



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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THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:	Helen Brislane -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: helenbrislane@netspace.net.au)		
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)



Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins!

I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching.

In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

(Cont'd P4)

- 3rd Sunday of Advent -

(Year A - December 12, 2010.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!
The Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to
the poor.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday of Advent - Year A

1st Reading: Is 7:10-14
2nd Reading: Rom 1:1-7
Gospel: Mt 1:18-24



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: Dec 13: C Lynch, 110 Vines Rd;

Dec 20: Mrs McGonigal, 52 Catherine St;

Dec 27: Johnson family, Ruhama Ave;

Jan 3: Lynch family, 13 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: -

ANNIVERSARIES:

Michael Calafiore, John Walsh, Domenico Versace, Gerard Gillett, Joan Boyle, Ella Boyle, Kathleen Smith, Monica Cashin, Francis Smith, Giuseppe Ferrara, Denis Noronha

BAPTISMS:

Claire Maxey, Jesse Dragicevic

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, Peter Kenny



ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 19, 2010.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

9.30AM

L Lehpamer

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C&J Taylor, E Glynn, M Fiorillo

E Dalton, G Carmody

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

J McKenzie

G Wright, T Thornton, D Kosmetschke

V Logan

T Dunlop

11.00AM

M Currie

G Brown

M Lacy, M Currie

B Gorman, I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder

T Cleary, D Brown

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

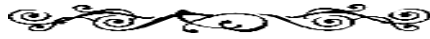
5.00PM

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Christmas in the Pastoral Cluster



Christmas Masses:

Dec 24...	6.00pm	Holy Family (Focus on the children)
	7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	8.00pm	Holy Spirit (Focus on the family)
	Midnight	Holy Family (Carols from 11.30pm)
Dec 25...	8.00am	Ss Peter & Paul's
	9.00am	Holy Spirit
	9.30am	Holy Family

Christmas Masses in a language other than English:

Dec 24...	9.00pm	Holy Family (Croatian)
Dec 25...	9.30am	Ss Peter & Paul's (Lithuanian)
	9.30am	St Patrick's Chapel (Italian)
		Britannia St, Geelong West
	11.30am	Holy Family (Croatian)

Second Rite Reconciliation:

Thursday	Dec 16...	7.30pm	Holy Spirit
Tuesday	Dec 21...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
Wednesday	Dec 22...	7.30pm	Holy Family



CHILDREN'S MASS 6PM AT HOLY FAMILY ON CHRISTMAS EVE:

Children are invited to come along dressed in a Christmas outfit - angel, shepherd, etc. **Also**, any child who would like to be an active participant (Reader, Offertory, etc) is invited to meet Frank Kearney at Holy Family Church on **Monday Dec 20- at 11am** for an allocation of jobs.



READERS/SPECIAL MINISTERS:

If you are available to help over the Christmas weekend in any of the Churches, please indicate on the boards at the back of the Church today.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ◆ There will be **NO** 5pm Saturday evening Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's, nor will there be a Mass at 6pm at Holy Spirit.
- ◆ On the Sunday there will be 8am and 9.30am Masses at Holy Family, 10am at Holy Spirit and 11am at Ss Peter & Paul's.

Cluster News:

THANKYOU! THANKYOU! THANKYOU!

I would like to offer two votes of thanks.

- ◆ Firstly to the team of about 30 who came to prepare the Christmas Invitation/Cluster Outreach to be home delivered and the generous souls who braved the elements to deliver them. Please know that your efforts are much appreciated and I believe it's a practical outreach to Catholics in our area to be part of our Christmas celebrations.
- ◆ Secondly, thanks to the Holy Family community for preparing our Advent Anointing Mass. Also thanks to those involved in the luncheon afterwards, that is those who set up and cleaned up, provided the food and drink, as well as those who provided the entertainment. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Christmas Baskets: Jams, crafts etc will be sold after the 11am Mass at 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.

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.

Holy Family:

- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** Today you are asked to take a slip of paper with a food item named on it and bring the food item, with any other non-perishable food you wish to donate, to Mass next weekend, and place your gifts under the Jesse Tree or in the containers in the Church porch. As well as your food gifts, if you have any new toys these can be used as Christmas presents for the children of the needy. If wrapping presents, please put a note on the outside saying for what age group and whether for a boy or a girl. Thankyou for making Christmas a little happier for those less fortunate than ourselves and showing them someone cares.
- ◆ **PARISH BBQ:** Will be held on the Third Sunday, Dec 19. BYO everything - all welcome!



Ss Peter & Paul:

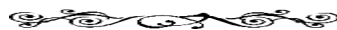
- ◆ **FESTA DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE PROGRAMMA:** Domenica 12 Dicembre nella chiesa di St Patrick, Britannia St Geelong West. Alle ore 9.30am la messa sarà celebrata da Mons James Murray. Dopo la santa messa ci sarà la processione con la statua nel cortile della scuola. Seguirà la Benedizione tutti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

Community News:

Dec 13/20... **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA:** Four free lunchtime organ recitals on Mondays 12.30-1.15pm. All welcome!

Dec 16-24... **9 DAY NOVENA MASS (Simbang Gabi):** You are all invited to attend the 9 Day Mass Novena at St Francis Xavier, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio, every morning 5.30am from Dec 16-24. For more information ph Adela 0409 135 589.

Dec 25... **GEELONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER 2010:** A fully catered traditional Christmas dinner is available to any person or small family at no cost, who may be alone and would like to join others to celebrate this special day in a true Christmas atmosphere - **Christ Church Hall, cnr Moorabool & McKillop Sts. Doors open 9.30am till 3.30pm and dining commences 11.45am.** If you or anyone you know is interested in attending, please forward name and phone number for catering purposes during office hours to St Vincent de Paul Society, 162 West Fyans St South Geelong, ph 5221 9170 until Tues Dec 21 or 0408 133 561 from Wed Dec 22.



SPECIAL CONCERT: Sunday Dec 19, 7.30pm at Holy Family Church...

The HKUD "LADO" Geelong are holding a free Concert to bring together the communities of Geelong. The senior vocal ensemble consisting only of volunteers, along with our 25 piece orchestra of traditional Croatian musical instruments, will perform a mixture of English, Croatian and Italian Christmas songs.

(/Cont'd from P1)

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.