

# St Michael's Parish Good News



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

**WEB:** [www.stmichaelsparish.org.au](http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.au) **FACEBOOK:** [fb.me/StMichaelsBerwick](https://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. 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](mailto:secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au)

## TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 12/13 SEPTEMBER 2026

### COMING WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

### WEEKDAYS

Tues: 9.30am

Wed: 7.30am

9.30am Communion Service

Thu-Fri: 9.30am

Sat: 10.00am

All preceded by the Rosary

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 8.30am - 9.45am

5.00pm - 5.45pm

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Confidence Masvosva

[confidence.masvosva@cdsale.org.au](mailto:confidence.masvosva@cdsale.org.au)

### SECRETARY

Dorota Shields (Safeguarding Officer)

Geraldine Martin

Phone: 9707 1355

[secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au](mailto:secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au)

### PASTORAL/SACRAMENTAL TEAM

#### Pastoral Associate

Tara Bau

Phone: 9707 4072

[associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au](mailto:associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au)

#### Sacrament Co-Ordinator

Diana Bernal

#### Pastoral Team Member

Tina Nicholson

Phone: 9707 1355

Sacrament enquiries:

[sacraments@stmichaelsparish.org.au](mailto: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/](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBerwick/)

#### CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

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

### JUBILEE YEAR of ST FRANCIS PRAYER

**Saint Francis, our brother,  
you who eight hundred years ago  
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,  
intercede for us before the Lord.**  
**You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano,  
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation  
that breaks down every wall.**  
**You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and  
misunderstanding,  
give us the courage to build bridges  
where the world raises up boundaries.**  
**In this time afflicted by conflict and division,  
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:  
unarmed and disarming witnesses  
of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen**

### ST MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL FEAST DAY

Everyone is warmly invited to join us  
for a special family celebration.

After 10.30am Mass on September 20 in  
the St Michael's Stadium.

Come together in fellowship, friendship,  
community and fun!! See poster.

Help would be appreciated for the set up on  
Saturday 19 from 2.00pm.

Food can be left in St Michael's Stadium  
from 9.00am on Sunday 20.



Loving God,

Be close to all those caught in the devastation of the  
floods in Nepal and Tibet. Comfort those who have lost loved ones,  
strengthen those waiting anxiously for news, and guide rescuers and  
emergency workers as they search for survivors.

Give courage to displaced families and compassion to communities  
offering shelter, food and care.

May those who are missing be found,  
and may those who mourn know they are not alone.

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

## **MEETINGS**

### **MONTHLY CUPPA**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after 9.00am Mass – Sep 13

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after 10.30am – Cancelled

### **RCIA**

Wednesday 7.30pm

### **MONTHLY PRAYER MINISTRY:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sun of each month from 10.00am

### **FILIPINO MASS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3.00pm – Cancelled

### **INDONESIAN MASS**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 5.00pm PSC – Oct 3

### **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**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 4.30pm PSC

### **CBS BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday 7.00pm PSC

### **MEDITATION SESSIONS**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 7.30pm PSC

### **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:** Baby Kane Van Soest, Victoria Macabuhay, Geoff Bostock, Frank Travete, Kenneth Backlen and all those who died recently and for John & Frank Sweeney, Amali Raj, Virginia Wijegunase, Hiran Adhihetty, Eva Tanke, Upali Samaraweera, Maureen Goldsmith, Tyrone Gore, Daniel Daly, Silvio Favero, Patrick Dooley, Sue Jones, Pia Henry and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**THOSE WHO SEEK OUR PRAYERS:** Josie & Bobby Richardson, Baby Leon, Michael Trottor, Veronica Ogilvie, Rex Clair, Sue McVicar, Elmo Silvapulle, Danielle Tobin, Heath O'Loughlin, Jenny Chevalier, Mary Clarke, Judith Van Es, Brian & Christine Homewood, Mary Hughes, Joan O'Shea, Kath Angrave, Marielle Steinhage, Marie Restituto, Betty Guerin, Jeremy Fahie, Robert Cullen, Hilda Newstead, Rita Rowland, Maureen Donnelly, Anna Tekin, Jackie Otoole, Ivor Silvapulle. [Names will be removed after one month, unless advised]

**BAPTISMS:** Our parish welcomes Nathaniel Thrimanna, Kobe & Daisy Smith, Tom Kurczycki, Rhys Radhakrishnan and Max Cardamone baptised recently. We pray that they will continue to be a special part of our parish.

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

**CUPPA AFTER MASS:** After 9.00am Mass in St Michael's School Stadium. Thank you to Legion of Mary for organising the cuppa this month. All welcome.

