



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

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-12noon, Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

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Holy Family -

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Holy Spirit -

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Minerva Rd Manifold Hts

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St Patrick's -

Basil Flynn

Petrel St, Geelong West

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www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

Sometimes a piece of theatre can be so powerful it stays with you for your whole life. Many years ago I saw Jesuit dramatist Michael Moynahan perform his mime entitled 'Come-Passion'. It starts with a clown happily doing tricks and juggling for the audience. Soon, Jesus is led in by the soldiers and is crucified. The clown watches on in horror. When Jesus dies and the soldiers go home the clown remains at the foot of the cross. He removes the nails from the hands and feet of Jesus and cradles the corpse in his lap, as in Michelangelo's Pieta. He weeps for the evil that saw a just man crucified. Just then, the soldiers return and find the clown grieving over the body of Jesus. They crucify the clown. The clown suffers and dies on the cross. As they leave Jesus is raised to life, he sees the suffering clown, removes the nails, cradles him in his arms and holds him for what feels like an eternity.



When I saw this mime you could have heard a pin drop, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The word compassion comes from the Latin word *compati* meaning to bear or suffer with. It's not pity, sympathy or commiseration. Those words imply that we stand outside an experience and feelingly look in on it. Compassion is about 'fellow-feeling'. It's what the Good Shepherd embodies, and what Easter is all about. If we are worthy followers of Jesus we will all have our fair share of Good Fridays, but Easter Sunday tells us that just as the Father remained faithful to Jesus, so Jesus will remain faithful to us, as one with us.

In recent years the bishops, who are often called shepherds of the local Church, have come under extraordinary scrutiny. And rightly so. All of us who are living the Christian life are accountable for what we have done and have failed to do, and the bishops are no exception. It's a tough time to be the local shepherd. The flock is highly educated and we no longer follow anyone's lead with a herd mentality. We want to know our shepherd, hear his compassionate voice call for justice for victims everywhere, but especially ones who have been injured in any way by the Church. We want to be confident that what our local shepherd says and does is what Christ the Good Shepherd would say and do.

(Continued P4)

- 4th Sunday of Easter -

(Year B - May 3, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner-stone.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

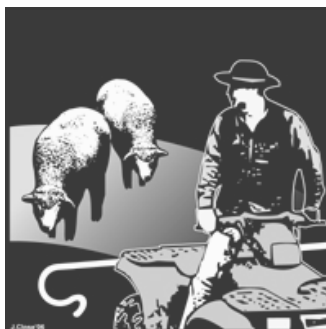
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

5th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

2nd Reading: 1Jn 3:18-24

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8



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)

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

Holy Spirit Church

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: 4 May - Kolotelo family, Bostock 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:

ANNIVERSARIES:

BAPTISMS:

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kathleen Lewis, Wendy Commons

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009.

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 2)

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Sacristan

Projectionist

8.00AM

A Vanjek

F O'Neill

E Di Domenico, I Vanjek, R Allum

C Marcantonio, P Walsh

H Thornton

M Fatone, G Ricciardi, M Altieri

6.00PM

M Lacy

M Willett

B Murphy

M Brown, D McFarlane, P Ryan

B Stocks

5.00PM

A Hubbard

P Power

P Hubbard, N Neeld, A Henderson

R&K Maddalena

N Neeld

9.30AM

J Mann

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Modica, E Glynn, P Carmody, M Baird

V Resciniti, G Cracco

J Markov

11.00AM

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin

E Strzelecki, A&L Fossey, P Pollard/M Burn, J Gailius

M&H Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey

P Pollard

T Martin

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
- Ss Peter & Paul's Luncheon second Sunday of each month 12noon in the Small Hall
- 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 Hall - Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-5 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5278 3558, 5221 1310 for details
- Manifold CWL - Holy Spirit Hall - First Tuesdays in the month
- Italian Mass at Holy Spirit Church (until further notice) - First Thursday of the month
- Geelong Stroke Support group for survivors, partners, carers & families meet in the Holy Spirit Hall - **May 12** - 11am, Guest Speaker Fiona McKinnon. **May 26** - 10.30am Bowling at Bowl-a-rama, Reynolds Rd Belmont. Ph John 5278 7048.
- Catholic Deanery Solo Group: Dinner at Desma's every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Bookings phone 5278 2712.

