



Pastoral Cluster

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

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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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	Holy Spirit -	Mary Abbott	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)



Even in Church circles these days it is quite common to engage a management consultancy company to help find people for a particular diocesan job. This is a good idea and often these companies find excellent people for the task.

I recently saw a consultancy profile, however, for a diocese seeking a lay chancellor. We all know these people must be upright citizens, but I am convinced that Jesus himself may have been challenged to fill this job description! Apart from having degrees in civil and canon law, the desired applicant had to have 'outstanding Catholic faith, an exemplary moral character and have nothing in his or her background that could cause the Church embarrassment or scandal in the future.'

A couple of days later I came across a tongue-in-cheek summary of a management consultant's report on those who had applied to lead the earliest Christian Church:

'John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and picks fights in public with religious leaders. 'Peter: Has a bad temper, even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive. A loose cannon.

'Paul: Powerful, CEO type of leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night. 'Jesus: Has been popular at times, but once when his following grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and it dwindled down to some faithful women and his best friend. Seldom stays in one place very long. 'Judas: His references are solid. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. Great possibilities here.' (Cont'd P4)

Attention Walkers!

We again request your help to deliver our Christmas Invitation and 'Cluster Outreach' to all known Catholics in our area. Details on Page 4.

- 2nd Sunday of Advent -

(Year A - December 5, 2010.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year A

1st Reading: Is 35:1-6,10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

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.

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:

Dec 6: Moore family, 39 Willana St; **Dec 13:** C Lynch, 110 Vines Rd

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: Allan Pugh, Noel Jones

ANNIVERSARIES: Antonio Gulli, Vincent Atkinson, Len Pollard, John Ambrosio, Patrick Fickeel, Sue Reicha

BAPTISMS: -

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Damian Taylor, Iolanda Marruso, Wendy Commons, Giuseppa Resciniti, Margaret Donaghy, Patricia McMahon, Rosalie & Lance Gilbert, Margaret Harris, Dorothy Sproules, Maria Law, Mary Smith, Joseph Escorse

(Please note: After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list - please phone the office if you wish names reinserted)



ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 12, 2010.

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum

F O'Neill

E Di Domenico, I Vanjek, R Allum, J Genova

C Marcantonio, P Walsh

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Modica, E Glynn, M Baird, J Sheahan

V Resciniti, G Cracco

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

M Lacy

M Willett, G Harrison

B Murphy, M Willett, R O'Neill

M Brown, D McFarlane, P Ryan

B Stocks

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

A Hubbard

P Power, P Hubbard

P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchy

R&K Maddalena

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin

L Strzelecki, A/L Fossey, M Sleeman

M&H Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey

T Martin

Holy Family Refurbishment and Jubilee:

"Awesome.... magnificent... the Church is so much more alive... outstanding... beyond all expectations..."

These descriptions and so many more were the genuine and heartfelt responses to the recent renovations. Together, individually and collectively as a community, we can be justifiably proud of what has been achieved. Enjoy!!

Last week I gave a more extensive vote of thanks, but this week I would like to again acknowledge the following people, but in an abridged form:

The many and varied tradespeople who were involved in the refurbishment; the Fundraising group; the parishioners who sponsored a pew or a piece of Church furniture, or gave of their time, talent and treasure; the Pastoral Cluster staff.

In particular, I thank **Mario Grgic** from the Cox Rd Croatian Club and **Ivan Perinac** from the Separation St Croatian Club. Both men as leaders of their respective clubs, have successfully organised with their community a Radiothon, Dinners and other fundraising events. The efforts of the whole Croatian community has ensured the fundraising endeavour well exceeded expectations.

I thank **Trish Stickland** who has done an extraordinary job as the Project Manager. Her energy, drive and determination has ensured that the refurbishment not only was started but, more importantly, has been completed. So much work goes on behind the scenes and Trish has given generously in this endeavour. Also, Trish's sense of taste and creative ideas has contributed significantly to Holy Family Church becoming a refreshed, beautiful and more dignified place of worship.

I invite you to look around and see the fruits of your labour. Well done!

The Jubilee and Refurbishment was made more special by the presence of **Cardinal Wilfrid Napier**, who presided over our Jubilee celebrations. The Mass was a wonderful celebration of our multicultural heritage. Together we celebrated the Mass in English as well as Croatian and Slovenian.

Thankyou to those involved in the Liturgy, especially our lectors, singers, musicians and those who prepared the Liturgy. Also thanks to those involved in providing the hospitality at Holy Family Mercy Room after the celebration. The Cardinal commented on the genuineness and the warmth of the community and how it was a good occasion of various cultural heritages coming together to celebrate our one faith in the one sacred space. *(Fr Gerard)*

FAITH FESTIVAL: Social Justice Expo

On last Saturday just gone at Ss Peter & Paul's large hall, the parishes of Torquay, Geelong, Corio, Belmont, the Pastoral Cluster, with the four Catholic senior schools - Clonard, Sacred Heart College, St Ignatius College and St Joseph's College, the primary schools of the Pastoral Cluster, Ocean Grove, Torquay, with St John of God and St Vincent de Paul, held an Expo of the various local and international Social Justice outreach programs.

