



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:

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OFFICE HOURS:

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

OFFICE MANAGER:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -

Brian Everett

Separation St, Bell Park

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Holy Spirit -

Mary Abbott

Minerva Rd Manifold Hts

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St Patrick's -

Basil Flynn

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

In the early 1970s there was an edition of *Readers Digest* that told how a jet crashed in the Andes. It was a good case study in moral reasoning. The issue was that some of the survivors of that crash resorted to cannibalism to survive. The question the author posed was, 'Is it ever ethical to eat another human being?' Whatever the extreme and specific ethical arguments for cannibalism might be, the thought of eating another person is repulsive to most of us. Yet many people outside Catholicism often think that we are Christian cannibals, feasting on Jesus' flesh and blood.



The best traditions in the Church have always been very careful in the language they use about how Jesus is present in the Eucharist. We are not cannibals. We are not eating Jesus' liver, brain and bones.

In the Catechism when it speaks of the Eucharistic real presence, it never refers to 'Jesus' but always to 'Christ'. The distinction matters. The Eucharist is a Sacrament of Easter. It is the glorified, risen Christ who is wholly and truly present under the form of bread and wine at the Eucharist. Popular piety and legends that speak too explicitly about the physicality of the Eucharist have not helped us have sensible thinking. As a Catholic I believe that Christ, raised by God from the dead, is truly and personally present to me in the Eucharist. How – is a question that misses the point of the gift.

Chapter six of John's Gospel is a discourse on the Eucharist. It is also, and at the same time, a discourse about Jesus' passion and death and our mission to follow in his way. For Jesus, the new Moses, not only gives bread to the people, but also in his passion, death and resurrection he gives us himself. This is why the Church has always linked the events at Easter with the celebration of Eucharist.

Why have we been given this unique gift? The Eucharist is not meant to be a feast for a privileged few. It's not a private devotion. It's not meant to be something that only assures us of our own particular salvation. It is meant to be something that empowers all Christians to go out and transform the world with love and goodness for Christ's sake. (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.

- 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B - August 16, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God, our protector, keep us in mind; always give strength to your people. For if we can be with you even one day, it is better than a thousand without you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

2nd Reading: Eph 5:21-32

Gospel: Jn 6:60-69



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
11.30am (2nd Sunday)

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

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 17 - Lynch family, Criton Cres. **Aug 24** - Johnson family, Ruhamah Ave.

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, Ray Brunger, Rita McDonald

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2009.

(4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 2)

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Sacristan

Projectionist

8.00AM

F O'Neill

L Kelly

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

L&E Kelly

V O'Malley

M Fatone, G Ricciardi, M Altieri

6.00PM

M Lacy

E Cotter

C McShanag

C Canny, M Brown, D McFarlane

T McShanag

5.00PM

D O'Brien

G Tolan

M Ackland, M Gifford, S Beamond

R&K Maddalena

N Neeld

9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Lukesic, J Gdak, M Baird

D Lunn, P McBride, R Zanardo, E Gdak, J McMahon

E Glynn, A Flomo

A Greco, Sr Nirmalie

11.00AM

11.00AM

M Foley

M McGeedy

H&M Broekman, D Dougherty, M Mirabile

M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski

P Pollard

R Zarb

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:

OUR COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES:

I received this note from Sr Claire Griffin, the Co-ordinator of the Columban Partnership Program, and it pertains to the support we are giving in this arm of the very good work of this Partnership...

The Power of Good News:

It seems natural that, as we face the various tasks of daily living, even small signs of encouragement can make a difference.

Recently, I received a couple of such signs of encouragement when I collected the mail from my letter box. Among the usual assortment of junk mail and accounts were letters from a distance with good news from The Philippines.

