



Pastoral Cluster

Incorporating the Parishes of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

PARISH PRIESTS:

Frs Gerard Keith & Mick Fitzpatrick - Phone 5278 1343

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-12noon, Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

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Holy Spirit -

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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

Recently I was invited to a relative's home for dinner. This family has been having more than a little trouble with their 13-year-old daughter, who is going through a particularly defiant and rebellious stage. The young girl was not happy with the vegetables her mother served at dinner and so she refused to eat them. The uneaten vegetables became the staging ground for an adolescent conflict. Trying to coax the girl into eating, her mother calmly used some lines I'd heard before. 'Wasting food is a sin' and 'There are starving people in the world who would be grateful for what you don't want'. With that the girl jumped up and left the dining room. A few minutes later she returned with an oversized envelope and a marker pen. She began to stuff the food into the envelope and as she did she angrily asked, 'What starving people do you want me to send these vegetables to?' _Who said being a parent was easy? Celibacy had never looked better!



In today's Gospel, after the 5,000 have been fed, Jesus says, 'Gather the pieces together that are left over. Let nothing be wasted'. Some of us have never truly been hungry, so it can be hard to fully appreciate how wasteful our developed world must appear to those who watch their families die of starvation. People who lived through the Depression or have lived through wars often carry the scars of being hungry. To this day some of them are on guard against waste. Others try to numb the memory of want by overindulging. For most of us in the developed world, especially 13-year-old middle-class kids, hunger has only ever been fleeting, and we are presently eating ourselves into obesity.

Some people would prefer to think of the story of the feeding of the five thousand exclusively in spiritual terms. There is no question that today's Gospel refers to the Eucharist where all are spiritually nourished by Christ our host. It also refers to the eternal banquet where hunger will be no more. But this Gospel asks us to look at our world through the eyes of Christ's kingdom where the mighty will be cast down from their thrones, the poor will be raised up, and the rich who will not share will be sent away. (Cont'd P4)

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.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS:

Lord our God,
You guide Your people by the ministry of Priests.

Keep them faithful in obedient service to you, that by their life and ministry, they may bring you glory in Christ.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

- 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B - July 26, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us.

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 16:2-4,12-15

2nd Reading: Eph 4:17,20-24

Gospel: Jn 6:24-35



The Pastoral Cluster at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English... 8am and 9.30am (Sunday)

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

6.00pm Sat

11am - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Sat

11am - 2nd and 4th Sundays

9.30am - Italian Mass at St Patrick's

Croatian... 11.30am (1,3,4,5th Sunday), 12.30pm (2nd Sunday) - Slovenian... 11.30am (2nd Sunday)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family: 9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs

Holy Spirit: 9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat. **Reconciliation after Saturday Mass**

Grace McKellar Centre: 10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues;

Maryville Nursing Home: 11.15am Wed;

Multicultural Centre: 1.30pm - 1st Fri

Vincentian Village: 3.00pm - Mon

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Mon... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Tues... Meditation Group

5.30pm

Holy Family Community Centre

Wed... Prayer of the Church

Before 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Wed... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Thurs... Italian Prayer Group

10.00am

St Patrick's Chapel

Fri... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After 11am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Fri... Divine Mercy

3.00pm

Holy Spirit Church

Sat... Rosary

After 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

If anyone would like to have our Lady's Statue or if you could spare an hour a month to help Tina Montalto, ph 5278 9314.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

BAPTISMS:

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kathleen Lewis, Wendy Commons, Tom Cleary, Julie Wilby, Brian Shaw, Ted Glab, Leonie Critchley, Jim Travis, Patricia McGuinness, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Ambrose

When you have recovered from illness, please phone the Pastoral Cluster Office on 5278 1343.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2009.

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 4)

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Sacristan

Projectionist

8.00AM

R Allum

F Chrimes, J Bartolo

U Guardiano, K McArthur

L Sells, K McArthur

N Ingles, M Law, V Seljak

6.00PM

Sr Scibberas

J O'Neill

J Hudson & D Boyle

C Horan, V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

5.00PM

C O'Brien

A Henderson

R Walker, N Neeld, Dean Dougherty

A Henderson

9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor, T McMahon

R&R Zanardo, D Farrar, G&P Carmody

M&E Hoffman, L d'Aprile

Sr Nirmalie, A Gstalter

11.00AM

M Shilling

M Gurrie

V Trinder

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles

11.00AM

Recurring Activities in the Cluster:

- . **Holy Family** Casserole lunch - third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon
- . **Holy Family Women's Group** first Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.30pm
- .. **St Vincent de Paul** - Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre, 7.30pm
Ss Peter & Paul's meet 2nd and 4th Thursdays 2pm in the Small Hall
Holy Spirit meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7.00pm in Holy Spirit Hall
- . **Baptism Preps** - 2nd and 4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
- . **Children's Liturgy** - Holy Family - 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9.30am Mass (during school term)
Holy Spirit - 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11am Mass (during school term)
Ss Peter & Paul's- 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11.00am Mass (during school term)
- . **Playgroup** - Holy Spirit Hall - Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-5 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5278 3558 or mob 0400 722 726
- . **Manifold CWL** - Holy Spirit Hall - First Tuesdays in the month
- . **Italian Mass at St Patrick's Chapel** - First Thursday of the month
- . **Geelong Stroke Support** group for survivors, partners, carers & families meet in the Holy Spirit Hall.
- . **Catholic Deanery Solo Group:** Dinner at Desma's every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Bookings phone 5278 2712.
- . **Ss Peter & Paul's Luncheon:** Second Sunday of each month, 12noon in the small Hall.

