



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)		
COMMUNITY WORKER:	Len Monk -	Phone 5278 2966 (email: lenmonk@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
	St Patrick's -	Basil Flynn	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)



An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago. At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them. Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples. So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ. The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us. (Cont'd P4)

- Second Sunday of Lent -

(Year C - February 28, 2010.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Remember your mercies, Lord, your tenderness from ages past. Do not let our enemies triumph over us; O God, deliver Israel from all her distress.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C

1st Reading: Ex 3:1-8,13-15
2nd Reading: 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9



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:

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: Mar 1: Johnson family, Ruhama Ave,

Mar 8: Lynch family, Criton Cres.

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:

MONTH SINCE DEATH: -

ANNIVERSARIES:

BAPTISMS:

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Kathleen Lewis, Wendy Commons, Alan Mee, Felix Capicchiano, Toni Siketa, Jordan Willis, Margaret Mayne, Kylie Behr, John Robertson, Lorena Gonzaga, Joe Vanjek, Jim Hudson, Donald McMahon, Joan Gazenbeek, Lucas Bailey

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

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010.

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

A Vanjek

R Allum

F Chrimes, J Bartolo

U Guardiano, K McArthur

9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor

G&P Carmody, M Baird

M&E Hoffman, L d'Aprile

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

6.00PM

Sr Sibberas

J O'Neill

J Hudson & D Boyle

C Horan, V Logan, P Ryan

11.00AM

M Shilling

M Gurrie

V Trinder

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

C O'Brian

D O'Brian

R Walker, N Neeld, Dean Dougherty

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
- 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 School - Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-3 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5229 8298
- Manifold CWL - Pastoral Cluster Centre, First Tuesdays in the month
- Italian Mass - First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
- Geelong Stroke Support group for survivors, partners, carers & families meet in the Ss Peter & Paul's Hall.
- Catholic Deanery Solo Group: Dinner at Desma's every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Bookings phone 5278 2712.
- Ss Peter & Paul's Luncheon: Second Sunday of each month, 12noon in the small Hall.
- Catholic Diners' Club: Second Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Dromoland. Dinner & Guest speaker. Ph Patti on 5229 9963
- Pastoral Cluster Community Kitchen: Each Monday at Ss Peter & Paul's small hall starting at 10am. Contact Cath O'Reilly 5243 3341

Cluster News:

- **BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD:** How do communities make the transition from natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti, tsunamis in Asia, famine in the continent of Africa to viable and self sufficient communities? Join us as we explore the journey to a **Blueprint for a Better World**. Our guest speaker is Jamie Davis, International Programs Manager for Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development. **Monday March 1 at 7.30-9.00pm in the Pastoral Cluster Centre, Bell Park.**
- **LENT 2010: "Do you love me?"** An invitation to explore and deepen our life of service in Jesus Christ. A program for personal and group use. Would those interested in joining a group discussion for Lent please sign the clipboards available in each Church indicating days of the week you are available for a group and time of day that is suitable.
- **SENIORS COMMUNITY KITCHEN:** A social group to meet and plan economical meals to share and take home. New members welcome. Phone Kath on 5243 3341.



Liturgy in the Pastoral Cluster in February:

⇒ **COMMITMENT MASSES BY CHILDREN WHO ARE MAKING THEIR SACRAMENTS:**

All the weekend Masses of Feb 27 & 28.

Masses will be as normal with the exception that at the time of the Creed the children of our Catholic schools who are making a Sacrament this year, will make a personal commitment to a good and proper preparation for the reception of their respective Sacrament.



Fr Mick's Mates - Relay for Life, March 20th and 21st

Registrations for those who wish to participate in this year's "Relay for Life" can be made at each of the three parishes: Holy Spirit... Amy O'Brien

Holy Family... Bernadette Kline and Vicki Resciniti

Ss Peter & Paul's... Desma Dougherty

Registration after Mass Feb 14, 21 and 28.

