



# 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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)

**OFFICE:**

147 Separation St Bell Park 3215

Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: [cluster@netspace.net.au](mailto:cluster@netspace.net.au)

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**COMMUNITY WORKER:**

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**LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:**

Frank Kearney - Phone 5278 1343 (email: [frankkearney@netspace.net.au](mailto:frankkearney@netspace.net.au))

**THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:**

Helen Brislane - Phone 5278 1343 (email: [helenbrislane@netspace.net.au](mailto: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)

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile. Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God. Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow!

We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family. Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered by the occupying Roman Army. The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that once she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans.

By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelink, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death. You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own.

Most families are about being generous, loving, stable and faithful. They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before. Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society. For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today. So what's the secret? Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key.

(Cont'd P2)



*Wishing you a Happy, Safe and Faith-filled New Year!*

## - Feast of the Holy Family -

(Year C - December 27, 2009.)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

**Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****Epiphany - Year C**

1st Reading:	Is 60:1-6
2nd Reading:	Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel:	Mt 2:1-12

**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.

## 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

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9.30am - Italian Mass at St Patrick's

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Mon Dec 28: NO Mass at Vincentian Village,

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NEW YEAR'S EVE: 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's

NEW YEAR'S DAY: 9.15am Holy Family, 9.30am St Patrick's (Italian), 11am Holy Spirit

### Thankyou!

To all those who contributed to our  
liturgical celebrations and those who  
were generous in their support of our St  
Vincent de Paul appeal.

### WE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Mark Chamberlin

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Maria Pino, John & Irene O'Neill, Peter Bahl, Vlatko Velcek,  
Carmelo & Teresa DeLuca

(/Cont'd from p1)... This flies in the face of the film *Love Story's* outrageous motto, 'Love means not having to say you're sorry'. As Christians, precisely the opposite is the case. Love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive. But if my experience is anything to go by, 'I'm sorry' is second only to 'I love you' as the hardest statement to say and hear, in family life.

When I was 16 I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell who wrote, 'We should never leave this world not having told the people that we love that we love them.' Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge. I wrote to my sister, who was then working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and to my brother who was working interstate, telling them that I loved them. That left my mother. I stayed home one Saturday night and with my heart pumping and my tummy churning I approached my mother after tea while she was watching the news. 'Mum, I have something important to tell you', I began. My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes, what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before.' And now I could tell there was a duet of hearts pumping and tummies churning. I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.' And such was her relief that my mother replied 'I hope so' and promptly turned back to the TV. My brother and sister wrote to Mum asking what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase I was going through.

In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words. True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

May this feast of the Holy Family, then, give our families the 'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference'.

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010.**

(1st Sunday of the Month)

### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 1)

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Sacristan

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### 8.00AM

R Allum

F Chrimes, J Bartolo

U Guardiano, K McArthur

L Sells, K McArthur

H Thornton, E Di Domenico, P Lee

### 6.00PM

Sr Sibberas

J O'Neill

J Hudson & D Boyle

C Horan, V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

C O'Brian

D O'Brian

R Walker, N Neeld, Dean Dougherty

A Henderson

### 9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor, T McMahon

G&P Carmody, M Baird

M&E Hoffman, L d'Aprile

Sr Nirmalie, A Gstalter

### 11.00AM

M Shilling

M Gurrie

V Trinder

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

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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.

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