



# 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)

Some of us remember the provocative and frightening 1991 film *Silence of the Lambs*.

The image in the title refers to a childhood memory of CIA agent, Clarice Starling. In her interviews with the psychopath Dr Lecter, he gets her to talk about how she still wakes at night hearing the cry of the lambs as they were led to slaughter on her uncle's farm. This is a pivotal moment in Thomas Harris' book and the film. It is the leverage Dr Lecter needs to unsettle and unravel Clarice's well-formed defences. Clarice is revealed as vulnerable, because of the grief she carries from the violent deaths she has seen.

I remember empathising with Clarice's memory of the lambs. When I was a child I saw many sheep slaughtered on my family's properties. I can still see my uncle selecting one of them, holding it in the pen before its execution and then watching him do the deed. The scene should have been enough to turn me into a vegetarian! Alas, I got over my pity for the animal and enjoyed roast lamb a few nights later.

John's use of the metaphor of the sacrificial lamb in reference to Jesus in today's Gospel is meant to engender a similar empathy to that of the childhood memories of Clarice Starling. While there are many jokes about the stupidity of sheep, lambs still claim a spot in the hardest heart. They are pure, white, fluffy and defenceless. They demand nurture. And like their parents they don't seem able to smell danger very easily. They follow where they're led, even to execution.

For the agrarian Jews of Jesus' time the sacrifice of a lamb demonstrated how serious they were about atoning for their sins. Jewish law dictated that a lamb had to be killed at least once a year, at Passover. Such a sacrifice cost the shepherd big time. Lambs were currency. This was tithing writ large.

Saying Jesus is the Lamb of God is a shorthand way of telling us two things. The first is that Jesus is God's most precious gift; God's own self, given to the world that we might know how serious God is about us. God can give us nothing more than Jesus. As a result of Jesus' innocent suffering and death there is no need for any lambs to be religiously slaughtered ever again. (Cont'd P2)



## - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A - January 16, 2011.)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

May all the earth give you worship and praise, and break into song to your name, O God, Most High.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Here I am, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. **Alleluia!**



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3  
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:10-13,17  
Gospel: Mt 4:12-23

### 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 17 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:

<b>RECENT DEATHS:</b>	Elena Cattnach, Mary Haskew, Antonio Bocchetti
<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b>	Max King, Domenico Fama, Ernesta Wootton, Antonia Mazza, Jack Picone
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Bol Reech (HF), Sophie Sullivan, Ruby Riemann (HS)
<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK:</b>	Damian Taylor, Iolanda Marruso, Wendy Commons, Giuseppa Resciniti, Margaret Donaghy, Patricia McMahon, Rosalie & Lance Gilbert, Margaret Harris, Maria Law, Mary Smith, Joseph Escorse, Peter Farrar, Florence Williams, Pasha Alden, Jenny Pegg, Heidi Maguire.

## **GEELONG PRAYS FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DISASTROUS QUEENSAND FLOODS:**

The Central Geelong Christian Churches invite you to an Ecumenical Prayer Service for all those affected and those still to be affected by the Queensland floods. Civic leaders have been invited to attend and participate. While many churches will initiate their own measures to assist through donations for practical relief, our combined prayers for God's sustaining strength for all involved will have an importance and value of their own.

**The service will be held at St Mary's Basilica, at 7.30pm on Sunday January 16.**

(/Cont'd from p1)...

We need to keep hearing this message because some Christians get caught into glorifying Jesus' suffering so much they get trapped in their own world of pain and go looking for more. Jesus never sought out suffering. He bore what came his way. And the same must be true for us. Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. Most of us don't need to look for more suffering in our lives because we share in the Lamb of God's sacrifice in the ordinary downs of our lives.

Secondly, John would have known that 'talya', the Aramaic word for sheep, is the same word used for servant. The first hearers of this Gospel would have known it too. Jesus, then, is the servant who brings us the truth we need for life, who answers our deepest desires to know that our existence has meaning and purpose and he opens up for us the life beyond this one, where there will be no more weeping or sadness.

Jesus shows us that when we are baptised into his death and enter his service we also share in his resurrection and glory because he bears, and bears away, the sins of the world.

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2011.**

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

### 8.00AM

F O'Neill

L Kelly

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

L&E Kelly

### 9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Baird, P Gizycki

**D Lunn, P McBride, J McMahon, C Simpson, V Resciniti**

E Glynn

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 6.00PM

M Lacy

E Cotter, P Dickson

C McShanag, G Harrison, E Cotter

M Brown, D McFarlane

T McShanag

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 5.00PM

A Henderson

G Tolan

**A Henderson, G Tolan, Dean Dougherty**

R&K Maddalena

### 11.00AM

M Foley

**H&M Broekman, D Dougherty, M Mirabile, M Foley, J Gailius**

M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski

R Zarb