Seeing the various displays in one setting highlighted the generous commitment of the wider Geelong Catholic community to this Gospel endeavour. The Cardinal who had a chance to visit the Expo, was most impressed - particularly for the concern and activities to support refugees.

To put on an Expo of this scale and calibre requires a lot of co-ordination and effort. Amidst the busyness of the Refurbishment project, **Frank Kearney** has done an excellent job in bringing this part of the Faith Festival to fruition. He was ably supported by **Chris Colley**.

Also thanks to those who provided the gift of hospitality. Firstly, **David Lunn** and **Michael Scaddan** who cooked up a storm with their BBQ (despite drought breaking rains). Secondly to **Jeanette Sheahan** and the ladies of the **CWL**, **Desma Dougherty** and St John of God caterers and others who provided the afternoon tea.

PASTORAL CLUSTER PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COLUMBANS: Welcome Sr Claire Griffin

Sr Claire Griffin, Co-ordinator of the Columban Partnership Program, will be at the 5pm Saturday evening Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's, 9.30am Sunday at Holy Family and 11am at Holy Spirit. At these Masses Sr Claire will be presented with a cheque from each of the parishes and primary schools for \$3,000, as part of our annual commitment to the Columban Partnership.

On Thursday the three Primary schools came together for their Cluster Day with the focus on the Columban Partnership. Also recently, as part of the Partnership activities we had our annual Movie Night in which 350 people predominantly, from the school communities, attended the new Harry Potter movie. The children and parents enjoyed it, Fr Mick and I didn't understand it at all!

Cluster News:

RELAY FOR LIFE: Christmas Baskets: Jams, crafts etc will be sold after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit on Dec 5, 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's on Dec 11, and after the 8am and 9.30am Masses at Holy Family on Sunday Dec 12.

LECTORS: Please collect your copy of the new edition of 'Break Open the Word' from the sacristy in your Church.

HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS INVITATION MAILOUT:

As part of our outreach to all known Catholics, Fr Mick and I are again inviting them to attend our Christmas Ceremonies. We need your help to make this happen.

- ◆ The envelopes are in the Churches on this weekend. We need your help to distribute them. Could you deliver the envelopes in your own street and surrounds, or drive to another area and deliver there? Every envelope that has to be mailed costs \$1.20 (that's \$120 per 100 and we have about 2,000 to be delivered!)

OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

Attention all Christmas Carollers - Do you enjoy Christmas Carols? Do you enjoy singing in the shower (or elsewhere?) Do you play an instrument? If you answered 'yes' to any of the above, we are keen to have you join us in a choir for singing Carols before and during the Christmas Midnight Mass. We would love to see people from our three Parishes come together as one voice. All that is required is a love of singing and a desire to be part of the choir for this event.

If you play a musical instrument, your presence would be greatly appreciated - flute, guitar, violin etc (keyboard not required). Practices will be at Holy Family on Wednesdays beginning **Wednesday December 1** from 7pm till 8.30pm. Come one, come all! You can contact Frank Lehpamer on lehpamer@geelong.hotkey.net.au or phone 5278 4230.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA:** Four free lunchtime organ recitals on Mondays Dec 6/13/20, 12.30-1.15pm. All welcome!
- ◆ **RETIRED OFFICER'S KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Next meeting will be held at the White Eagle (Fellmongers Rd) on Tuesday Dec 7 at 12noon.

Holy Spirit:

- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** The Society will have their annual Christmas Appeal collection this weekend, Dec 4/5. This appeal will assist all those people who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming holy season of Christmas.

Holy Family:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** The final meeting for the year will be held on **Monday Dec 6 at 7.30pm**. Please finalise payment and numbers for our Christmas Dinner at Ajae's@Queenspark on Wednesday Dec 8 at 6.30pm
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** Our parish group will once again be distributing food parcels and toys to the needy in our area at Christmas time. As in previous years it is hoped parishioners will help by donating items of food and toys for the children. Next week at both Masses slips of paper with food items named on them will be handed out. The food item, extra food and toys, could be brought to Mass on Sunday. Thanks in anticipation for your help again this Christmas. **Because of your anticipated support for the project, our conference will NOT have a special collection today.**

Ss Peter & Paul:

- ◆ **FESTA DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE PROGRAMMA:** Domenica 12 Dicembre nella chiesa di St Patrick, Britannia St Geelong West. Alle ore 9.30am la messa sara celebrata da Mons James Murray. Dopo la santa messa ci sara la processione con la statua nel cortile della scuola. Seguira la Benedizione tutti siete benvenuti.

(/Cont'd from P1)

In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much.

Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility.

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.'

If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again.

May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'

A final call
For those who haven't collected their Thanksgiving Envelopes, please do so after Mass today