



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			
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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)

For some years now family therapists have used an exercise called 'the genogram' to help families understand their internal dynamics. Each spouse sits down and writes out their family tree. Usually it stretches back at least three generations. Next to each name they write a letter indicating any 'careers' this relative may have picked up in his or her lifetime. It is not just the person's occupation that interests a family therapist, though it's interesting to see the way doctors, farmers, musicians and civil servants pop up in some families.



A career in the genogram has more to do with personal or social dispositions like using alcohol, drugs, work and gambling in a destructive way; like having a propensity to violence or holding a criminal record; like 'having to get married' or whether one's relatives are hetero or homosexual. When people start to dig, they find all sorts of family secrets, especially in older generations. Most families have an 'Auntie Lizzie' who, sixty years on, is still spoken of in hushed tones. They eventually discover she had an abortion. Then sometimes there is an Uncle James 'who never married'.

What family therapists notice is that certain careers are passed down the generations. This exercise can be very helpful when families are struggling to understand why a child is an early victim of alcoholism, gambling addiction, or given to violence. While behaviour can be thought to 'come out of nowhere', this exercise shows that, whether by nature or nurture, destructive behaviour has been on one or both sides of a family system for generations. The point of the genogram is that knowing our pedigree for good or for ill enables us to build on our strengths while breaking the cycle of our families' negative careers.

Today's feast tells that Jesus, Mary and Joseph had a career in holiness. I suspect there are not many of us would write Saviour or Saints on the people in our family trees! But there is every reason to believe that holiness is handed down from one generation to the next. The problem with holiness is that we often equate it with perfection. (Cont'd P2)

Wishing you a Happy, Safe and Faith-filled New Year!

- Feast of the Holy Family -

(Year A - December 26, 2010.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Epiphany of the Lord - Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
 2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3,5-6
 Gospel: Mt 2:1-12



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: (Mon Dec 27 to Sat Jan 1)

There will be NO Mass at Vincentian Village 3pm Monday; Holy Family 9.15am Tuesday or Wednesday Holy Spirit 9am.

There will be Mass at Holy Family 9.15am Thursday

New Year's Eve (Friday): Holy Spirit 11am, Ss P&P 5pm and Holy Family 7.30pm.

New Year's Day (Saturday): Holy Spirit 9am

THE COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP:

Dear Fr Gerard and Parishioners,

Thankyou for the recent donations of \$18,000 from the three parish communities and parish primary schools in the Pastoral Cluster. This amount will be forwarded via the Columban Overseas Aid Fund to support the work of the KAZAMA Grameen Bank in the Philippines.

Your wonderful generosity across the years helps Columbans fulfill their mission of breaking down the barriers that isolate the poor and marginalized. Your support also brings great dignity to those who live in poverty and who face cruel injustices.

By bringing these needs to your parish prayer, you offer a strong sense of solidarity to people who are often forgotten. I'm sure that your fundraising efforts help people be more aware of the needs of others beyond their own communities. We thank you for your generosity and your goodness.

May God bless you all as we celebrate Christmas and welcome the gift of another New Year. We look forward to continued work together in 2011.

Yours sincerely - Sr Claire Griffin

Columban
Calendars
are
available
for sale
at Holy
Family
after
Mass.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

To be a holy person does not mean one is perfect. Perfection rests only in God. Jesus enjoyed perfection in his humanity, but we must allow Mary and Joseph to be less than perfect, else we make them truly divine as well. As a family, they were not perfect, they were holy. They struggled together to understand the best way they could bring God's reign to bear in our world. Their destinies were vastly different, but intimately connected. They needed each other.

And so to us. If we allow the Holy Family to be too removed from our experience, they have little to say to the fights, misunderstandings and problems that can sometimes characterise our families. If on the other hand we concede that Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as a family, were not perfect, they can be a model of the very thing we want in our own homes: love, justice, fidelity and kindness that reveal a life of holiness. They can show us a mutual respect that allows each family member to find his or her own path to revealing God's creative and saving love for our world. And they can provide us with the assurance of knowing that as a result of their holiness we have all been welcomed into the family of God.

When any of us do the genogram we can rightly and proudly put Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the top of our tree and mark them as Saviour and first among the Saints.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011.

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum

A Vanjek

F Chrimes, J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane

U Guardiano, K McArthur

9.30AM

T McMahan

C&J Taylor

G&P Carmody, D Farrar, R&R Zanardo

M&E Hoffman

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

Sr Sibberas

J O'Neill

D Boyle, M Abbott, D Torpy

V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

11.00AM

M Shilling

M Gurrie

V Trinder, M Currie

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

C O'Brian

D O'Brian

N Neeld, J Jess