



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@cam.org.au)		
LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:	Frank Kearney -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@cam.org.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

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us. We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings - Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it. *(Cont'd P4)*

- 2nd Sunday of Advent -

(Year B - December 4, 2011.)

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:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

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:

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

1st Reading: Is 61:1-2,10-11
 2nd Reading: 1Thess 5:16-24
 Gospel: Jn 1:6-8,19-28



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:** 11am Tues;

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 5: Moore family, 39 Willana Ave; **Dec 12:** Brown family, 23 Bostock Ave

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: Joan Jess

ANNIVERSARIES: Ivka Mrkogaca, Antonio Gulli

BAPTISMS: Sienna French, Imogen Heffer, Huga Turnley, Stevee Stokes (HS)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Theo Da Costa, Josipa Marinac, Vonnie VanDootselar, Fred Williams, Joy Crompton, Mary Smith, Margaret Barry, Margaret Dunn, Heidi Maguire, Florence Williams, Tasha Alden, Joseph Escorse, Jillian Henry

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 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

J Lynch

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 BBQ -** Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO meat, salad, drink 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)
Holy Spirit School - Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-3 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5229 8298
- . **Playgroup -** Holy Spirit Hall, First Tuesdays in the month
- . **Manifold CWL -** First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
- . **Italian Mass -** Dinner at Desma's every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Bookings phone 5278 2712.
- . **Catholic Deanery Solo Group -** Second Sunday of each month, 12noon in the small Hall.
- . **Ss Peter & Paul's Luncheon -** Second Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Dromoland. Dinner & Guest speaker. Ph Terry on 5221 7339
- . **Catholic Diners' Club -**



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 ❖

CHRISTMAS MAILOUT:

The invitations to our Christmas ceremonies will be in the Churches this weekend. We need help to distribute them. Could you deliver those in your own street and surrounds, or drive to another area and deliver there? Every invitation that has to be mailed costs 60c (that's \$60 per 100 and we have about 2,000 to be delivered!) Thankyou in anticipation. The remaining invitations that aren't taken this weekend will be in the Pastoral Cluster office from Monday 5th. If there are any people willing to help distribute these invitations please drop into the office at your convenience.

THANKSGIVING:

Please notify the office when you notice a change of address or a house that has been sold, as you are delivering the Christmas letters. It helps me keep the parish records up-to-date. (Helen)

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL - DEC 10/11:

Since its foundation in 1969, parishioners have supported our own mission fund to help developing nations. This has marked our Archdiocese for its exceptional generosity. Currently, the major beneficiaries are people in Papua New Guinea, Timor, India, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Botswana, Nigeria and Peru. Archbishop Denis Hart commends the fund to your continuing support. **Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.**

LITURGY IN THE CLUSTER:

Take a Moment - Discover Advent

"In advent, as the year comes to an end, many of us don't have time to do anything other than what we're already doing. This Advent Calendar is designed to help us deepen and add value to what we're already doing. If you take a moment with the reflection for each day you will discover Advent; and that will certainly add depth and delight to Christmas. See how you go."

The reflections in the Calendar that were given out last week will be part of the introduction of each Mass during Advent as well as our Reconciliation service just prior to Christmas.

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

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE:

Dec 24... 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's, 5.30pm Holy Family (focus on children), 7pm Ss Peter & Paul's, 8pm Holy Spirit (focus on family), Midnight Holy Family (Carols from 11.30pm).

Dec 25... 8am Holy Family, 9am Holy Spirit, 9.30am Holy Family.

Second Rite Reconciliation:

Mon Dec 19, 7.30pm Holy Family; Tues Dec 20, 5pm Ss Peter & Paul's; Wed Dec 21; 7.30pm Holy Spirit

THANKYOU, THANKYOU, THANKYOU!!!

Christmas is a time of gift-giving. I would like to thank the generosity of spirit and effort by many people in a number of activities that have been part of Pastoral Cluster life in recent times. Firstly, thank you to the 20-30 volunteers who organised and prepared the Christmas invitations to be mailed out as well as those who delivered them. Secondly, many thanks to those involved in providing hospitality and welcome to our senior citizens at the Luncheon after the Advent Anointing Mass. Thirdly, thanks for the great support for the Columban Partnership Movie Night. The night was a sell-out with over 400 people in attendance. Also a special note of thanks and congratulations to our three Catholic Primary Schools on their Cluster Day with its focus on their involvement and awareness of this Partnership.

(Fr Gerard)

Holy Spirit:

- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL COLLECTION:** This collection will take place this weekend, Dec 3/4. This appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming holy season of Christmas.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS & COLUMBAN CALENDARS** (90th Anniversary edition) are available for purchase from the Piety Stall in Holy Spirit Church **until early January 2012**. Cards - Pkts of 10 \$8, Single \$1, Calendars \$8 each. All proceeds support St Vincent de Paul Society.

Holy Family:

- ◆ **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 Dec 18. Thanks in anticipation for your help again this Christmas. **Because of your anticipated support for the project, the Holy Family Conference will NOT have a special collection today.**

Ss Peter & Paul's:

- ◆ **ST PATRICK'S CENTENARY GALA:** All former and current students, parents and staff of St Patrick's are invited to the fabulous Centenary Gala Cocktail Evening on **Saturday December 10**, 7pm at The Pier, Geelong. Music by 2Tone, Jazz Odyssey and Madhouse. Tickets \$85 include canapés, mini-meals and drinks. Contact Lucy on 0417 161 388 or St Patrick's on 5229 4412.
- ◆ **ST PATRICK'S CENTENARY MASS:** **Sun Dec 11 at 2.30pm at St Patrick's School.** Archbishop Denis Hart will be the Principal Celebrant - **ALL WELCOME!**
- ◆ **FESTA DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE PROGRAMMA:** **Domenica 11 Dicembre**, nella chiesa di St Patrick, Britannia St Geelong West. Alle ore 9.30am. La messa sara celebrata da Mons James Murray.

Fr Mick's Mates News:

1. **Christmas Stalls to be held at Ss Peter & Paul's Sat 3rd Dec, 5pm Mass; Holy Spirit Sun Dec 4, 11am Mass; Holy Family Sun Dec 18, 8am and 9.30am Masses. If you would like to order a Christmas Hamper, please contact Margaret Brown re content and price on 5229 1280.**

Community News:

Dec 4... **DAWN OF PROMISE:** God's people waited in hope for the coming of the Messiah. This beautiful work takes you on a moving musical journey culminating in the fulfilment of the Promise. Incorporating **The Promise** (sung every year at Holy Spirit's 8pm Christmas Mass), the choir for this performance includes a number of our Cluster parishioners. It will be held at St Thomas' Church, Peninsula Dve Drysdale at 7.30pm. This is a free concert and a great way to begin Advent.

Dec 6... **RETIRED OFFICERS KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Next meeting will be held at the White Eagle (Fellmongers Rd) at 12noon.

CALLING YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS:

Would you be willing to join a group of enthusiastic young people who are starting a fortnightly 'Young Adult' Mass in Geelong. Planning group is for those 16 years and over. If you can help with the organisation we would LOVE you to join us!. Contact Genevieve Exton on 0409 265 519 g.exton@hotmail.com or Georgia Cowdery 0438 028 276 g.cowdery@yahoo.com.au

MARYVILLE AGED CARE: Maryville Nursing Home, Western Beach, currently has a single room vacancy. For further enquiries contact Director of Nursing Cheryl Conder on 5221 5299.

(Cont'd from P1)

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby. That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.