



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIESTS:

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Fr Mick Fitzpatrick

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OFFICE:

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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: trish.stickland@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

Seeing today's Gospel is set by the water's edge, this story seems appropriate. One day, three men were hiking and unexpectedly came upon a large raging river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so. The first man prayed to God, 'Please God, give me the strength to cross this river.' In an instant God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, after almost drowning a couple of times.

Seeing this, the second man prayed to God, 'Please God, give me the strength and the resources to cross this river.' In an instant God gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times. The third man had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, 'Please God, give me the strength and the resources ... and the intelligence ... to cross this river.' In an instant God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, went upstream a couple of hundred metres, then walked across the bridge!

The three men's prayers were all about gaining something: strength, resources and intelligence. Today's readings are about gaining things too. Unlike the instant answer to the hikers' prayers, Jonah, Paul and Mark know real gain usually comes less dramatically and quickly, and involves letting go of something as much as it involves taking it on. In the Christian life this is called conversion, and it's at the centre of our life of faith.

Christian conversion is not a once-in-a-lifetime moment. It can happen every day in a rich variety of ways. It involves a change in attitude as much as a change in lifestyle. All three readings show a different facet of conversion. Jonah calls the Ninevites to social conversion. St Paul, who reveals a very strong expectation that the end of time is near, calls the people of Corinth to a conversion of mind. And through relating the call of Simon, Andrew, James and John, St Mark tells us about personal conversion.

These days we regularly hear God's call in personal terms. It's sometimes called 'me and God' theology. Modern hymns reflect it best. We regularly sing about how Jesus died 'for me', or that 'here I am Lord' or that 'I will follow you'. (Cont'd P2)

- 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B - January 22, 2012)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Truth and beauty surround him, he lives in holiness and glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:

Believe the Good News.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Deut 18:15-20

2nd Reading: 1Cor 7:32-35

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28



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)

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: Vincentian Village 3pm; **Tues:** 9.15am Holy Family; **Wed:** 9am Holy Spirit; **Thurs:** 9.15am Holy Family;

Fri: 11am Holy Spirit; **Sat:** 9am Holy Spirit

OUR LADY'S STATUE: Jan 23: Partridge family, Rowe St.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Fr Thomas McCarthy (a former PP of Norlane), Br Stephen Bugg FMS, Antonio Faranda, Nicola Caimano, Paul Taylor, Peter Luczo

ANNIVERSARIES:

Assunta Nadile, Francesco Ruggeri, Fr Joseph Kelly, Gerard McGrath, Heather Brown, Alois Baum, Kevin Lee, Troy Guthridge, Josip Brajkovic, Alice Curmore, Allan McFarlane, Leonora Tibic

BAPTISMS:

Andy Grgurevic, Grace O'Reilly (P&P)

CLUSTER OFFICE: Given that the following weeks are a holiday time, the Office will be manned on an ad-hoc basis. If the office is not attended please leave a message on the answering machine.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Registration forms at back of Church. All registrations by end January will be in draw for \$500 Anaconda Voucher. Complete registration form, place in envelope with \$20 and place on collection plate **no later than January 29th**.

NEW YEAR WISHES:

- May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-enterologist, your urologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the ATO.
- May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.
- May you remember to say 'I love you.' at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, and your siblings.
- And may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

Individually these lines are all true, the problem is that they tend to play down the more ancient and biblical social dimensions of our call to conversion. In the Bible even though God and Jesus call people to conversion through personal relationships, there is no hint that this is where it stops. Every call leads to the wider community, to the people of Israel in the Old Testament, and out to the entire world in the New Testament.

Today's readings provide a litmus test for our conversion. If our faith has become a self-help club, where we talk about 'my' God, 'my' prayers, 'my' Church, 'my' Mass, we are in need of conversion. We don't need to leave God's personal love for us behind, we just need to see it as a necessary preparation for belonging to the people of God as we engage with the world at every level. We are challenged to reject the idea that it's me-and-God-against-the-world, and welcome in the idea that it's US-and-God-IN-the-world.

May this Eucharist give us the strength, resources and intelligence we need to be converted personally and socially again this Sunday.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012.

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Readers

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

R Allum

A Vanjek

F Chrimes, J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane

U Guardiano, K McArthur

6.00PM

Sr Sibberas

E Cotter

D Boyle, M Abbott, D Torpy

V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

5.00PM

C O'Brien

D Woods

N Neeld, P McGlinchy

9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor

P Carmody, D Farrar, R&R Zanardo

M&E Hoffman

11.00AM

M Currie

P Joyce, B Middleton

V Trinder, M Currie, P Joyce

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles