.

SAFETRAC TRAINING: Is a requirement of the Diocese for all volunteers. Please check you emails (spam as well) to see if you have received the link to complete the training. All those who have an outstanding training will be contacted shortly. Please contact the Parish Support Centre with any queries.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: Available in the foyer for collection.

CATHOLICCARE APPEAL: Will be taken up this weekend. CatholicCare is the Church's mission in action - empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

READERS ROSTER AND PIETY STALL ROSTERS: Were emailed last week. Rosters are available in the foyer for those without an email address.

CHILDRENS' LITURGY: Extra volunteers are **urgently** needed. Please consider whether you are able to help and contact the Parish Support Centre. Thank you.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

'MAKE HASTE' YOUTH EVENT: Jesus Youth is running a teens program "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Saturday August 8, 10.00am-4.30pm at Christ Our Holy Redeemer Parish, Oakleigh. \$12 (Lunch included) Registrations are essential to assist with catering and event planning.
docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcEN6dRr0NmP3Rg5Cyb8FhjygRIATDs06Vr_yBQomyzEZdcw/viewform

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: On Saturday August 15 at St Eugene's Retreat and Conference Centre in Newborough, based on The 5 Love Languages Enrichment Day for Couples international bestseller by Dr Gary Chapman. Cost: \$60 per couple.
Info & booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/DMSUR> or andrerasquinha@yahoo.com.au 0411 225 992



RCIA DIOCESAN DAY: Clergy, RCIA Coordinators, RCIA teams and parishioners are warmly invited to an upcoming workshop that aims to deepen your understanding of the RCIA journey. Presented by Dr Alice Youlden & Joan Robertson. At St Joseph's Church, Warragul on Saturday September 5 at 9.30am-2.00pm. See flyer.

MARY MACKILLOP - A SAINT OF OUR TIME: Explore St Mary MacKillop's legacy and learn how to draw inspiration from her life to make a difference today. Venue: Online Thursday, August 6 7.00pm-8.00pm. Registration: cdsale.org.au/events or 5614 5163 or newsonline@sale.catholic.org.au

MAGI PILGRIMAGES: Saints of Italy, October 2-16, Fr Franco Filipetto from St Mary's Parish, in Warrick, will be leading a pilgrimage to Milan, Padua, Florence, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, and Rome, walking in the footsteps of the saints. All-inclusive price: \$9,990 (20+ pilgrims).

Footsteps of St Paul, October 5-19, Fr Sebastian A.M from St Mary's Parish, Dandenong will be leading a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, visiting Athens, Corinth, Meteora, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Istanbul and Cappadocia. All-inclusive price: \$9,790 Enquiries: 03 8839 6615 | pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

REFLECTION - Greg Sunter

The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the theme that runs throughout today's readings: *The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs*. The compassion of God is foremost in these readings – recognising need within the people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of leftovers. Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. Remember, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the evening, he went one step further in his compassion and made sure that all were fed.

Scriptural context – Food for all

This miraculous feeding is the first of two such accounts in the gospel of Matthew. (It also appears twice in Mark and once in both Luke and John.) In this account, there are twelve baskets of leftovers. These baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel. It is a metaphor for Jesus as the one who provides nourishment and satisfaction for the entire Jewish population. The imagery in the second story (Mt 15:32-39) emphasises that Jesus also feeds and satisfies the gentile people. Between them, the two accounts present Jesus as the one who provides spiritual food for all.

Living the Gospel – Grieving John

The passage begins with Jesus receiving the news that his cousin, John the Baptist's death. In response, Jesus immediately withdraws to a lonely place where he can be alone with his disciples. His response to this terrible news is to take time out. He wants to go away to a quiet, lonely place to pray and grieve. He doesn't just take the news in his stride and carry on regardless; he steps back from the busy-ness of life to mourn. It's a lesson for us in times of stress and grief: the response Jesus models is to take time to grieve the loss.

Entrance Antiphon

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading Isaiah 55: 1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **R**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **R**

The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs.

Second Reading Romans 8: 35, 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 14: 13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Kings 19: 9, 11-13

Second Reading: Romans 9: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33