



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

Web Page Address:
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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 -

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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

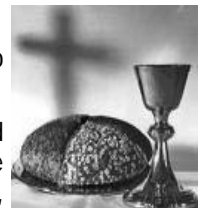
Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

I have some sympathy for the response of the Jews to Jesus' hard teaching in today's Gospel! For a Jew to be asked to drink blood is as abhorrent as it gets. It is the same as demanding that an ultra Orthodox Jew eat pork!

In almost all the stories in the Gospel of John there are insiders and outsiders, those who understand the message and those who take Jesus too literally and are offended or confused. The flesh and blood given for the life of the world is at one and the same time the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist. Jesus was not, literally, offering his arm for his followers to chew! He was referring to the gift he was soon going to give his followers: the example of utter fidelity to God's Kingdom even unto death, and the meal of that Kingdom, the Eucharist. We are the recipients of both gifts and the commission to live them out. The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation is given to us for our mission in the world today and for our journey toward the World to come.

The other response in today's Gospel gives us great hope. In spite of being confused and deserted by his friends Peter hangs in there with Jesus. He holds on to faith when all the signs show that a hasty retreat may be a better course of action. We all know people who remain faithful in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some of these we can understand – parents with sick children or spouses with ill partners. It's heroic, but understandable. But sometimes fidelity is heroic and inexplicable: when a spouse welcomes back his or her partner after an adulterous affair; when a foreign-born priest or religious will not abandon an oppressed community; when a person will fight a just cause and be persecuted all the way to the end. These are powerful signs of faithful love at work too. It's a fine line to know when fidelity is 'dying to self' not 'killing self'. We are called to the former and often seduced by the latter.

James Keenan in his excellent book, 'Virtues for ordinary Christians' says that fidelity is the bottom line of the Christian life. He argues that the Church has spent too much time preaching about 'infidelities' and too little time teaching about those things that strengthen fidelity. 'Each person', he says, 'has two major moral goals in life: to be just and to be faithful'. (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.

- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B - August 23, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Listen Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you. I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Deut 4:1-2,6-8

2nd Reading: James 1:17-18,21-22,27

Gospel: Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23



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: 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: Margaret Hardy, Paul de Been, Margaret Quinn, Reno Spiteri, Nancy Lowther

ANNIVERSARIES: Sally Matkevic, Giovanni Rosciano, Ida Gilbert, Antonio & Rosina Cartiere, Ursula Pickard, Fr William Durkin

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, Felix Capicchiano

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2009.

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 3)

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

P Walsh, V Carmody

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 Ditkun, M Sleeman

N Neeld

9.30AM

L Lehpamer

H Verdnik, T McMahan, L Lehpamer

J de Palma, M Modica, E Glynn

E Dalton, G Carmody

E Hoffman

11.00AM

M Shilling

M Currie

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 Sundays 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:

CENSUS UPDATE:

If you haven't had a chance to fill in a census card, please do so today.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN:

The Community Kitchen has now changed from being under the auspices of Bethany Community Services to the Pastoral Cluster. The Community Kitchen is a social group where people come together to cook a lunch and meals which they can take home. Ideally suited for single people. If you would like to know more, please phone Kath O'Reilly on 5243 3341. There are still a couple of places left. We thank Bethany for setting up the program and we thank Kath for her generosity in sharing her time and talents.

R.C.I.A.

We have nine people enquiring into the Catholic faith. We met for the first time on Wed Aug 12. Many thanks to those who volunteered to walk with these enquirers as sponsors. However, for RCIA to be really effective all parishioners need to work at making our Masses welcoming for all who come. Please greet one another, and please pray for our enquirers.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL:

In February this year the Federal government announced the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) initiative with the focus on building a major new infrastructure for primary schools. Holy Spirit Parish School was fortunate to be part of this Government stimulus package. This money will enable us to build a multi-purpose room, three contemporary personal learning classrooms and fully refurbish the library. This is a major building project and is estimated to take twelve months. Under the timelines set by the government the school is required to begin building in September, 2009.

To limit disruption to students' learning and to provide adequate safety and space to play, the 3/4 learning unit will be relocated to the Holy Spirit Parish Hall. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Fr Gerard, the Parish office and the community groups for allowing the school to use the Parish Hall. This support is central to the parish's ongoing sense of community spirit and Holy Spirit Parish School hopes that the improvements made to the Parish Hall will not only assist the school, but will provide ongoing benefit for the parish community.

- *Mary Abbott, Principal*

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

In late October/early November, the parish will embark upon a Stewardship Program. Currently known as our Thanksgiving Program, the renewal will challenge us to accept Christian Stewardship as a way of living our lives - and not just as a fundraising program. More details later.



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 Family School: Sun Aug 23 at 9.30am

St Patrick's School: Sat Aug 22 at 5pm and Sun Aug 23 at 11am



Holy Family:

⇒ **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Pat and Terry McMahon** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on August 20. They were married in St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne, on August 20 1949 by Frs Ray Skehill and Fr Bill McMahon.

Community News:

- 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!**
- Aug 29...** **CARER'S DAY OUT:** 1.30-4pm - Bowen Massage, foot spas & a'noon tea. The day is for anyone caring for the young or old to come along and get some pampering, \$5 donation, bookings essential. Phone Marg 5229 1656. Held at the Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment, 100 Yarra St.
- " **INVITATION:** The Legion of Mary invites all to attend a Retreat on Reconciliation with Fr Francis at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Plume St Norlane, 10am-3pm.
- Aug 30...** **OLD COLLEGIANS REUNION** of Sacred Heart College/St Martin in the Pines, Ballarat, to be held at 20 Downie Cres Hamlyn Hts at 2pm. All welcome! Enquiries ph Val on 5278 4065.
- 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 10...** **FREE TALKS ON MENTAL HEALTH:** Chris Mackey is offering free public lectures on **How to Worry Less** at the Geelong West Town Hall, Supper Room, 7.30-8.845pm. All welcome!
- Sept 11...** **INVITATION:** Bethany Community Support invites you to a morning tea to mark the culmination of our **Community Kitchens Program**. Join us to celebrate the achievements of the past three years at 11am, venue 1 Gibb St, North Geelong.
- Sept 11-13...** **LIFE IN CHRONIC ILLNESS:** Being chronically ill is an experience like no other. There is very little available for people who want to share their journey of chronic illness at the level of faith. This retreat offers prayer and spiritual conversation on healing, vulnerability, affirmation and our special relationship with God. If you have any special access requirements, please advise us. Bringing a support companion is often an excellent idea. Suggested donation: \$190 live-in, \$160 live-out (incl meals). To book ph 9854 8110 or www.cis.jesuit.org.au Address: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 99 Studley Park Rd Kew 3101.
- Sept 13...** **MUSIC AND MELODIES FOR VIQUEQUE:** *All proceeds for the education of children in the District of Viqueque, Timor-Leste.* Special Guest Tony Wasley - 5pm for a 5.30pm start, at the Performing Arts Centre, St Joseph's College Newtown. Entry \$10 adult, \$5 concession/student, \$25 family. Tickets ph Zara Walker, St Joseph's College 5226 8111, or from Kristen Rowan, Wing and a Prayer Shop E5/6, Malop St Geelong, 5221 4451.
- 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 8...** **FREE TALKS ON MENTAL HEALTH:** Chris Mackey is offering free public lectures on **Dealing with Depression** at the Geelong West Town Hall, Supper Room, 7.30-8.845pm. All welcome!
- 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.
- Nov 12...** **FREE TALKS ON MENTAL HEALTH:** Chris Mackey is offering free public lectures on **Where is Positive Psychiatry?** (Limitations of prevailing mental health models) at the Geelong West Town Hall, Supper Room, 7.30-8.845pm. All welcome!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Thoughts on Giving

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a partner in the work of the Lord.

A partner is a person who invests time, talent and treasure. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something!

(/Cont'd from P1)

Being faithful to his Father, and to us, sums up what Jesus does for our salvation and is exactly what He calls forth from the disciples in today's Gospel. Perhaps because we too easily think it is something difficult, we presume that being faithful to our friends is hardly a moral issue. Yet once we see that friendship is the key to the moral life then we can come to see that living the moral life is about the ordinary interactions of our day

James Keenan writes, 'To this end we may need to make more calls, write more letters, cook more dinners, take more strolls, linger a little longer with a friend. We may also need to disengage ourselves from the habit of counting or measuring what the other does or does not do or say'.

May this Eucharist enable us to respond to the invitation of the Holy One of God to place fidelity and friendship at the centre of our moral life and attend to the everyday activities that will see us live it out.

