



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
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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:	Trish Stickland -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@netspace.net.au)		
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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
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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in his religion class at school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.' 'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked. 'Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'



Given the ways the Scriptures have divided Christians over the centuries and because previous generations wanted to protect the truth of the Bible, we were often taught that the Holy Spirit dictated the text. In this schema, the real skill of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John seems to have been their shorthand!

Today we begin reading through Luke's Gospel. And in the opening verses of this extraordinary document, Luke puts paid to the idea that he is simply listening to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in his ear. What we now call the Gospel of Luke was the first instalment of a two-part letter written to his friend and disciple, Theophilus. Epic letters like this one and the Acts of the Apostles, which is its sequel, where the writer praises the deeds of a great man and lists his achievements, were very common in the Hellenised world of Ancient Rome. Luke knew how to write it and, more importantly, Theophilus knew how to read it.

It is not a documentary on the life of Jesus, recording a series of facts. If it were, then it cannot be reconciled with the other Gospels for they disagree with each other about many important details. As Catholics we believe the Holy Spirit guided the writing and selection of the scriptural record so that it contains no errors regarding our salvation. Our life lived in harmony with the scriptures is its own testament to our belief that the Bible is not a book of facts: it is a book of truth.

Luke knows that Theophilus has already been instructed in the way of salvation in Christ, and he makes it clear that the truth of this way is what he is attending to.

(Cont'd P2)

- 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - January 24, 2010.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Truth and beauty surround him, he lives in holiness and glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

1st Reading: Jer 1:4-5,17-19
2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:31-13:13
Gospel: Lk 4:21-30

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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER...

"... Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..."

(Neh 8:10)

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life.

However, He expects us to share our blessings with those who are in need.

PASTORAL CLUSTER NOTICES:

- I am wondering if anyone knows the whereabouts of a wood-carving of St Francis that was in the St Anthony's Chapel. If you do know, could you please call Fr Gerard on 5278 1343. (If no one is in the office, please leave a message on the answering machine.)
- **RELAY FOR LIFE:** Meeting Tues 9th Feb 7.30pm at the Pastoral Cluster Centre. This will be to finalise plans for this year's Fundraising and Walk.
- **EXPOSITION OF PILGRIMAGE MONSTRANCE & PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Tues Feb 9, 3.30-6.30pm at Ss Peter & Paul's. All welcome!
- **CWL:** Manifold branch will hold their first meeting in the Pastoral Cluster Office at 1.30pm on Tues Feb 2. Cluster parishioner ladies most welcome! For information or transport please contact Pat Bourke 5278 2422 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.
- **LOURDES DAY MASS:** Feb 6, 10am at St Mary's Basilica

(/Cont'd from p1)...

In this Gospel he paints a vivid and intimate portrait of who Jesus is and why he has the message of salvation for all people everywhere.

These days we often hear people asking others to be 'up front' and to 'lay your cards on the table'. Long before it was trendy, Luke does precisely this in the second part of today's Gospel. At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, Luke summarises the story he is about to tell Theophilus and his community in what is called 'the programme'.

In the tradition of the greatest of the prophets, we are told Jesus has come for those of us who are poor, captive, blind and oppressed. But, unlike the former prophets, Jesus is not only a companion in our distress or an advocate on our behalf, he has also come to turn the world upside down and establish the definitive reign of God in our lives. In Jesus, all that Israel longed to see is fulfilled.

And so to us. As the spiritual children of Jesus, Luke, Theophilus and his community, we are inheritors of a tradition that is upfront in what we are called to do. Our programme is explicit. We are called to be companions to the poor, to set prisoners free, to fight oppression, to enable others to confront what they would prefer to ignore and to boldly proclaim that there is no one beyond God's favour.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010.

(5th 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

Projectionist

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

5.00PM

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

L Coles

11.00AM