



Pastoral Cluster

Incorporating the Parishes of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

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| 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: trish.stickland@cam.org.au) | | |
| LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR: | Frank Kearney - | Phone 5278 1343 (email: frank.kearney@cam.org.au) | | |
| THANKSGIVING CO-ORD: | Helen Brislane - | Phone 5278 1343 (email: helen.brislane@cam.org.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

Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better computer programmer.

Eventually they agree to hold a contest with God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours; lines of code streaming up the screen. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes and takes out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, 'I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out.' 'Very well, then,' says God, 'let us see if Jesus fared any better.' Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, 'But how? I lost everything, how can Jesus' program be intact?' God chuckles and says, 'Ah - because Jesus saves.'

On this final Sunday of Advent the Church moves our gaze to the Annunciation. The whole scene hinges around one word: 'Yes.' Mary's fiat sets in motion the entire Christian drama. In his film *Jesus of Nazareth* Franco Zeffirelli pictures the Annunciation this way: Mary is asleep at night when a gust of wind opens a high window. Afraid at all the commotion Mary gets up and starts to pray. As she prays, we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window to the moonlit sky and simply says, 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.

In recent years successive popes have reminded us that the best devotion to Mary is one that leads us to do what she did: say 'yes' to Jesus. Mary is not a stop on our journey of faith; she is a guidepost that always sends us on to Christ. Mary does not save us, for we believe she needed to be saved by Christ as well. That's why she could say yes in the first place. Mary recognised the gift and the giver and became the bearer of God for the world.

In this final week of Advent let's keep reminding ourselves of this simple but life-changing fact: Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from death. Jesus saves us from living lives devoid of purpose and meaning and Jesus saves us from ourselves. *(Cont'd P4)*

- 4th Sunday of Advent -

(Year B- December 18, 2011.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Christmas - Year B

1st Reading: Is 62:11-12
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Lk 2:15-20



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, M Gifford
P McGlinchy, Dean Dougherty, G Wright
R Allum

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, ***
P McBride

9.30AM

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

HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator
Lectors
Special Ministers
Projectionist

9.00AM

M Lacy
P Joyce, M Currie
P Joyce, M Lacy, M Currie
B Stocks

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

- RECENT DEATHS:** Ljubica Milekovic, Vincent Winiacki
- ANNIVERSARIES:** (Month Mine - Peter Culo) Thomas Fogarty, Jose Medeiros, Jose Mairros, Kathleen Smith, Francis Smith, Monica Cashin, Loraine Moonan, Joan Boyle, Irene Byrne, Tony & Lou Past, Gennaro Bove, Salvatore, Antonietta & Rose Valentino, Regina Soenarjo, Dennis & Margaret Sheahan, Zaltko Velcek, Branko Vuckovic
- BAPTISMS:** Samuele Buttignon Hayward, Cameron Mauff (HF), Ruby Hinck, Eliza, Luke & Maggie Street, Lawson Nawrocki (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

CHRISTMAS GIFTS WITH A DIFFERENCE:

"Wing and a Prayer" Bookshop and Chapel is now located at 75 Malop St (next to Darrell Lea). It has a wide range of faith related gifts, including beautiful gift books, Christmas cards and a wide range of other greeting cards, fair trade items, devotional and prayer requisites. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturdays 10am to 2pm. Everyone welcome to come and browse.

❖ Christmas Timetable ❖

Christmas Masses:

| | | |
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| 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:

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



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

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**

THANKYOU!

The lifeblood of any parish is its people. I would like to take this opportunity to offer sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the life of the Pastoral Cluster parishes. Firstly, I thank especially the staff of Trish, Frank, Katharine, Helen, Chris, Dolores and Karen, for all their efforts and contributions with the myriad of activities of administration, pastoral, liturgical, education, maintenance and cleaning. A special thanks to Fr Mick. Secondly, I thank all the volunteers who enliven our liturgies; those involved in our pastoral endeavours within the parish confines and beyond; to those who offer maintenance support and indeed to all who make a contribution.

Christmas is a time of gift-giving. Thankyou for your gift of time, talent and treasure to this community. Your gift is much appreciated. (Fr Gerard)

COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP:

1. On behalf of St Columbans Mission Society—*Warm greetings, On behalf of Kazama Grameen Inco we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and tell you how much we appreciate your generous support to our organization. And for many sacrifices you have given in order to help our jobless members/ and to give assistance on the livelihood projects of our members. We are grateful for bearing with our mission to help with the poor with such compassion and generosity. We would like to extend our sympathy for your generous people, as we all know you are also tremendously affected by floods and fire. We wish our Grateful God will grant your nation for speedy recovery and reward your country generously with material and spiritual gifts. Our social mission would not have been made possible without your help. Your contribution was very significant in achieving our goal. Again we want to thank you very much for your continuous support and co-operation. (Marlou R Conception, Chief Operating Officer and Staff)*
2. My Friends of Kuya—*May I take this opportunity to wish you all on behalf of Brother Luc, Jorge (street Educator), Sr Rosalie (volunteer), Sr Kate, myself and in fact all at Kuha, a very Merry Christmas and every grace and blessing for the coming New Year 2012. This year 2011 has been a significant one for Kuya and it would not have happened without your support. Thankyou! (Paul Murphy)*

Holy Spirit:

- ♦ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL** extend their Christmas Wishes to Cluster Parishioners. Our sincere thanks to Fr Gerard and Fr Mick for their continued support of our group. Thankyou to all who so willingly help us, as we continue with our After Funeral Catering at Holy Spirit Church, and support our fundraising functions. (*Tricia Joyce President & Jeanette Sheahan Secretary*)
- ♦ **CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** The Holy Spirit Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society sincerely thank all who generously contributed to the recent 2011 Christmas Appeal. The \$1,662 given will greatly assist many in our community to have a more happy and a holy Christmas time.
- ♦ **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:** This 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:

- ♦ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S** would appreciate non-perishable goods to be distributed to the needy between Dec 17-25. Thankyou.

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)

We don't save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation by good works or prayers or penance. And, as difficult as it is to hear, we cannot save anyone else. That includes our children, spouse, grandchildren, parents or friends. Our prayers, good works and faith are the responses we make to the salvation of Christ we claim here and now. And how we live is the way by which those we love will find the gift of God's salvation for themselves.

In the midst of this frantic final week before Christmas when so many other things can distract us from what this grace-filled feast is really all about, let's take a moment to join Mary in accepting into our lives and hearts the greatest of all gifts – our undeserved salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord.