



# Pastoral Cluster

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

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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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)

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.



Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practice of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'. This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened. (Cont'd P2)

## - The Baptism Lord -

(Year A - January 9, 2011.)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him. **Alleluia!**



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6  
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:1-3  
Gospel: Jn 1:29-34

### 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 Jan 10 to Jan 22)

**NO** Mon 3pm - Vincentian Village

Tues 9.15am - Holy Family, Wed 9am - Holy Spirit, Thurs 9.15am - Holy Family, Fri 11am - Holy Spirit, Sat 9am - Holy Spirit

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Fr Vin Burke (Asst Priest St Mary's Geelong in recent times), Vicky Manalo, Carmela Festa, Sheila McGinn, Miro Cvitan, Patricia Dickinson

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Rose Seljak, Anna Germanjuk, Domenico Lombardo, Mara Dzida, Laurie Monaghan

**BAPTISMS:** Isabelle Spitty (P&P)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Damian Taylor, Iolanda Marruso, Wendy Commons, Giuseppa Resciniti, Margaret Donaghy, Patricia McMahon, Rosalie & Lance Gilbert, Margaret Harris, Dorothy Sproules, Maria Law, Mary Smith, Joseph Escorse, Peter Kenny, Elena Cattnach, Vicki Manalo, Peter Farrar, Florence Williams, Pasha Alden.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate, say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 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, G Carmody

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

J McKenzie

G Wright, T Thornton, D Kosmetschke

V Logan

T Dunlop

### 11.00AM

M Currie

G Brown

M Lacy, M Currie

B Gorman, I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder

T Cleary, D Brown

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 5.00PM

D Maddalena

K Maddalena

K Maddalena, B Ditung,