



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
OFFICE:	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215 Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: cluster@cam.org.au			
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)		
LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:	Frank Kearney -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: frankkearney@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

When couples who are going to be married in the Church come to see me for the first time I get them to fill out a brief questionnaire. The last two questions on the form ask: 'What do you like best about your partner?' 'What do you like best about yourself?'

The first question usually presents no problems, although it can hold a few surprises and sometimes a playful punch if the right answer is not forthcoming! The second question seems to present all sorts of difficulties, especially for prospective grooms. Some of us find it hard to name the God-given qualities we value most in our character. Some couples try to pass it off, 'That's for others to say' or, 'I don't want to blow my own trumpet.' Others try to dismiss the question as being new age or trendy.

But the question does, in fact, cut to the heart of both today's second reading and Gospel. 'You must love your neighbour as you love yourself.' We cannot say in the same breath, 'I hate myself, but I am a good Christian.' For St Paul, love of self was not indulgent, but the cornerstone of our mission to love as Jesus loves us. Paul knew the difference between self-love and self-adoration.

Our love of God is expressed in the healthy and appropriate esteem we have for ourselves. Put another way, we cannot love anyone else if we don't love ourselves. If we have poor self-esteem then often we need others to fill up this gap in our self-love. Most relationships cannot sustain such a demand.

The Church has to take some responsibility for this state of affairs. We used to be taught that mortification and self-denial were good Christian virtues, and indeed they can be. When properly understood they are never opportunities for self-hatred. The sanest spiritual writers in our tradition saw these virtues as paths of closeness with God and service of our neighbour.

One such writer was St Ignatius Loyola who in the Spiritual Exercises saw that it was precisely as sinners that God loves us. He saw that one of the greatest gifts the Lord can give us is when we see our sinfulness for what it is, but are not overwhelmed by it, and that we experience the power of God's love for us who calls us to walk as children of the light. *(Cont'd P4)*

- 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A - September 4, 2011.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Lord, you are just, and the judgments you make are right.
Show mercy when you judge me, your servant.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7
2nd Reading: Rom 14:7-9
Gospel: Mt 18:21-35



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**

Ss Peter & Paul's: 7.30pm Thurs

Grace McKellar Centre: 10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues;

Multicultural Centre: 1.30pm - 1st Fri

Maryville Nursing Home: 11am Tues;

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:

Sept 5 - Spitale family, 4 Marathon Ave;

Sept 19 - Bourke family, 24 Sycamore St;

Sept 12 - Wright family, 42 Logan St;

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Anne Mastrosilvestri, Bruno Nicolich, Frank Everett, Leah Powell. Bill Salt

ANNIVERSARIES: Giustina Oddi, Heather Everett, Bill & Pat Broe, Bill Payne, William Dempsey Jnr, Toos VanBeen, Imelda Wood, Teresa Valitutti

BAPTISMS: Rafael LaKandula, Eva Maselli, Adam Nolan (HS)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Florence Williams, Pasha Alden, Wendy Commons, Margaret Donaghy, Maria Law, Peter Farrar, Doris Boyle, Heidi Maguire, Joan Bellew, Kate Jennings, Dianne Rickey, Liam Shay, Joseph Escorse, Gillian Henry, Anthony Dunn, George Carmody, Joan Jess, Theo Da Costa, Rosalie Gilbert, Josipa Marinac, Con Walsh, Vonnice VanDootselar

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, SEPT 11, 2011.

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum

F O'Neill

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

G Harrison

B Murphy, 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

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:



- **Holy Family Casserole lunch -** Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon a Casserole lunch BYO to share
- **Holy Family Women's Group -** First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.00pm
- **St Vincent de Paul -** Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre, 7.30pm
Ss Peter & Paul's meet 4th Thursday 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 -** Holy Spirit Hall, First Tuesdays in the month
- **Italian Mass -** First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
- **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 Terry on 5221 7339

If you wish to know more about these groups, as well as about our Sacramental Program for children in non-Catholic schools, our Baptism and Wedding procedures, our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines and so on, please visit our webpage:
www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

❖ Cluster News ❖

LITURGY IN THE CLUSTER:

Confirmation -

The Catholic children from our three Primary Schools and Catechetical Program will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation over the next two weeks.

Sept 3... Sat 5pm Holy Family Church

Sept 10... Sat 3pm Holy Family Church, Sat 5pm Holy Family Church

Please note: *All the Confirmation ceremonies are at Holy Family Church and are NOT part of the normal weekend Masses this year.*

We congratulate the children on this important milestone in their lives and we thank Bishops Les Tomlinson and Peter Elliott who will preside over the Confirmation ceremonies.

Father's Day -

The weekend of Sept 3/4 is Father's Day. To honour the vocation of fatherhood the children from our schools will be involved in the Masses at 6pm Holy Spirit and 9.30am Holy Family.

This weekend is also dedicated to the Archdiocesan appeal to support Retired Priests. There will be a second collection after Holy Communion.

COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP MASS: On the weekend of Sept 17/18 at the 5pm Mass Ss Peter & Paul's, 9.30am Holy Family and 11am Holy Spirit, the Grade 5/6 children will be present. The focus of the Mass will be our Columban Partnership and amongst other things the Columbans will be presented with a cheque from the schools and parishes as part of our ongoing commitment to our Partnership with the Columbans. The money will be used to support to Grameen Bank in the Philippines, a micro credit scheme which helps people in poverty to take out small loans so they can start their own business and so take steps to break out of the poverty cycle.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: On the weekend of Sept 24/25 as part of all Masses, the Australian Catholics Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement - *Building Bridges, Not Walls - Prisons and the Justice System* will be introduced and highlighted.

