



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIESTS:

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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)

Around the world there are women's shelters run by the St Vincent de Paul Society called 'Manna House'. It's an inspired name for such an important work. Women and their children, in the midst of fear, and having suffered terrible abuse, are welcomed into a safe-haven where they can be loved and looked after. It's a temporary respite where broken families can piece their lives back together and be revived for the journey ahead.

What happens at 'Manna Houses' for women at risk happens for each of us when we come to the Eucharist. We receive manna from heaven. It's our stop on the journey of faith so that we can go out spiritually revived to be the face of Christ in the world. Sometimes we need this 'manna come down from heaven' when we are spiritually most at-risk.

I love the fact that as Catholics we believe that Christ is present in ordinary gifts of bread and wine blessed and offered at the Eucharist. We don't just believe that Christ is present in sunrises, sunsets and in natural beauty, we also believe that God comes to us in a special and unique way in the simple, ordinary things of life. And it is in what we do with these gifts of bread and wine that Christ is really present. The earliest Christians called the Eucharist 'the breaking of the bread'. It is the broken bread and the poured cup given into our hands to which we say 'Amen' and so affirm our belief that Christ is present here.

We often need to be reassured of Christ's presence when we are in the desert periods of our own life. We can feel we are wandering around in the wilderness looking for some sign of God's life. For all of us who are broken in mind, body or spirit, or who are pouring ourselves out in love for other people, communion is precisely the time Jesus meets us where we are. Is it any wonder that the Eucharist means so much to us? May we never feel as though we are not good enough to be here, for Jesus has invited us to his table where we are loved and cared for.

As important as the Eucharist is, however, it is not 'ours', in the sense that we can selfishly hold on to the gifts we receive here. We are given Christ in Word and Sacrament, so we can become Christ. (Cont'd P4)



- 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B - August 9, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Lord, be true to your covenant, forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; do not ignore the shouts of your enemies.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Prov 9:1-6
2nd Reading: Eph 5:15-20
Gospel: Jn 6:51-58



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.

The Pastoral Cluster at Prayer

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

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

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

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: Aug 10 - Hoare family, Sycamore St. Aug 17 - Lynch family, Criton Cres.

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, Brian Shaw, Jim Travis, Patricia McGuinness, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Ambrose, Alan Mee, John Kennedy

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 1)

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Sacristan

Projectionist

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

A&LVanjek

H Thornton, E Di Domenico, P Lee

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

M Ercoli

G Wright

C Horan, C Canny, V Logan

T Dunlop

5.00PM

L Middleton

M Gifford

K Maddalena, B Ditekun, M Sleeman

N Neeld

9.30AM

L Lehpamer

H Verdnik, T McMahon, L Lehpamer

C&J Taylor, G de Palma, Sr Concepta, E Glynn

E Dalton, G Carmody

E Hoffman

11.00AM

G Brown

P Murfitt

B Gorman, I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder

T Cleary, D Brown

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.
- **Catholic Diners' Club:** Second Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Dromoland. Dinner & Guest speaker. Ph Patti on 5229 9963

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.

CENTACARE CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES:

The Annual Church Appeal will take place in this parish this weekend. Centacare has been supporting and caring for families of the Melbourne Archdiocese for over 70 years and relies on the support of our Catholic community. Please give generously so Centacare can continue to support families to deal with the complex issues they face today. If you have forgotten to bring your donation with you, please take an envelope home and return it next Sunday, or post it direct to the Centacare Catholic Family Services.

CENSUS UPDATE:

To better provide pastoral care and as a preamble to our Thanksgiving Campaign, we are seeking up-to-date information about our parishioners, primarily address and contact details. This weekend could you please fill in the Census Cards. To assist in the compiling of the information pencils will be provided, but if you have a biro could you use it. Please PRINT the details.

FAITH FORMATION IN OUR SCHOOLS:

We congratulate the children from our Catholic Primary Schools who will be making their First Eucharist in the coming weeks. **Holy Spirit School Sat Aug 15 6pm & Sun Aug 16 11am; Holy Family Sun Aug 16 & Aug 23 9.30am; St Patrick's Sat Aug 22 5pm & Sun Aug 23 11am.**

THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST:

Congratulations to Fr Mick who recently celebrated his 51st Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood. We thank Fr Mick for sharing his gift of Priesthood so generously to so many in the Pastoral Cluster.

