



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

OFFICE MANAGER:

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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

Web Page Address:

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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

(Continued P4)



- 5th Sunday of Easter -

(Year B - May10, 2009.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds;
he has revealed to the nations his saving power, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says
the Lord;

my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

2nd Reading: 1Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17



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

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: May 11 - Leonie family, Elizabeth St. May 18 - Sharry family, Lily 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:

Carmel Phelan, Freda Curran, Jack Flynn, Murinus De Koke

ANNIVERSARIES:

Michael Shelley, Maria Grazia Lombardo, Teresa Hogan, Mary O'Neill, Gaetano Puglia, Giovanna Giampieri, Dimmy Da Costa, Clare Middleton, Katie Dacre, Wendy Holub, Alison Carmody, Carmella Bisinella, Ripaldo Sicuro, Domenico Giaanni & Rosetta Santa Maria

BAPTISMS:

Daniel Wojcik (P&P)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Kathleen Lewis, Wendy Commons, Tom Cleary, Pat McMahon

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Piety Stall

Flowers (Group 3)

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

P Walsh, V Carmody

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

M Ercoli

G Wright

C Horan, C Canny, V Logan

T Dunlop

5.00PM

L Middleton

M Gifford

K Maddalena, B Ditkun, M Sleeman

N Neeld

9.30AM

L Lehpamer

H Verdnik, T McMahon, L Lehpamer

C&J Taylor, G de Palma, Sr Concepta, 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 Casserole 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 St Patrick's Chapel - 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:

FAITH FORMATION IN SCHOOLS—Celebration of the Vocation of Motherhood:

Saturday May 9 5.00pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's St Patrick's School community involved
Sunday May 10 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Holy Family School community involved

PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS: The three Catholic primary schools in the Cluster are now taking Prep enrolments for 2010. If you intend your child attending one of these schools, please contact the school in your parish for an appointment:
Holy Spirit 5229 8298, Holy Family 5278 4634, St Patrick's 5229 4412.

CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S BUSHFIRE APPEAL UPDATE: 201 parishes contributed and the amount contributed by parishioners = \$876,530; amount by other donors \$2,242,970 with the total funds raised to date **\$3,306,500!** To stay up to date with bushfire recovery news, please visit www.melbournecatholic.org.au and watch out for the next issue of Kairos and the Recovery newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS! The Pastoral Cluster congratulates Mons Les Tomlinson, the Vicar General, who has been appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne. The Episcopal Ordination will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday 17th June 2009 at 7.30pm. The Archbishop sends a warm invitation to all parishioners to this important occasion.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: A young man 34 years old is looking for accommodation for three months. If you can help ph 0404 458 344.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

The SVDP Society has been in operation for 154 years in Victoria and continues to assist families and individuals across our region through a number of programs.

Induction and training is offered to all new and existing members.

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

Ss Peter & Paul's:

⇒ PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Luncheon at Ss Peter & Paul's today (May 10) as this is Mother's Day.



Community News:

- May 13... SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave—cost \$7.
- " KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS: Monthly meeting 8pm at Clairvaux Meeting Rooms, Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- " HOW TO MAKE A PRAYER SHAWL: *A Wing and a Prayer* Bookshop, Malop St (opp Officeworks)
- 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
- May 19... COME AND MEET author and priest Fr Patrick Flanagan of the Ballarat Diocese speak about his book 'The Gospel of Mark Made Easy' at *Wing and a Prayer*, Malop St, 1.05pm, where Father will celebrate Mass and share with us about his book and sign copies, followed by a'noon tea.
- May 23... CARER'S DAY OUT: 1.30-4pm - Bowen massage, foot spas and a'noon tea. The day is for anyone caring for the young or old to come along and get some pampering. \$5 donation, bookings essential. Phone Marg 5229 1656 at the Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment, 100 Yarra St.
- Sept 1-15... JOURNEY TO LOURDES: Pilgrimage hosted in Paris (4 nights), Lourdes (7 nights) and Nevers by Geraldine Dillon, fully escorted by John Smyth of Belmore Travel, with a one night stopover at Singapore. \$7,695 share twin per person, inc fares, accommodation, breakfasts and transfers. Enquiries to John Smyth 9857 4555 or john@belmoretravel.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.

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.

INVITATION:

The parishioners of St Mary's invite you to join them in celebrating **Fr Kevin Dillon's 40th Anniversary of Ordination** with Mass in the Basilica on **Sunday May 31 at 2pm or Monday June 1 at 7.30pm**. Both Masses will be followed by light refreshments in the upstairs room above the Parish Offices. Everyone welcome! An indication of numbers attending would be appreciated for the convenience of the Catering Committee.

WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN YOU TRULY HELP TO REDUCE POVERTY?

Share your skills with a community in Africa, Asia, the Pacific or Indigenous Australia. Become a global volunteer. Information phone (02) 9518 9551 or visit www.palms.org.au Open to teachers, doctors, youth workers, IT experts, lawyers, administrators, community development workers, plumbers, health professionals, mechanics, university lecturers, business managers, builders, physiotherapists, accountants, engineers, adult educators, project managers, nurses, permaculturalists, psychologists, carpenters, farmers.

AFRICAN AUSTRALIANS: The Australian Human Rights Commission is examining the settlement experiences of African Australians, especially relating to Employment, Education, Health, Housing and Justice. The Justice Office of the Archdiocese is conducting a series of meetings where we would like Australians of African background, or those working with them, to provide feedback. There will be a meeting at St Andrew's Parish (church meeting room at rear of church), 105 Greaves St Werribee, on Saturday May 23, 10am-12noon.

/Cont'd from page 1...

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'