Cluster News:

RAFFLE BOOKS: A reminder to all parishioners who have taken a book of raffle tickets to sell, they must be returned to the Cluster Office, or the ticket distributors, **NO LATER THAN APRIL 26.**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: The SVDP Society do great work in the local community. Over the coming weeks there will be a special promotion of their activities with the hope that more people would be interested in volunteering their time to work with SVDP. The SVDP Society in the Geelong region continues to assist families and individuals through programs that support and encourage.

- ⇒ On the weekend of May 16/17 there will be a guest speaker at all our Masses.
- ⇒ **Come and See** - Tuesday 19 May, 7.30pm at Ss Peter & Paul's (small hall), Malone St Geelong

YOUNG VINNIES: Young Vinnies is an enthusiastic group of youth and young adults from various backgrounds between the ages of 16 to 30s who are focused on making a difference in local community through offering friendship and hands-on assistance to people in need. It also offers participants a nurturing and caring experience in a fun and friendly social setting. If you are interested there is a planning meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, 7pm at St Vincent de Paul Centre, 162 Fyans St South Geelong. Or you can contact Jess Boccia/Jeff Butler on 0422 712 130 or email: youngvinniesgeelong@gmail.com

Congratulations!

Fr Mick's Mates were awarded a trophy for being the most successful fundraising group for the Geelong Relay for Life this year.



Many thanks to our Patron Fr Mick, Trish Stickland the Team Captain, our Relay for Life Committee, and those who have been one of Fr Mick's Mates or supported in any way.

This award is a strong affirmation of our faith community making a positive contribution to the wider community. The Church in action! A great effort - well done!

Later in the year there will be further opportunities to support our Fr Mick's Mates team.

- Fr Gerard

Holy Family:

- ⇒ **LANDSCAPING:** We have commissioned an architect/landscaper to give a concept drawing to beautify the front area of Holy Family Church. I will call a meeting after the 9.30am Mass on May 3 for anyone who would like to discuss this project in greater depth.

Community News:

- May 3... **SACRED HEART COLLEGE ENROLMENT/OPEN DAY:** Information sessions in McAuley Hall, 10am Tour followed by 11.30am Information Session and 10.30am Information session followed by 11.30am tour. Self-guided tours between 10-12noon.
- " **PROVING GOD! Can we prove God's existence with reason and science":** Come to our Sunday Symposium at Wing and a Prayer, Malop St (opp Officeworks) at 2pm. All welcome!
- May 14... **FREE TALKS ON MENTAL HEALTH:** Chris Mackey is offering a further series of free public lectures on mental health and well being at the Geelong West Town Hall, Supper room. *Dealing with Addictions* - 7.30-8.45pm. For more details ph 5224 1222 or www.chrismackey.com.au



CATHOLIC LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR (CLSS):

A renewal program which presents the central truths of the Gospel: God's love for man; the salvation he offers in Jesus Christ and his invitation to receive a full experience of the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Families for Christ (FFC) invites you all to attend a FREE seminar on May 16,17,23,24,30&31 from 1.30-5pm at St Francis Xavier Centre in 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. Ph Roger and Adela 5275 0039 for more details.

MOTHER'S DAY PRESENTS:

Available at Wing and a Prayer, made by women at the Good Shepherd Sister's Centre in Thailand. Prices range from \$3-\$20 and all items come with a blessing card informing the recipient of the help that this purchase has provided.

ANAM CARA HOUSE (cnr Yarra and Myers Sts Geelong):

Our overnight Hospice Respite Care is opening from Monday May 4 for three nights a week - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Guests will be looked after by experienced palliative care staff and their own doctor will maintain care of them and will be kept well informed of their status. There is no charge to the guest or family for this care. The aim is to provide a choice of short-term respite and end-of-life care in a home-like environment and the guest may participate in or observe the Day Hospice activities.

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Over these past years our sense of dismay has come from a very few bishops who have chosen the so-called good name of the church, its social status and power, their public profile and even the threat of moral and financial liability over the voices of the most vulnerable members of our flock. Today's Gospel reminds us what Christian leadership should look like. Jesus didn't liken it to princes in palaces or governors of provinces. His metaphor was of a compassionate shepherd who sleeps in the field with his flock, one who knows them so well and loves them so dearly that he lays down his own life for them.

Let's pray at this Eucharist that we always have the leaders we deserve, ones whose compassion is so transparent that it inspires us to be the same, even towards them.