



# Pastoral Cluster

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

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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)



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.' There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings - Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God. (Cont'd Pt 4)

## - Third Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - December 13, 2009.)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!  
The Lord is near.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. **Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4  
2nd Reading: Heb 10:5-10  
Gospel: Lk 1:39-44



### 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:

**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, Margaret Mayne, Kylie Behr, John Robertson, Krishner & Trishna, Lorena Gonzaga

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

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009.**

(3rd 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**

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

A&LVanjek

N Ingles, M Law, V Seljak

#### **6.00PM**

Sr J McGonigal

M Ercoli

G Wright

C Horan, C Canny, V Logan

T Dunlop

#### **5.00PM**

D Maddalena

K Maddalena

M Gifford, B Dikun, M Sleeman

N Neeld

#### **9.30AM**

L Lehpamer

H Verdrik, T McMahon, L Lehpamer

J de Palma, M Modica, 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: **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

## Christmas Celebrations in the Cluster:




 Second Rite Reconciliation...	Thursday Dec 17	7.30pm	Holy Spirit
	Monday Dec 21	7.30pm	Holy Family
	Tuesday Dec 22	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
Christmas Masses...	Thursday Dec 24	6.00pm	Holy Family (focus on children)
		7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
		8.00pm	Holy Spirit (focus on the family)
	Friday Dec 25	Midnight	Holy Family, Carols from 11.30pm
		8.00am	Ss Peter & Paul's
	9.00am	Holy Spirit	
	9.30am	Holy Family	

### *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.

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

**THANKYOU** - to all those who assisted in the preparation and distribution of our Christmas invitations.



## **Holy Spirit:**

⇒ ST

## **Ss Peter & Paul's:**

⇒ CHRISTMAS LUNCH: This Sunday, Dec 13, there will be a Christmas Lunch. Please bring food suitable for a Christmas function.

⇒ ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: This weekend of Dec 11/12 the Ss Peter & Paul's Conference will be holding their annual Christmas Appeal.

## **Holy Family:**

⇒ ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL: Our parish group will once again be distributing food parcels and toys to the needy in our area at Christmas time. As in previous years, it is hoped parishioners will help by donating items of food and toys for the children. Next week at both Masses slips of paper with food items named on them will be handed out. The food item, extra food and toys, could be brought to Mass on Sunday. Thanks in anticipation for your help again this Christmas. **Because of your anticipated support for the project, our Conference will NOT have a special collection today.**

## **Stewardship Program:**

### CREDIT CARD & DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS TO STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME:

Please note that credit card & direct debit payments will be made on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Please return direct debit authorisation forms to Helen at the Parish Office, so payment arrangements can be finalised through the Catholic Development Fund.

TIME & TALENT: The above figures show the financial success of the Stewardship Program. However, an equally important, if not more important, dimension of the Program was the invitation for people to share their Time and Talent in the Pastoral Outreach and Liturgical Ministries of the Pastoral Cluster. To all those who have volunteered in any way - many thanks! In the coming weeks the names and phone numbers of those who volunteered for specific Pastoral activities will be forwarded to the respective co-ordinators. Those who volunteered for liturgical ministries such as Reading, Special Ministers - a roster will be drawn up in late January and be operational in February. A special note to the Lectors - there will be training sessions in March next year.

LECTORS: Break Open the Word - Copies of this resource book are available to the Readers/Lectors who are presently on our rosters in the three parishes. Copies will be given to new people when new rosters are implemented at the start of February. Please collect your copy from the Sacristy from next week.

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*(/Cont'd from P1)*

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby. That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.