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS:** Are always welcome! Servers are needed for Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am and 6.00pm Masses. Monthly training offered. Any questions please contact Tara [associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au](mailto:associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au)

**FATHER'S DAY APPEAL FOR THE PRIESTS' WELFARE FOUNDATION:** All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible and a receipt for tax deduction purposes will be automatically sent if an email address is provided. If you still wish to donate, go to <https://www.cdsale.org.au/priestswelfarefoundation> \$1,987.40 was donated, thank you for your generosity.

**NEPAL COLLECTION:** Caritas teams are on the ground assessing the scale of the disastrous Nepalese floods. It is expected that the needs will most likely include emergency shelter and essential items, access to clean water and sanitation, access to food and immediate and long-term recovery. To support Caritas Australia's Nepal Floods Appeal, visit [www.caritas.org.au/nepal](http://www.caritas.org.au/nepal). A collection will be taken up this weekend.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

**Archangel Meetings:** September 18, 6.30pm, Games and Pizza night at the Parish Support Centre.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027:** Are you 16 (01.01.2027) - 35 year-old? Would you like to attend WYD in South Korea (approx. dates July 30 to August 8, 2027). Please contact the Parish Support Centre if interested.

**THE L.A.M.P YOUTH EVENT:** At St Michael's School Stadium, Saturday, November 21, 11am - 4pm, followed by Mass, celebrated by Bishop Greg and concelebrated by Fr Confidence.

All young parishioners from 13 to 30 years old are invited to a Fun and Faith filled day. For sign up scan QR code.

Following in footsteps of St Francis of Assisi, we ask that you bring 2 or more non-perishable goods, that will be donated to John Mc Foundation (started by our own St Michael's parishioner to help our community).

Collection to cover costs will be taken up next weekend.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Gordon Hughes, who has been recently honoured by the St Vincent de Paul Society for 60 years of service, helping the most vulnerable in our community. Well done Gordon, great achievement!!



**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER:** Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

**MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY:** On September 27 at Our Lady Help of Christians. Mass at 1.30pm celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet. Dress code – cultural attire. See poster.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE:** Jubilee of St Francis of Assisi. Bishop Greg Bennet invites all parishioners across the Diocese of Sale to join in a special pilgrimage celebrating the Franciscan Jubilee Year. This sacred journey is not about physical distance, but a journey of the heart. Together, we will travel to Benambra—nestled amidst the scenic Omeo High Plains, home to the only church in our diocese dedicated to St Francis of Assisi.

Friday, October 2, 6.00pm – Transitus (*St Mary's, Bairnsdale*)

Saturday, October 3, 8.30am – Morning Prayer (*St Mary's, Bairnsdale*) 12.00pm– Jubilee Mass (*St Francis of Assisi, Benambra*) Solemn Mass celebrated by Bishop Greg and the Clergy of the Diocese.

Blessing of Pets (*St Francis of Assisi, Benambra*) - All creatures great and small (restrained) are welcome to receive a special blessing following Mass.

Shared Lunch & Sausage Sizzle (*Benambra Footyclub*) - Fellowship and food for all! *Please bring a plate to share.*

3.00pm – Conclusion (*Immaculate Conception, Omeo*). Our pilgrimage draws to a close as we gather at Omeo Parish for final prayers and departure. To help the host parish at Benambra, (which is a small parish with about 10 parishioners) plan the sausage sizzle, if you are planning to attend register via the link: <https://www.cdsale.org.au/year-of-saint-francis-of-assisi> The link provides full details about the pilgrimage schedule, route maps, sign-up forms, and future updates. See flyer.

**DIOCESAN WOMEN'S EVENT:** Navigating the Unseen – Women Leading with Resilience.

Women from across the Diocese are invited to gather for an evening dinner and talk celebrating the strength, resilience, and expanding horizons of women in the mission of the Catholic Church.

Guest speaker Dr. Kim Daniels-Director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University and member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication-will share insights on leadership, faith, and renewal. Wednesday, October 14, 7.00pm at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Pakenham. \$30.00 per person (includes dinner & soft drinks). Bookings are essential by October 4. Book at [trybooking.com/DOZKU](http://trybooking.com/DOZKU) See flyer.

**18TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** On Saturday, October 10 at 1.00 pm at Treasury Gardens. Please call Gerardine 0425 751 297 for more details, flyers in the foyer.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:** The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. November 6-8, St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South. Friday 7.00pm – Sunday 4.30pm. Info/Bookings: 0409 183 676 or Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** October 12 - 27. Engaging Your Faith is a series of short online presentations. For more information: [ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith](http://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith)

**REFLECTION** - Dianne Bergant CSA

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely, we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentfulness, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers  
of your servant, and of your people Israel.

## FIRST READING: Sirach 27: 30 – 28: 7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

**The Word of the Lord.** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and  
compassion. **R.**
3. His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**
4. For as the heavens are high above the  
earth so strong is his love for those who fear  
him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 14: 7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**The Word of the Lord.** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.