



# Pastoral Cluster

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

<b>PARISH PRIESTS:</b>	Frs Gerard Keith & Mick Fitzpatrick - Phone 5278 1343			<b>Web Page Address:</b> <a href="http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org">www.pastoralclustergeelong.org</a>
<b>OFFICE:</b>	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215 Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: <a href="mailto:cluster@netspace.net.au">cluster@netspace.net.au</a>			
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-12noon, Fri 9.30am-2.30pm			
<b>OFFICE MANAGER:</b>	Trish Stickland -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <a href="mailto:cluster@netspace.net.au">cluster@netspace.net.au</a> )		
<b>COMMUNITY WORKER:</b>	Len Monk -	Phone 5278 2966 (email: <a href="mailto:lenmonk@netspace.net.au">lenmonk@netspace.net.au</a> )		
<b>LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	Frank Kearney -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <a href="mailto:frankkearney@netspace.net.au">frankkearney@netspace.net.au</a> )		
<b>THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:</b>	Helen Brislane -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <a href="mailto:helenbrislane@netspace.net.au">helenbrislane@netspace.net.au</a> )		
<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:</b>	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)

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practise of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'. This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper - or what, in fact, happened. (Cont'd P2)



## - Baptism of the Lord -

(Year C - January 10, 2010.)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

John said, He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5  
2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:4-11  
Gospel: Jn 2:1-11

### 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:

**Tues 9.15am - Holy Family, Wed 9.00am - Holy Spirit, Thurs 9.15am - Holy Family, Fri 11am - Holy Spirit, Sat 9am - Holy Spirit.**

#### Our Lady's Statue:

Jan 11 - Smith family, McCurdy Rd

Jan 18 - Ianuzzi family, Roxby St

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER...

... John tried to prevent him, saying "I need to be baptised by you, and yet you are coming to me?" (Matthew 3:14)

Each of us has received the Baptism that John sought - a Baptism into the Church of Jesus. The Catholic Catechism for Adults states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptised Catholics there is only one simple gift that we need to give to Jesus. The only gift God wants is a complete offering of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God in this way, we will know in our hearts what else God might call us to do.



During this week I had a clean-up, and I have some surplus books that people may want to take for free. They will be available at the back of the Church after Mass this weekend.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not simply baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

## ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010.

(3rd 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

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

A&LVanjek

#### 6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

M Ercoli

G Wright

C Horan, C Canny, V Logan

T Dunlop

#### 5.00PM

D Maddalena

K Maddalena

M Gifford, B Dikun, M Sleeman

N Neeld

#### 9.30AM

L Lehpamer

H Verdrik, T McMahon, L Lehpamer

J de Palma, M Modica, 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