



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 HOURS:

Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-12noon, Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

OFFICE MANAGER:

Trish Stickland -

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LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -

Brian Everett

Separation St, Bell Park

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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

Given that Mark's Gospel was the first one in the New Testament to be written, today's extract could be the earliest evidence we have of intercessory prayer, or better still, intercessory action. The crowd around Jesus is so packed, that the friends of the man with paralysis get creative and, literally, go in over the top. There is no sense in today's Gospel of 'we shouldn't or, 'we can't'. There is only boldness in presenting the man before Jesus. Imagine if his friends didn't do this, he might never have known Jesus' healing touch.

There have been moments when we have all felt desperate. Sometimes when we are ill in mind, body or spirit, or worse still, when someone we love is in a similar state, we can have bloodied hands from banging on the doors of heaven, asking for God to do a miracle. In today's Gospel Jesus heals the man dramatically presented before him by his friends. While the physical restitution was the most obvious, it would not have been the only part of the man Jesus healed that day. We can imagine the memories and other afflictions that would have accompanied the man's paralysis. There would have been emotional and spiritual restoration as well.

So to us. If, for all our efforts, our actions and prayers are not answered the way we would like, we can be left feeling abandoned and forgotten by God. It is not a cop out, however, to console ourselves with the thought that maybe what we are seeking is the wrong gift from God, either for ourselves or the one for whom we are praying. There are many types of paralysis, equally crippling, and not all of them are physically obvious.

Whatever of the matter of the request we place before Christ, today's story informs us about Jesus' attitude toward our suffering. Jesus initially tells the man 'Go, your sins are forgiven.' Later he says, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk.' In first century Palestine, both statements were almost identical. To us, these statements are vastly different. In Jesus' time all illness was a curse from God because of sin. Jesus counters this belief by saying that no illness is from God, no suffering is sent to us because of sin.

How many of us need to hear this? After years of thinking our own paralysis has come about because God is punishing us, this Sunday we hear the Lord say, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk.' This does not necessarily mean our problems will not need attention in the future.

(Cont'd P4)

- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year B- February 19, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Gen 9:8-15

2nd Reading: 1Pet 3:18-22

Gospel: Mk 1:12-15



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

Croatian... 11.30am (1,3,4,5th Sunday), 12.30pm (2nd Sunday) - Slovenian... 11.30am (2nd Sunday)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Holy Family: 9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs

Holy Spirit: 9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat. **Reconciliation after Saturday Mass**

Grace McKellar Centre: 10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues; **Maryville Nursing Home:** 11am Tues;

Multicultural Centre: 1.30pm - 1st Fri **Vincentian Village:** 3.00pm -Mon

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Mon... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Tues... Meditation Group

5.30pm

Holy Family Community Centre

Wed... Prayer of the Church

Before 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Wed... Holy Family Women's Prayer Group

10.00am

Holy Family Community Centre

Thurs... Italian Prayer Group

10.00am

St Patrick's Chapel

Fri... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After 11am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

Fri... Divine Mercy

3.00pm

Holy Spirit Church

Sat... Rosary

After 9am Mass

Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

Feb 20: Sexton family, 31 Hamlyn Ave; **Feb 27:** Bongiorno family, 49 Calder St; **Mar 5:** Wilson family, 12 Gladstone Ave.

If anyone would like to have our Lady's Statue or if you could spare an hour a month to help Tina Montalto, ph 5278 9314.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Jenny Chatfield, Rosa Correla Silva (Portugal), Sheila Kent

ANNIVERSARIES: Fred Tuddenham Snr, Elfie Gillett, Tadeusz Andrus, Robert Neeld

BAPTISMS: Sophie Brajkovic, Madison Paton, Anya Pundij (HF), Isabella Cheel, Serafina Fiala (HS)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Margaret Dunn, Heidi Maguire, Ljerka Lehpamer, Dympna Murray, John Consedine, Florence Williams, Pasha Alden, Joseph Escorse, Gillian Henry, Fr Tony Redden

Please note: After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list - please phone the office if you wish names reinserted.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEB 26, 2012.