Cluster News:

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

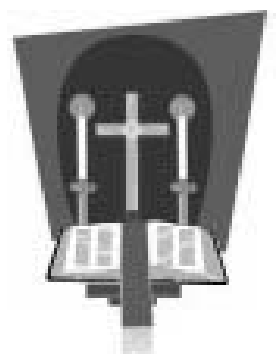
Several people have indicated interest in enquiring about becoming Catholics. Each enquirer should have someone (a sponsor) to walk with them on this journey to help them fit into the faith community. This is an ideal opportunity for Catholics to reflect on their own faith and deepen it. **Weekly instruction will start in August.** Would anyone interested in being a sponsor for an enquirer please contact Fr Mick.

A CALL FOR NEW SPECIAL MINISTERS TO THE SICK:

Last week at all our Masses our focus was on the Healing Ministry of Jesus. It was an opportunity to acknowledge and applaud those who are involved in the various guises of this Ministry. An important group in the Pastoral Cluster is our Special Ministers. If you would like to be a Special Minister to either the house bound or those in the Nursing Homes in our region, please contact Frs Gerard or Mick.

THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST:

Pope Benedict has declared June 19 2009 through to June 19 2010 as the Year of the Priest. An important focus of the Pope's declaration is to pray for Priests. As part of the Pastoral Cluster's response, from next week onwards we will pray this short Prayer for Priests as part of our Prayers of the Faithful, similar to the way we pray our Parish Prayer and Prayer for Vocations. This prayer was printed on Fr Mick's Commemorative Card at his 25th Anniversary of Ordination.



Holy Spirit:

- ⇒ **MANIFOLD CWL: Communion Mass and Luncheon**, Pumphouse Hotel Melbourne, Tuesday July 28 at 11.30am. Cost \$25, booking and payment required now. **General Conference** at the Commercial Club, Albury, on August 19/20. Payment to be made by July 31. For information ph Jeanette Sheahan on 5278 2063.
- ⇒ **HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL MAJOR RAFFLE**: Tickets will be available after the 11am Mass with six fabulous prizes to be won. The major prize is a flat screen 106cm television. Tickets \$1 each, thank you for your support.

Holy Family:

- ⇒ **RENOVATIONS**: Some maintenance work is being undertaken on the Garage at the back of the Community Centre, as well as in the Church. Also one of the Confessionals has been removed; this will in the future provide a space for a Devotional Chapel. These are all small steps to ensure that the Church and its surrounds are more secure, well maintained and better suited for the spiritual needs of the community.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Thoughts on Giving

There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" (John 6:9)

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is the only one of Our Lord's miracles which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages:

First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him.

Community News:

- July 26...** **'SOUL FRIENDS 2' BENEFIT CONCERT** for Anam Cara House, 3pm at St Mary's Basilica. Featuring choirs from Geelong Youth Choir, Christian College, Geelong College, St Mary's Junior and St Joseph's College Vocal Ensemble. Peter Roberts harp, Tim McCallum vocal and John Stubbings MC. Tickets at the door - \$20/\$15 Concession.
- Aug 14-16...** **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**: We all do things to enhance our lives. Fitness programs and diets to improve our health, inservice programs to improve our job skills. An opportunity for married couples to give a wonderful gift to your children by enriching your marriage through a Marriage Encounter weekend. It is based around Catholic values, but you don't need to be Catholic to attend. Anglesea 14-16 Aug and Lysterfield 18-20 Sept. Website www.wwme.org.au Bookings to Erika & Peter Smith 9899 0824 or email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL:

We are in urgent need of warm clothing, good clean mattresses, blankets, doonas, bedding and pillows during these cold winter months. Our welfare calls in Geelong have doubled. Please leave at 162 Fyans St South Geelong or phone 5229 0911 for furniture pick-up. We are always looking for volunteers, both men and women, for our five shops and in particular to work in our sorting room at 162 Fyans St South Geelong. Please phone Simon on 5229 0911 if you can help.

THREAT TO RELIGIONS FREEDOM:

The Victorian Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the threat to religious freedoms has been posted on the diocesan website at <http://www.cam.org.au/equal-opportunity>. Printed copies will be distributed to parishes in time for next weekend's Masses. All parishioners are urged to read this letter and to make it known to others who share our concerns.



Diner's Club:

This Club has been operating in Geelong for over 50 years, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month 6pm at Dromoland House. Usually 60-80 people, mostly retired, enjoy a night out together with 3-course meals and interesting guest speakers for under \$30. You might be interested in this Catholic activity, if so phone either President Terry on 5221 7339 or Secretary

(/Cont'd from P1)

There is such a thing as healthy guilt. It's where we become aware of what we have done or failed to do to bring about Christ's Kingdom in our world. Given that it is entirely unnecessary for 29,000 people, on average, to die each day because of lack of food and water and the diseases this brings, guilt on our part seems a reasonable response.

It becomes a healthy moment in our lives when we decide to change our priorities, and call for similar changes in a nation's priorities which spends more on bombs than starving babies. I often wonder what God thinks when he hears wealthy nations say that the reason they refuse to share more with the poor is because these poorer nations often have unelected despots who divert their country's wealth into Swiss bank accounts or nuclear and conventional weaponry programmes. Even in the face of these complex issues we could find a way to feed the hungry who might, one day, be empowered to take charge of their nations. 'What starving people do you want me to send these vegetables to?', the 13 year old asked. To which I wanted to reply, 'Put your own name on the envelope because your own comfort makes you the neediest person in the world'.

May this Eucharist enable us to do on earth what is done in heaven, where the hungry are welcomed and fed, the leftovers are gathered together and nothing is wasted.