



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)		
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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

Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent *Laudete* Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way *Gaudete* Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel John the Baptist is the model of humility, opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied, waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

ST PATRICK'S CENTENIAL MASS - TODAY 2.30PM AT ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Please note: If weather is inclement the Mass will be moved to St Mary's Basilica

- 3rd Sunday of Advent -

(Year B - December 11, 2011.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

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:

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

1st Reading: 2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
 2nd Reading: Rom 16:25-27
 Gospel: Lk 1:26-38



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.

Christmas Rosters

Rosters for the Masses over the Christmas weekend are below. We still need helpers where there are ***.
If you can help please phone Frank 5278 1343 on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

Christmas Eve

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

5.30PM

Fr Gerard, L Kelly, ****
L Sells, B McFarlane, E Kelly, M&H Broekman
F Kearney

MIDNIGHT

D Lunn
C Taylor, M Baird
J&C Taylor, H Verdnik, V Resciniti, M Baird
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

8.00PM

E Cotter
P Dickson, G Brown
E Cotter, C McShanag, V Trinder
D Brown

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

5.00PM

A Henderson
M Martin, G Tolan
G Tolan, A Henderson, ***
R Martin

7.00PM

B Middleton
P Power, ***
P McGlinchy, Dean Dougherty, G Wright
R Allum
(*** Helper needed to work the CD Player)

(*** Helper needed to work the CD Player)

Christmas Day

HOLY FAMILY

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

8.00AM

K Saunders
B Rainbow, F O'Neill
I Vanjek, P Walsh, J Genova, C Marcantonio, ***

9.30AM

T McMahon
P Gizycki, M Lukesic
R&R Zanardo, M Modica, D Lunn, ***
C Resciniti

(*** Helper needed to work the CD player for music)

HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

9.00AM

M Lacy
P Joyce, ***
P Joyce, M Lacy, ***
B Stocks

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 18, 2011.

(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

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal
J McKenzie
G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke
V Logan
B Stocks

11.00AM

J McCarthy
G Brown, M Kroger
V Trinder, L Fossey
I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder
D Brown

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

5.00PM

D Maddalena
K Maddalena
K Maddalena, B Ditkun,

❖ Christmas Timetable ❖

Christmas Masses:

Dec 24...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	5.30pm	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	Holy Family
	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)
	11.30am	Holy Family (Croatian)

Second Rite Reconciliation:

Dec 19...	Monday	7.30pm Holy Family
Dec 20...	Tuesday	5.00pm Ss Peter & Paul's
Dec 21...	Wednesday	7.30pm Holy Spirit

CHRISTMAS MAILOUT:

There are still a number of remaining Christmas invitations. If there are any walkers who can deliver the remaining Christmas mailout, please collect them from the back of the Churches.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

The Enquiry Period which began in August has ended. At 9.30am Mass at Holy Family this Sunday we will celebrate the **Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens** for **Lisa Jones, Scott McLean and Lisa Sells**, who have not been baptised. We will also welcome **Marguerite Giles, Jenny Stublely, Rachel McLean and Janice Cumming**, who have been baptised in other Christian Churches and now seek to join the Catholic Church. Please give them a warm welcome and support them by your prayer and example as they prepare to come into the Church next Easter.

BAPTISM PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:

The Pastoral Cluster will offer a Baptism Program for children attending school whose parent(s) are Catholic. The three week program will begin on Feb 12 next year and will finish on Feb 28. It is a mix of evening meetings for children and parents once a week, and a lesson for the children during the first part of the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family on the Sundays of Feb 12, 19 and 26. **Enrolments close on Wed Feb 8 2012. Contact Frank Kearney at the Pastoral Cluster on 5278 1343 or email: cluster@cam.org.au**

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Fr Kevin McKelson (SAC), Sr Annunciata (in Sri Lanka), Antonietta DeAngelis (in Italy)
ANNIVERSARIES:	Rosina Ierri, John & Irene O'Neill, Ana Whitney, Joan Walsh, Gerard Gillett, Domenico Versice, Len Pollard.
BAPTISMS:	Jamie Antonenko, Declan Nolan, Evie Stosic, Lenny Greaves (P&P)
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.

OUR LADY'S STATUE: 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.



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 from 7pm till 8.30pm. Come one, come all! You can contact Frank Lehpamer on 5278 4230 or lehpamer@geelong.hotkey.net.au

This weekend there will be second collection to support the Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal.

Cluster News:

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, thankyou 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 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:** 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 **on the carpeted steps in front of the Choir Pit**. 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.
- ◆ **BBQ:** Next Sunday Dec 18 at 12noon we will have our monthly BBQ in the Pastoral Cluster Centre. All welcome to come and join us. BYO meat, salad and drink to share.

Ss Peter & Paul's:

- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be NO Monthly Luncheon at Ss Peter & Paul's Hall because of the St Patrick's Centennial celebrations.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S** would appreciate non-perishable goods to be distributed to the needy between Dec 17-25. Thankyou.
- ◆ **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:

Christmas Stalls to be held at 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 16-24... **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS (Simbang Gabi):** As part of our preparation for Christmas you are invited to attend any of the 9-day Dawn Masses 5.30am at St Francis Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. For more info please contact Adela Buaya on 0409 135 589.

Dec 25... **GEELONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER 2011:** A fully catered traditional Christmas dinner at no cost for anyone 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 9.30am till 3.30pm with dining commencing 12noon. For catering ph St Vincent de Paul Society on 5221 9170 or for enquiries visit (gccdd@rocketmail.com)

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY POSITION - GEELONG HOSPITAL:

St Mary's Parish is seeking to employ a Hospital Chaplain, working with patients, staff and families at the Geelong Hospital and, as required, at the Geelong Private Hospital. The position is for 18-21 hours per week (negotiable). CatholicCare is co-ordinating applications on behalf of St Mary's Parish. Full details are on the CatholicCare website: www.ccam.org.au. Any enquiries to Liz Payne, Pastoral Services Manager, CatholicCare on 9287 5506 or liz.payne@ccam.org.au. **Applications close on December 19.**

(Cont'd from P1)

John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Just like Farmer Fleming or Lord Randolph Churchill, he could not have known the implications of what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

No wonder we have him as our focus on *Gaudete* Sunday. And so may we all rejoice today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.