



Pastoral Cluster

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

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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@netspace.net.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
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Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)



In any walk of life there are stories that circulate about an important facet of the job. For priests these stories often focus on sermons. Like the young priest who was having trouble with his sermons, so he asked the Bishop for help. 'Well,' said the Bishop, 'you might start with something to get the congregation's attention, such as, "Last night I was in the warm embrace of a good woman." I've always found that sparks their interest and then you can go on to talk about how warm and accepting she was and at the end reveal she was your mother. It's great for sermons about family love.' The young priest decided to take the advice the following Sunday, but he was so nervous, something got lost in the translation. He started, 'Last night I was in the arms of a hot woman.' As the congregation audibly gasped the young priest paused and realised he had forgotten how the Bishop's story ended, so he said, 'I don't remember who she was but the Bishop recommended her.'

We have just listened to one of the greatest sermons ever given. It is universally known as The Sermon on the Mount. What makes it great is not just the beauty of its language or the hope of its theology. It is truly great because Jesus was preaching to the reality in front of him. The Jews listening that day were poor, in grief, meek and hungry for justice. Some were trying to be merciful to their enemies, struggling to find God in the midst of persecution and attempting to make peace while their family and friends were being falsely accused and condemned. As true as this was for the Jews of Jesus' day, it was even more so for the earliest Christian community for whom this Gospel was written.

Sometimes when we hear a sermon our reaction can be, 'What would he know?' 'If only he knew the complexities of my life, he would soon change his tune!' It's true that some of us have not been sensitive to the human frailties of the congregation in front of us and we have not been able to communicate our own frailties in the words we deliver. The Sermon on the Mount is a model for all of us in every way. When Jesus says 'Blessed are you' he is not being patronising, glossing over all sorts of tough human realities with, 'Well done, keep it up, be happy and we'll fix it all up in heaven.'

(Cont'd P2)

- 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A - January 30, 2011.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Save us, Lord our God, and gather us together from the nations, that we may proclaim your holy name and glory in your praise.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and save me by your love. Lord, keep me from shame for I have called to you.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10
 2nd Reading: 1Cor 2:1-5
 Gospel: Mt 5:13-16



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.

PLEASE NOTE: 3pm Monday Mass at Vincentian Village resumes this week.

FR MICK'S MATES - RELAY FOR LIFE:

Boat Trip on the Bay, Fri Feb 25 departing at 7pm with BYO drinks and a plate to share. Price \$20 per person.

Tickets limited to 60, so **BOOK EARLY!** Phone David Lunn on 0408 378 982.

RELAY FOR LIFE WEEKEND OF MARCH 19/20 AT DEAKIN:

Registrations will be taken in February after each of the Masses.

For Holy Family see Vicki Resciniti 5278 1363 or Bernadette Kline 5278 9316; Holy Spirit - Amy O'Brien 5229 9911 and Ss Peter & Paul's - Desma Dougherty 5278 2712.

ST JOHN OF GOD PRESENTS: *Four Funerals in One Day - a performance piece that explores the human reality for patients and professional carers living and dying in palliative care. Tuesdays 15 Feb - 7 for 7.30pm at Sacred Heart College. Cost \$20/\$10 Conc.* Tickets from St John of God Hospital, Patient Accounts 80 Myers St Geelong.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Damian Taylor, Ted Cass
ANNIVERSARIES: Tony Patti, William & Gertrude Paul, Frank Patti, Ross Smith
BAPTISMS: -
ONE MONTH ANNIV: John Nardi
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Iolanda Marruso, Wendy Commons, Giuseppa Resciniti, Margaret Donaghy, Patricia McMahon, Margaret Harris, Maria Law, Mary Smith, Peter Farrar, Florence Williams, Pasha Alden, Doris Bole, Jenny Pegg, Heidi Maguire, Joseph Escorse

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Enrolments for all sacraments, particularly Reconciliation, are invited for children in the Cluster parishes who are attending non-Catholic schools. Enrolments will be taken on Mon Feb 14 and Tues Feb 15, 8.30am-5pm. For more information contact Frank Kearney at the Cluster Office on 5278 1343.

MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL:

Will hold their first meeting for 2011 in the Holy Spirit Church Hall, 2pm on Tues Feb 1. New or interested members welcome to come along. For transport or information ph Tricia Joyce on 5221 1986 or Jeanette Sheahan on 5278 2063.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

In the Hebrew Scriptures, a blessing is the discovery that God is present and active in one's experience, right here and right now. So the Beatitudes are saying that you do not need to go past your own daily struggles to find the presence of God. Jesus tells us that if we are poor, compassionate, mournful, campaigning for a just society and suffering because of it, gentle, innocent, a peacemaker or a martyr, we are encountering, in a special way, the presence of God.

The God of the Beatitudes is a companion with us in every experience we go through. God is our best friend, walking beside us as we get out of bed and meet the days we would rather not face. Sadly, God-as-friend is a rich image not used as much as it should be. We choose our friends, we like to spend time with them, we tell our intimate friends things we tell few others. Sometimes, when we are on top of the world or in a crisis we call our best friends ahead of our family. And we know our friends like us because they seek us out and want to share our life.

Jesus is the best friend we could ever have, interested in every daily event and he's there for us at every moment in life. Yet he doesn't barge in. He waits patiently for an invitation to enter our lives at whatever level we want. Jesus-as-friend doesn't give us old-fashioned sermons, but rather meets us where we are, embraces us and holds us close when the going gets tough and helps us find the way forward. Jesus-as-friend is the greatest Beatitude of all.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2011.

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators R Allum
Lectors A Vanjek
Special Ministers F Chrimes, J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane
Welcomers U Guardiano, K McArthur

9.30AM

T McMahon
C&J Taylor
G&P Carmody, D Farrar, R&R Zanardo
M&E Hoffman

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Sr Sibberas
Lectors J O'Neill
Special Ministers D Boyle, M Abbott, D Torpy
Welcomers V Logan, P Ryan
Projectionist B Stocks

11.00AM

M Shilling
M Currie
V Trinder, M Currie
A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack
L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators C O'Brien
Readers D O'Brien
Special Ministers N Neeld, J Jess
Welcomers
Projectionist