



# Pastoral Cluster

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

**PARISH PRIESTS:**

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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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**Web Page Address:**

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

## Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

The Italian film, *Life is Beautiful* vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about.

And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything. If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble. That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

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## - 6th Sunday of Easter -

(Year B - May17, 2009.)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Speak out with a voice of joy; let it be heard to the ends of the earth: The Lord has set his people free, alleluia!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****The Ascension of the Lord**

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Mk 16:15-20

**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 18 - Sharry family, Lily St. May 25 - Cawthray family, Drysdale 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, Tom Cleary, Pat McMahon

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

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2009.**

(4th 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**

F O'Neill

L Kelly

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

L&E Kelly

V O'Malley

N Ingles, M Law, V Seljak

### **6.00PM**

M Lacy

E Cotter

C McShanag

C Canny, M Brown, D McFarlane

T McShanag

### **5.00PM**

D O'Brien

G Tolan

M Ackland, M Gifford, S Beamond

R&K Maddalena

N Neeld

### **9.30AM**

M Lukesic

M Lukesic, J Gdak, M Baird

D Lunn, P McBride, R Zanardo, E Gdak, J McMahon

E Glynn, A Flomo

A Greco, Sr Nirmalie

### **11.00AM**

### **11.00AM**

M Foley

M McGeedy

H&M Broekman, D Dougherty, M Mirabile

M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski

P Pollard

R Zarb

## **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:**

**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.

**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.



**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](mailto:youngvinniesgeelong@gmail.com)**

## Community News:



- 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](mailto: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](http://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...*

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus the Lord showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the joyful way we sacrifice ourselves for them.

No one promised us that the Christian life would be easy. All we have is our brother Jesus and all our friends, our family in faith, to support us in every loving sacrifice we make.