(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

P Dickson

C McShanag, G Harrison, E Cotter

M Brown

T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

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

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:

- . **Holy Family BBQ -** Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO meat, salad, drink to share.
- . **Holy Family Women's Group -** First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.00pm
- . **St Vincent de Paul -** Holy Family meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Community Centre, 7.30pm
Ss Peter & Paul's meet 4th Thursday 2pm in the Small Hall
Holy Spirit meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7.00pm in Holy Spirit Hall
- . **Baptism Preps -** 2nd and 4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
- . **Children's Liturgy -** Holy Family - 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9.30am Mass (during school term)
Holy Spirit - 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11am Mass (during school term)
Ss Peter & Paul's - 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11.00am Mass (during school term)
- . **Playgroup -** Holy Spirit School - Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-3 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5229 8298
- . **Manifold CWL -** Holy Spirit Hall, First Tuesdays in the month
- . **Italian Mass -** First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
- . **Catholic Deanery Solo Group -** Dinner at Desma's every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Bookings phone 5278 2712.
- . **Ss Peter & Paul's Luncheon -** Second Sunday of each month, 12noon in the small Hall.
- . **Catholic Diners' Club -** Second Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Dromoland. Dinner & Guest speaker. Ph Terry on 5221 7339

If you wish to know more about these groups, as well as about our Sacramental Program for children in non-Catholic schools, our Baptism and Wedding procedures, our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines and so on, please visit our webpage:

LITURGY IN THE PASTORAL CLUSTER IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

- Feb 19 (Sun)...** Children's Liturgy - 9.30am at Holy Family, 11am at Holy Spirit
- Feb 22 (Wed)...** **ASH WEDNESDAY** - 9.15am at Holy Spirit Church - school community in attendance
9.15am at Holy Family Church - school community in attendance
12noon at St Patrick's School Chapel - school community in attendance
1.30pm at St Mary's for Clonard College
7.30pm at Ss Peter & Paul's
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- Feb 25 (Sat)...** **Welcome to Preps and Teachers** - of St Patrick's School 5pm at Holy Family Church (Please Note: **NOT** at Ss Peter & Paul's Church)
- Feb 26 (Sun)...** **Welcome to Preps and Teachers** - of Holy Family School 9.30am at Holy Family Church
- Feb 25/26...** **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
- Mar 3/4 (Sat/Sun)...** **RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS** - for the children of Holy Spirit School, 6pm & 11am Holy Spirit Church
- Mar 4 (Sun)...** **RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS** - for children in the Catechetical Program, 9.30am Holy Family Church
- Mar 3,10,11...** **RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS** - for children of St Patrick's School, 5pm & 11am at Ss P&P's Church
- Mar 4,11...** **RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASS** - for children of Holy Family School, 9.30am Holy Family Church
- Mar 8 (Thurs)...** **COMBINED SCHOOL MASS** - Columban Partnership, 11.15am Holy Family Church

LENTEN CALENDAR 2012:

Returned to Ourselves -

In Lent, in Autumn, we have another opportunity to be "Returned to Ourselves". It is a beautiful way of saying what we are about in Lent. The 43 Daily Reflections in the Calendar aim to assist us in this. Each of the Reflections consist of an image, a brief paragraph that concludes with a quote from the Scripture of the Day.

These calendars are free and available at each of the Masses this weekend.

LITURGY MEETING:

Monday Feb 20, 7.30pm at the Pastoral Cluster Office. The purpose of this meeting is to finalise the Liturgical Calendar for the Year and to prepare for our Easter Celebrations.

"TOWARDS THE LIGHT" - Lenten Reflections:

There will be four groups using 'Towards the Light'. All groups will meet at the Cluster Centre, 147 Separation St, **BEGINNING THIS WEEK**, since the Reflections help people reflect on the coming Sunday Gospel.

Group Meetings are:

10am Monday, 7.30pm Monday, 10.00am Wednesday and 7.30pm Thursday.

