



# Pastoral Cluster

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

<b>PARISH PRIESTS:</b>	Frs Gerard Keith & Mick Fitzpatrick - Phone 5278 1343			<b>Web Page Address:</b> <a href="http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org">www.pastoralclustergeelong.org</a>
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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-12noon, Fri 9.30am-2.30pm			
<b>OFFICE MANAGER:</b>	Trish Stickland -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <a href="mailto:cluster@netspace.net.au">cluster@netspace.net.au</a> )		
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<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:</b>	Holy Family -	Brian Everett	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
	Holy Spirit -	Mary Abbott	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
	St Patrick's -	Basil Flynn	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

## Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)



Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday. They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. (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.

## - First Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - November 29, 2009.)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, my God, I lift my soul. I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

**Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

#### Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9  
2nd Reading: Phil 1:4-6,8-11  
Gospel: Lk 3:1-6



## 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: Nov 30:** Hennessy family, Hennessy Ave;

**Dec 7:** Moore family, Willana Ave;

**Dec 14:** Iozzo family, Manifold St.

*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, Rita Ambrose, Alan Mee, Rita McDonald, Felix Capicchiano, Toni Siketa, Jordan Willis, Elena Cattanaach, Margaret Mayne, Verlie Molloy, Kylie Behr, John Robertson

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

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009.**

(1st Sunday of the Month)

#### **HOLY FAMILY**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 2)

#### **8.00AM**

R Allum

F Chrimes, J Bartolo

U Guardiano, K McArthur

L Sells, K McArthur

M Fatone, G Ricciardi, M Altieri

#### **9.30AM**

T McMahan

C&J Taylor, T McMahan

G&P Carmody, M Baird

M&E Hoffman, L d'Aprile

Sr Nirmalie, A Gstalter

#### **HOLY SPIRIT:**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

#### **6.00PM**

Sr Scibberas

J O'Neill

J Hudson & D Boyle

C Horan, V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

#### **11.00AM**

M Shilling

M Gurrie

V Trinder

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles

#### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S:**

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Sacristan

Projectionist

#### **5.00PM**

C O'Brian

D O'Brian

R Walker, N Neeld, Dean Dougherty

A Henderson

#### **11.00AM**

## Recurring Activities in the Cluster:

- . Holy Family: **BBQ 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 School - Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-5 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5278 3558 or mob 0400 722 726
- . **Manifold CWL** - Pastoral Cluster Centre, First Tuesdays in the month
- . **Italian Mass** - First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
- . **Geelong Stroke Support** group for survivors, partners, carers & families meet in the Ss Peter & Paul's 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
- . **Pastoral Cluster Community Kitchen**: Each Monday at Ss Peter & Paul's small hall starting at 10am. Contact Cath O'Reilly 5243 3341

## Cluster News:

### PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COLUMBANS IN THE PHILIPPINES

#### MUSTER WITH THE CLUSTER:

As part of our Partnership with the Columbans, we will again be having our Movie Night this year. The movie is:

### **PLANET 51** (G) - Wkxwgd | Ghf#6/#9178sp 1###

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V fkrrov#ru#kh#S dlvk#R ilfh1



We will be premiering this movie in Geelong, in fact one week prior to its release to the wider community. I understand it will be a very good animated movie with an equally good message. For every ticket sold \$1 will go to the Partnership project. I would envisage tickets will move very quickly, so please get in early to avoid disappointment!

**Tickets available for sale after each Mass.**

Also on that day, the three schools will be coming together with special activities which will focus on our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines.

**A VOTE OF THANKS:** On behalf of the parishioners, I thank the Bereavement Team for their generous pastoral care to the bereaved of our parish. They do this through sending a card, often visiting the bereaved and sometimes with follow-up care. Furthermore, they organise our very moving Remembrance Mass in November. To all those involved, many thanks for a job very well done! (*Fr Gerard*)

### OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

#### *Attention all Christmas Carollers*

Do you enjoy Christmas Carols? Do you enjoy singing in the shower (or elsewhere?) Do you play an instrument?

If you answered yes to any of the above, we are keen to have you join us in a choir for singing carols before and during the Christmas Midnight Mass. We would love to see people from our three Parishes come together as one voice. All that is required is a love of singing and a desire to be part of the choir for this event.

If you play a musical instrument, your presence would be greatly appreciated - flute, guitar, violin, etc.

Practices will be at Holy Family on Wednesdays beginning **Wed Dec 2** from 7pm till 8.30pm. Come one! Come all!

You can contact Frank Lehpamer on [lehpamer@geelong.hotkey.net.au](mailto:lehpamer@geelong.hotkey.net.au) or phone 5278 4230.

## Holy Spirit:

⇒ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** On the weekend of Dec 5/6 the Holy Spirit SVDP Conference will be holding their Annual Christmas Appeal. Funds raised will go to assist those in our community who are less fortunate than ourselves. There will be a second collection at the Saturday 6pm Mass and the Sunday 11am Mass. Please give generously.

## Ss Peter & Paul's:

⇒ **FR MICK'S MATES:** After 5pm Mass on **Saturday Dec 5**, Fr Mick's Mates will be holding a Sausage Sizzle, Cake Stall, Relishes, Christmas Raffle, etc. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

⇒ **FESTA DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE PROGRAMMA:** DOMENICA 6 DICEMBRE NELLA CHIESA DI ST PATRICK BRITANNIA ST, GEELONG WEST. ALLE ORE 9.30AM. LA MESSA SARA CELEBRATA DA MONS JAMES MURRAY. DOPO LA SANTA MESSA CI SARA LA PROCESSIONE CON LA STATUA NEL CORTILE DELLA SCUOLA. SEGUIRA LA BENEDIZIONE TUTTI SIETE BENVENUTI.

## Stewardship Program:

Thankyou to all parishioners who have made a pledge to our Stewardship Program. We welcome the 50 new families who have joined during the last few weeks. Please find your new envelopes available at the Church entrance. The envelopes are in STREET ORDER, regardless of suburb. The new envelopes start this weekend **Nov 28/29**, so please take any you can deliver to people who live near you. Credit Card and Direct Debit letters have been posted.

With the advent of the new envelopes, and as part of our Stewardship Program, please note there will only be **ONE COLLECTION** after the Prayers of the Faithful, with the collection being brought to the Altar as part of the Offertory Procession. The proceeds from the collection will cover both the costs of running the Parishes as well as support for the Priests.

During the collection the notices for the Bulletin will be read out, rather than at the end as has been the custom. The reason is that the notices highlight the ways we, as a community, are endeavouring to live out the Gospel in context of our local situation.

### CALENDAR OF DATES AND EVENTS:

Nov 28/29... Saturday and Sunday - **New Commitment Begins**

## Community Dates:

Dec 3... **MASS OF THANKSGIVING:** To celebrate the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Geelong - St Mary's Basilica, 1.30pm For a ticket to entitle you to a seat contact St Mary's Parish Office or the Sisters of Mercy at Newtown, 61 Retreat Rd Newtown, 5221 1644. Email: [joanw@mercy.org.au](mailto:joanw@mercy.org.au)

Dec 18... **HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'** will be performed at St Mary's Basilica 8pm by the Choir and Orchestra of The Scots' Presbyterian Church, Melb. Tickets \$35, \$30Conc from GPAC or at the door.

Advent... **FREE LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS** at St Mary's Basilica: **Nov 30** - *Rod Junor* (from Melbourne Town Hall); **Dec 7** - *Siegfried Franke* (from Christ Church, South Yarra); **Dec 14** - *Tom Healey* (from St Andrew's Brighton); **Dec 21** - *Frank De Rosso* (from St Mary's Basilica)

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(/Cont'd from P1)

The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.