The first letter was from Marlou Concepcion, Operations Manager at KAZAMA Grameen, Subic, Zambales. Marlou and his team of dedicated staff work tirelessly to enable people who live in extreme poverty to access credit through the small loans made available to them through the Grameen Bank. This village bank, set up in Olongapo by Columban Fr Sean Connaughton to target those most affected by poverty, continues to transform the lives of many, particularly of women. It empowers them to generate an income and be better able feed and educate their families.

Marlou's letter told of several women in Pampanga who recently were able to gain loans for rice and vegetable growing, poultry raising, and the farming of domestic animals. Not only are these loans improving the economic situation of these individual families, they also have a knock on effect in that they are teaching people to save and manage money, they unite rural communities and are restoring dignity and hope. Good news indeed

The second letter was from Fr Sean Connaughton. After many years on mission in The Philippines, Fr Sean now lives in Ireland from where he maintains strong connections and regular contact with KAZAMA Grameen. His good news was about two newly opened branches being off to a healthy start in the areas of Gua-Gua and San Fernando. He acknowledged deep appreciation for the continuing generous donations from several parishes currently involved in the Columban Parish Partnership Programme who enable this good work to develop. At this time, when many Australians are experiencing economic stress and when Church communities often live with criticism and dwindling resources, it is heartening to know that generosity of spirit and a commitment to working for a more just world, live on in the hearts of so many.

- Sr Claire Griffin



Cluster News:

- ⇒ **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. If you didn't have a chance to fill in the census card last weekend, could you please do so today. 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.
- ⇒ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Last Tuesday the Parish Leadership Team met. The focus of the meeting was strengthening the links between the wider parish community with the schools. The meeting was an opportunity to affirm the many good things which are occurring in the schools, as well as presenting further options and actions.

Holy Spirit:

- ⇒ HOLY

Community News:

- Aug 16... **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: Keyboard Kaleidoscope** - Helen O'Brien and Frank de Rosso featuring fortepiano, harpsichord, chamber organ and grand organ, 3pm at the St Mary's Basilica. Tickets at the door - \$18 full/seniors, \$15 concession/full-time students. Incl a'noon tea, enquiries to Jeanette 5223 3554.
- 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!**
- Sept 1... **FATHER'S DAY MASS:** The Principal of Sacred Heart College together with the P&F Association invite you to celebrate this Mass at 7.30pm in St Bernard's Church, Fryers Rd Belmont.
- Sept 13... **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: Clair de Lune** - Newman College Choir featuring an Anthology of Romantic French Music. Tickets at the door - \$18 full/seniors, \$15 concession/full-time students. Incl a'noon tea, enquiries to Jeanette 5223 3554.
- Oct 11... **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: Gospel Music** - Improvisations in Blues and Jazz Mode, 3pm at St Mary's Basilica. Tickets at the door - \$18 full/seniors, \$15 concession/full-time students. Incl a'noon tea, enquiries to Jeanette 5223 3554.

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 at 6pm and Sun Aug 16 at 11am
Holy Family School: Sun Aug 16 at 9.30am and Sun Aug 23 at 9.30am
St Patrick's School: Sat Aug 22 at 5pm and Sun Aug 23 at 11am

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Thoughts on Giving

"Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise..." (Eph 5:15)

A wise person recognizes that all we have comes from God.

A wise person thanks God every day for all His many blessings.

A wise person realizes that God has blessed us for a reason and He wants us to be partners with Him in His work here on earth.



(/Cont'd from P1)

The Church has always linked what we do *away* from the Eucharist with what we celebrate at it. This doesn't mean that all of us can rush out and feed the world's poor. It does mean that most of us can assist other groups or people who do precisely that. And it does mean that when we think about who we will vote for as political leaders, we ask about their platform in relation to those in our country and world who are suffering the most. The former General of the Jesuits, Fr Pedro Arrupe once said, 'If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world'.

Sometimes we can think of the Eucharist as a magical act. Jesus counters such a notion in today's gospel when he tells us that he gives us himself 'for the life of the world'. The Eucharist does not turn us into cannibals; it's meant to make us radicals, radically committed to all God's people everywhere.