FR MICK'S MATES:

1. **Sausage Sizzle** will be held at Bunnings Corio, **Saturday Sept 24**, (hopefully the Cats will play on Sunday). Volunteers required to help with cooking and serving, one or two hour duration, between 8am and 4pm. Please ph David Lunn if available on 0408 378 982. Thankyou.
2. **Craft/Produce Stalls** will be held at Holy Spirit 11am **October 2**, Ss Peter & Paul's 11am **Oct 9**, and Holy Family 8am and 9.30am **October 16**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR GERARD...

Fr Gerard celebrated the 20th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood last Wednesday, 31st August. We appreciate his prayerfulness, kindness, friendliness, generosity and knowledge. We are glad and thank God that Fr Gerard is our Parish Priest. (Fr Mick)

A VOCATION VIEW:

How much would the world be changed if everyone were completely forgiving? Probably totally! Jesus' stories of forgiveness are so loved because they are so needed. Re-tell them! Relive them!

Holy Spirit:

- ◆ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL** will hold their monthly meeting in the Parish Hall, 2pm on **Tuesday 6th September**. If attending the Melbourne Luncheon please bring along payment of \$60. For information or transport contact Tricia Joyce 5221 1986 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.

Holy Family:

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** Movie Night at Readings **Monday September 5th**. All welcome!

Community News:

- Sept 7...** **LUNCHEON FOR SISTERS OF HOLY ANGELS:** To be held 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts. All welcome - cost \$8.
- Sept 8...** **GEELONG REGIONAL COUNCIL FESTIVAL MEETING AND MASS, SVDP:** You are invited to attend our annual Festival Mass which will include the commissioning of Regional Council President, Conference Presidents and members; Guest speaker Gerald Wilson SVDP Geelong Prison Visitation, followed by a light supper. To be held 7.30pm at St Frances Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. RSVP to Peter Chiang by Sept 1 on 5221 0388 or emailing peterchiang30@yahoo.com.au. We look forward to seeing you on the evening.
- Sept 11...** **OF GODS AND MEN:** Your only chance to see this award winning film in Geelong, this film tells the true story of a group of monks and priests who live inside a monastery in Algeria. They were missionaries, residing there to give medical and religious assistance to the peasant community of Tibhirine. **Reading Cinema, Waurin Ponds, 6.30pm**. Surf Coast Rural Australians for Refugees fundraiser. Tickets from St Mary's Parish Office, 150 Yarra St, Wing and a Prayer Bookshop, Malop St or Carmel 5261 4274 or Jan 5261 3284. **Ticket sales close 4pm Wed Sept 7!**
- Sept 15...** **MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESAN LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT - Building Bridges, Not Walls - Prisons in the Justice System.** To be held in the Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St East Melbourne. RSVP justice@cam.org.au or ph 9926 57810 by **Monday 12 Sept**.
- Sept 15-16...** **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ON STAGE:** St Ignatius College are holding our School Musical Production 7pm in the Playhouse Theatre. Adults \$25, Conc \$15, Family \$70 (2 adults, 2 chn). For information/tickets please ph 5251 1136 or info@ignatius.vic.edu.au
- Sept 26-28...** **DON BOSCO MOTHER AND DAUGHTER CAMP:** The camp is open to all daughters aged 8-16 and their mothers/grandmothers/aunties. There will be time for relaxation, activity, fun and best of all, quality time to spend together in a cosy and welcoming environment. To be held at the Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach - for more information ph Emily 5987 2692 or go to www.donboscocamp.org

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:

The spring edition is available for free. There are a few remaining copies in the back of the Church. This edition is entitled "Facing up to Injustice - Youth 4 Justice". In the magazine there are articles about a faith that does justice, as well as a number of articles written by young people about the good things their age group is doing to address issues of social injustice.

GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:

Would you like to spend an enjoyable evening with friends? Why not join us once a month for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, a 2-course meal, stimulating guest speakers, conversation with friends, all for just \$28. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, 6.15pm at Dromoland House, Pakington St Geelong West. For more information ph Terry O'Brien 5221 7339, Mary Flatt 5243 4009, Lorraine McKay 5243 8854, Marita Fitzpatrick 5241 1485, Larry Davis 5248 35654, Ed Fraatz 5229 7052.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - *Thoughts on Giving*

"You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel." (Ezekiel 33:7)

How well are you watching over God's house and all that He has left in your care?

(Cont'd from P1)

Jesus in today's Gospel attends to this destructive side of our human nature. Jesus teaches us that those who do not love their neighbour as they should are to be treated with dignity and respect and offered every opportunity to seek forgiveness until it is clear they can no longer be a part of the Christian family.

The challenge and hallmark of the Christian life is the way in which we live out God's love and forgiveness. And, although the Christian community should be the last group to exclude anyone, even we have to have our boundaries. Sometimes this involves holding others to account for what they say and do, especially if they claim to be a follower of Christ. The love and forgiveness of God does not mean that 'anything goes'. It is a love that calls for constant conversion. We can witness to it only to the degree that we have experienced it, from God, from others, and in the way we love and forgive ourselves.

And we know when these qualities are taking deep root in us because answering a question like, 'What do you really like about yourself?' is a piece of cake!