You are invited to **Day of Prayer for Priests** on Tuesday August 4. Pope Benedict has proclaimed this the 'Year of the Priest' and Tuesday Week, Aug 4, is the Feast of St John Vianney, Patron Saint of Diocesan Priests. During the day, we invite parishioners to pray for present and past priests of the Geelong region and the Archdiocese. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Basilica from 6am until 6pm, with Mass celebrated at 7am, 10am and 5.30pm. *The staff of the Pastoral Cluster staff and the priests will be part of this prayer time from 12.30pm till 1pm. Please join us.*

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:

The new Parish Leadership Team will be meeting on Tuesday August 4. The focus of the meeting will be on specific actions to create better school-parish links, as well as actions that can be presented to the wider community as part of the Thanksgiving Campaign.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL:

Your support of this year's Appeal for the Propagation of the Faith enables Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses to offer Good News to their local communities. Thankyou for contributing to the amount of \$2,716.40 which was raised by the Pastoral Cluster for Catholic Mission. Our partnership with local churches in over 150 countries is dependent upon the prayerful and financial support of many. Through your contribution you are engaged in the world of mission in a way that binds people together and strives to bring about a heightened understanding of our call to be followers of Jesus. **THANKYOU!**

Holy Spirit:

⇒ **HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL MAJOR RAFFLE:** Could any families who took books of raffle tickets please drop them back into the Office this week, as the raffle will be drawn on **Tues Aug 11** at the school at 3pm. Thankyou for your support.

Community News:

Aug 14... **OUR SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF GOD:** Fr Robert McCulloch, a Columban Missionary Priest who has worked in Pakistan for the past 30 years, will speak at Geelong City Hall Council Chambers, Lt Malop St, 6pm. All welcome, admission is free. Sponsored by the Geelong Interfaith Network.

Aug 14-16... **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:** 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

Aug 15... **AFRICAN MASS** to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Congolese martyr, Blessed Isidore Bakanja, will be held 6pm at the Assisi Centre Chapel, 230 Rosanna Rd Rosanna. Mass in French, Swahili and English with Eucharistic Adoration following. Supper afterwards, all welcome. Enquiries to Pierre Kazadi Mwamba 9926 5709

Aug 27... **DARING TO BE DIFFERENT - A Journey towards a Just World:** Xavier Social Justice Network invites you to a special evening to hear Prof Mick Dodson AO (current Australian of the Year) in conversation with Fr Frank Brennan SJ (Chair, National Human Rights Consultation) at the Eldon Hogan Performing Arts Centre, Xavier College, Barkers Rd Kew. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 student/concession. Book online at www.trybooking.com/BED **All welcome!**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Thoughts on Giving

*"Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!"
(1 Kings 19:7)*

Jesus knew that the stewardship journey would be difficult, so He gave us the nourishment of the Eucharist.

When we take time to join our sacrifices with the sacrifice of the Mass, we find the strength to give and joy in our giving.

THREAT TO RELIGIONS FREEDOMS:

The tolerant pluralism of the Australian society that values difference and diversity is under threat and religion is a major target. It is important therefore that people of goodwill defend their religious liberties.

The importance of service delivery, by religious people and religious agencies, as an essential element of religious belief and practice in service to neighbour is one our Parliamentarians need to hear. It is also important to defend our pluralist society, the diversity of service delivery, the right of people to receive services in the context of their own beliefs and practices, and the rights of parents to give their children an education in their own faith tradition.

(From Threat to Religious Freedoms)

Last weekend, copies of a Pastoral Letter from the Victorian Bishops on the Threat to Religious Freedoms were made available. If you missed this letter it can be found on the diocesan website at www.cam.org.au/equal-opportunity. All parishioners are urged to read this letter and to make it known to others who share our concerns.



(/Cont'd from P1)

In a sense Jesus says the same thing in today's Gospel when he talks about how the Father draws people to faith.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that faith is only an intellectual exercise. As important as good thinking and the power of strong arguments might be, the truth of faith is best demonstrated on an emotional and intuitive level when others see the power of God's saving love active in the way we live our lives. This is what really captures people's attention, and draws them to ask what gives our lives this quality, direction, purpose and meaning.

So may this respite from the journey of faith dispel our fears, revive us for the task ahead and enable us to live as though the only Bible others will read will be our lives, and the only Sacraments that will captivate them and draw them to Christ will be our justice and joy.