



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: www.pastoralclustergeelong.org
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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:	Trish Stickland -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@netspace.net.au)		
COMMUNITY WORKER:	Len Monk -	Phone 5278 2966 (email: lenmonk@netspace.net.au)		
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THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:	Helen Brislane -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: helenbrislane@netspace.net.au)		
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	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)

The visitation is one of the moving scenes in the Gospel. On a human level, here are two cousins, unexpectedly pregnant in the most extraordinary circumstances, meeting and offering each other greetings and support. We can see the scene and feel the bond. In the Gospel of Luke this moment is pivotal. These women meet in the mountains where God has always been manifest to the Israelites. Elizabeth is the Old Covenant made to Israel and she carries John who will be the herald of the Messiah. Mary, literally, embodies the new, and final, covenant in Jesus.

Elizabeth recognises what is happening here and she embraces all that God is doing for the world. She has tasted the promise of God and now sees its fulfilment. On a more mundane level, however, a meeting like this would have occasioned much comment and speculation from those outside the inner circle. We only have to imagine it happening today in any small suburb or country town for us to appreciate the human scale of the unfolding drama.

The Iona Community has explored the unwritten history in their story of Mmes Matthew, Mark and Luke, 'The village gossips'.

Narrator: In any small village, news travels quickly. Therefore it is only to be expected that the strange changes in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth might have been food for other people's thought.

Mrs Matthew: Well, ladies, you know how I'm not one for gossip, but wait until you hear this. You know that old woman Elizabeth, with the man who has not spoken for nine months.

Mrs Mark: Yes, what about them?

Mrs Matthew: They say she's had a little boy.

Mrs Luke: At her age? She's 88 if she's a day!

Mrs Matthew: Well, that's what I heard and it was on very good authority!

Mrs Luke: Are you sure you've got the right woman? You're not mixing her up with her cousin?

Mrs Mark: Who? Mary?

Mrs Luke: That's her! Now, I'm not one for talking about anybody but wait until I tell you this. She's pregnant! (Cont'd P4)



- Fourth Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - December 20, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Holy Family - Year C

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21
Gospel: Lk 2:41-52



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:

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 27, 2009.

(4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group)

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

6.00PM

M Lacy

E Cotter

C McShanag

C Canny, M Brown, D McFarlane

T McShanag

5.00PM

A Henderson

G Tolan

M Ackland, M Gifford, S Beamond

R&K Maddalena

N Neeld

9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Lukesic, J Gdak, M Baird

E Gdak, J McMahan, D Lunn

E Glynn, A Flomo

A Greco, Sr Nirmalie

11.00AM

11.00AM

M Foley

M McGeady

H&M Broekman, D Dougherty, M Mirabile

M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski

P Pollard

R Zarb

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...

Monday Dec 21	7.30pm	Holy Family
Tuesday Dec 22	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's

Christmas Masses...

Thursday Dec 24	6.00pm 7.00pm 8.00pm Midnight	Holy Family (focus on children) Ss Peter & Paul's Holy Spirit (focus on the family) Holy Family, Carols from 11.30pm
Friday Dec 25	8.00am 9.00am 9.30am	Ss Peter & Paul's Holy Spirit 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 lehpaamer@geelong.hotkey.net.au or phone 5278 4230.



END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASSES:

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 this week.

FR MICK'S MATES CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:



Holy Spirit:

⇒ THANKYOU:

Ss Peter & Paul's:

⇒ ST

Holy Family:

⇒ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** Today you are asked to take a slip of paper with a food item named on it and bring the food item, with any other non-perishable food you wish to donate, to Mass next weekend, and place your gifts under the Jesse Tree or in the containers in the Church porch. As well as your food gifts, if you have any new toys these can be used as Christmas presents for the children of the needy. If wrapping presents, please put a note on the outside saying for what age group and whether for a boy or a girl. Thankyou for making Christmas a little happier for those less fortunate than ourselves and showing them someone cares.

Stewardship Program:

CREDIT CARD & DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS TO STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME:

Please note that credit card & direct debit payments will be made on the 15th 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.

Community Dates:

- 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: **Dec 14 - Tom Healey** (from St Andrew's Brighton); **Dec 21 - Frank De Rosso** (from St Mary's Basilica)
- Dec 25... **GEELONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER:** A fully catered traditional Christmas Dinner for any person or small family at no cost - **Christ Church Hall, cnr Moorabool & McKillop Sts.** If you or anyone you know is interested in attending please ph SVDP Society on 5221 9170 until Tues Dec 22 to book. Door opens 9.30am till 3.30pm with dining commencing 11.45am.

(/Cont'd from P1)

Mrs Mark: Never! How do you know?

Mrs Luke: You can tell. You can just tell.

Mrs Matthew: Oh yes, you can tell all right. I heard her in the store last week asking for a dress eight sizes too big for her.

Mrs Luke: There you are. Draw your own conclusions. Now, I know that this will not go any further, but I hear that she and a certain young man are planning to leave the district.

Mrs Matthew: Who is the young man?

Mrs Luke: The joiner's boy, Joseph.

Mrs Mark: Never!

Mrs Luke: Well, that's what they say and I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Mark: So, have you heard what they're saying about the so-called census?

Mrs Matthew: No. Tell us.

Mrs Mark: Well, I happened to hear that the reason the Romans want our names is not to send us birthday cards.

Mrs Luke: Well, why are they having a census?

Mrs Mark: To register us for a 'poll tax'.

Mrs Matthew: I heard it was a 'community charge'.

Mrs Mark: 'A rose by any other name.'

Mrs Luke: They wouldn't do that, would they?

Mrs Mark: Well I'm just warning you. Mind, I'm not one for gossip.

Mrs Luke: Nor me.

Mrs Matthew: Nor me.

The story of the visitation keeps the rumour going that just when we think we can figure God out, predict how God will enter our lives and our world, he does something none of us can imagine. And the best thing about this rumour is – it's true.

As we wait for Christmas to come again into our lives, let's make room for Jesus Christ who turns our expectations upside down and always gives the gossips plenty to talk about.