Coming Event: Night on the Bay - Friday March 12, cost \$20 per person.
Finger food to be provided, BYO drink.



Ss Peter & Paul's:

- ⇒ CAN YOU SPARE 2 HOURS A WEEK? St Vincent de Paul Geelong West is in need of people to do visitation. You would go out with a trained person and you don't need to live in the area. Please ph Sheila if you can help on 5243 2870.
- ⇒ ARE YOU A SINGLE PARENT DAD OR MUM? Young Vincentians organize outings and social events throughout the year for you and the children. Interested? Ph Sheila on 5243 2870.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." (Gen 15:7)

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether our home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God.

Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do we show our gratitude to God for the home He has given us?

Do we make a sacrifice of any kind? Do we return any of our finances to God, investing equally in our eternal home just as we invest in our current abode?

Community Dates & Notices:

- Feb 28... CENTACARE CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES invite you to the Inaugural Geelong Mass of Appreciation for donors, benefactors and people we have helped. Principal celebrant will be Archbishop Denis J Hart, Archbishop of Melbourne. The Mass will be held at St Mary of the Angels Basilica Geelong, commencing at 3pm. Light refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of Mass. Enquiries to Mr John McCarthy 9287 5555.
- Mar 1... THEOLOGY @ THE PUB: Lisa Brick will speak on *"Love My Way: The Church vs The World"*. Venue: The Pumphouse Hotel, 128 Nicholson St Fitzroy, 6.30pm. Young adults 18-35. Information: theologyatthepub.com.au or 0430 032 666.
- Mar 5... WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Wesley Uniting Church at 11am prepared by the Christian Women of Cameroon with the theme *'Let Everything that has Breath Praise God'*. Speaker Rev Sani Vaeluaga from Samoa. For information or transport ph Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.
- Mar 6... MARCH FAIR @ TORQUAY (Labour Day Weekend): Formerly the Deanery Torquay Foreshore Festival - featuring Teddy Bears' Parade and Competition and an Antiques Roadshow. Elephant Walk the Esplanade between Zeally Bay Rd & Gilbert St. *Also raffle tickets are available for sale after all Masses.*
- Mar 19... 2010 RELAY FOR LIFE AMBASSADORS' BREAKFAST: Special Guest Speaker David Parkin - 7-9am in the Silks Room, Briseis Stand, Geelong Racing Club. Tickets \$50, tables of 8 \$400. RSVP Mar 15 to rflbreakfast2010@gmail.com Enquiries Glenda Arenson 0411 438 507 or Peter Loney 5272 2822.

ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL: Expressions of interest are sought for a Special Eucharistic Minister for the 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month at the Hospital. Ph Patricia Boom on 5226 8888 or email patricia.boom@sjog.org.au

SIMPLE ACTS OR A WAY OF LIVING: The Geelong Catholic Deanery invites the youth of our parishes to journey the 6 weeks of Lent together through reflection, prayer, celebration and engagement in the ministry and life of Christ. Venue - St Bernard's Parish Cafe, 74 Fryers Rd Belmont. Time: 5-6.30pm each Saturday in Lent. Contact & RSVP: Kristen Rowan kristenr@stmarysgeelong.com.au or 0434 983 629.

Feb 27... Live Humbly	Mar 6... Live Generously	
Mar 13... Live Compassionately	Mar 30... Live Creatively	Apr 3... Live fully

PROJECT COMPASSION 2010:



As Christians we are called to walk with those who are in need. This week's story introduces us to Teneille, from Derby in Western Australia. Limited job opportunities, low family literacy levels and poor health and housing are some of the issues affecting poor school performance amongst Indigenous children in the area. Teneille participates in a Caritas Australia-supported program that is empowering children to attend school, have healthy and nutritious food and improve the school performance amongst the area's children. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps to work towards the goal of ensuring primary education for all children.

Project Compassion boxes are available in the back of each Church.

(/Cont'd from P1)

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us. God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good. 'Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too. In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'