Those who requested copies for personal use only, please collect a copy with your name on it from the Sacristy of the Church where you signed up.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those suffering from poverty and disadvantage. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of Lenten envelopes and give generously to the appeal this Lent. Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to alleviate poverty and bring hope and justice to disadvantaged communities throughout the world.

The Project Compassion boxes are available for collection at each of the Masses.

Holy Spirit:

- ♦ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** Two long serving members of the Holy Spirit Conference of the SVDP Society, **Helen Stocks** and **Cath Wright**, have recently retired. These two sisters have given wonderful service over many years to the Society and in turn the less privileged residents of the Manifold parish area. The Conference pays tribute for their outstanding contributions. (*Frank Atchison, President and Members*)

Ss Peter & Paul's:

- ♦ A Mass for the First Anniversary of the death of **Domenico Mileto** will be offered on **Thursday Feb 23 at 7.30pm**.

Cluster News:

PARISH FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM:

This program is for children Gr 3 or above who attend non-Catholic primary schools but are Catholic. The course will run over four weeks with a mixture of Tuesday evenings for parents and children (7.30-8.30pm) and Sunday mornings (9.30-10.30am) at Holy Family. Enrolments for this course close on **WED 22ND FEB 2012**. **Enrolment on any Monday or Tuesday 9am-5pm at the Cluster Office or on Wednesday 22nd Feb from 7-8pm.** Call Frank Kearney on 5278 1343.

FR MICK'S MATES - RELAY FOR LIFE: Mar 17/18

You are invited to participate in this year's Relay for Life. Registrations can be made at each of the three parishes on Feb 18/19 & 25/26 and Mar 3/4.

Please see -	Holy Spirit...	Amy O'Brien
	Holy Family...	Bernadette Klein and Vicki Resciniti
	Ss P&P...	Desma Dougherty

There are a variety of levels of involvement to support the team - through registration (\$20), donation, purchasing of merchandise, a few 'coins in the box' and if you wish to attend on the weekend of Mar 17/18 you will be made most welcome (stay for as short or as long as you like). More information in coming weeks.

The merchandise available includes - Fr Mick's Mates caps (purple or white \$10), perpetual calendars (\$10). Also there are several tops on hand from previous years and these are for sale at \$5 each. The tops will only be on sale at Holy Family as the sizes are limited.

ROSTERS - Lectors, Commentators, Special Ministers, Welcomers, Projectionists: New 2012/13 Rosters for all our parishes are available for pickup in the Sacristies. If you are on the roster please pick up your addressed envelope in the Sacristy of the Church in which you carry out your ministry. Thankyou.

Community News:

Feb 21... IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE: Launch of Project Compassion - 12noon in the Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St East Melbourne by Archbishop Denis Hart. Pancake lunch provided. RSVP to Margaret@caritas.org.au

Feb 26... 2012 DEANERY MASS: St Mary's Basilica 5.30pm (light refreshments to follow). Bishop Vincent Long, the Regional Bishop, will be the Principal Celebrant. The Mass is an opportunity to welcome Bishop Vincent and celebrate the many and various ministries in the Deanery.

Mar 2... CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD SUPPORT GROUP: This morning session is a practical workshop for leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word. 10.15am-12.30pm at the Thomas Carr Centre, 278 Victoria Pde East Melbourne. For more details ph Frank Kearney on 5278 1343 (Mon-Wed).

“ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** To be held at Wesley Uniting Church, Yarra St at 11am. The Guest Speaker will be Mons James Murray and the service is prepared by WDP Committee of Malaysia 'Let Justice Prevail'. Everyone is most welcome and a light lunch will follow the service. For details ph Sue O'Donoghue 5221 1584.

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This side of death we are always unfinished creations, God's 'work in progress'. But we are reminded that it is always Christ's desire to make us well and whole on every level where we need healing and peace. We also see the power of friends who support and pray for us and lay our needs before God. What an act of unselfish love intercessory prayers and actions really are.

In this Eucharist may we leave behind the Christian heresy that holds that God uses spiritual, mental or physical pain to get even with us. In its place may we hold onto the image that whatever our paralysis might be, whatever our mat might look like, with the support of selfless friends we can rise up this Sunday and walk into freedom and new life.