



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIESTS:

Fr Gerard Keith (email: gerard.keith@cam.org.au)
Fr Mick Fitzpatrick

Web Page Address:

www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

OFFICE:

147 Separation St Bell Park 3215

Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: cluster@cam.org.au

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)

LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Frank Kearney -

Phone 5278 1343 (email: frank.kearney@cam.org.au)

THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:

Helen Brislane -

Phone 5278 1343 (email: helen.brislane@cam.org.au)

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

At the end of *The Laws of Our Fathers*, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us. 'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ... the founder of the Western faiths ... He was a visionary, a prophet ... But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ... Abraham complied.'

'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping. He did not, so far as the Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ...' '...I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ... What kind of a starting point is this for ... all the Western faiths? ... Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

'...One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ... it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ... Isaac survived ... He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly, attempted no sacrifices of his own ...'

'So let us think of Isaac ... the first son of the Western faiths - and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned. For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ... That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God.'

(Cont'd P4)

- Second Sunday of Lent -

(Year B - March 4, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken, seek his face. It is your face,
O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



OUR LENTEN SONG:

Receive the Light of Christ.

May he shine within our hearts,

May the Christ-Light fill us

With joy and peace

PENITENTIAL RESPONSE:

*Strengthen us with the
Light of Truth*

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: 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.

MASS AT 'WING AND A PRAYER': Mass is held Mon-Fri 1.05pm in Malop St (next door to Darrel Lea). All welcome!

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Andelo Rusac (in Croatia)

ANNIVERSARIES: Giovanni Serra, Vjekoslav Iskra, Rocco & Francesca Daniele, Joan Booth, Giuseppe & Chiara Gulli, Julie Craven, William Dempsey Snr, Francesco Francica, Palmira, Salvatore & Caterina Giacomazzo

BAPTISMS: Xavier Jarvis and Isabell Pankhurst (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, Yvonne Feales

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, MAR 11, 2012.

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum

F O'Neill

I Vanjek, R Allum, J Genova

C Marcantonio, P Walsh

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Modica, E Glynn, M Baird, J Sheahan

V Resciniti, G Cracco

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

M Lacy

G Harrison

B Murphy, R O'Neill

M Brown, P Ryan

J Lynch

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

A Hubbard

P Power, P Hubbard

P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchy

R&K Maddalena

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin

L Strzelecki, A/L Fossey, M Sleeman

M&H Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey

T Martin

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:

- . **Holy Family Luncheon -** Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO food and 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 Wednesday 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 DURING LENT

*"The Lenten season has a two-fold character - it recalls Baptism or prepares for it, and it stresses a penitential spirit (s109). During Lent penance should not only be internal and individual but also external and social (s110)" Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Vatican II. An important element in the life of the Church to assist this two-fold character of the Lenten season, we have the **RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults...***

Last Sunday our catechumens preparing for Baptism, **Lisa Jones, Scott McLean** and **Lisa Sells** and our baptised candidates preparing to be received into the Catholic Church, **Janice Cumming, Marguerite Giles, Rachel McLean, Jenny Stublely** and **Jessica Wallace** attended the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral.

So begins the period of purification and enlightenment which coincides with Lent. In the liturgy of Lent the reminder of baptism already renewed, or the preparation for its reception, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Lent is intended to purify the minds and the hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance, and to enlighten their minds and hearts with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Saviour. This process is helped by the celebration of the **Scrutinies** on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. The Scrutinies are meant to uncover then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect, to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. (See below for Scrutiny Masses)

- 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, 12noon Holy Family Church. At this Mass we extend a warm welcome to Fr Garry Walker, a Columban and editor of 'The Far East'.
- Mar 10...** **FIRST SCRUTINY RCIA** - 6pm Mass at Holy Spirit (readings from Year A)
- Mar 16...** **ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS** - 9.15am at St Patrick's Chapel
- Mar 17...** **SECOND SCRUTINY RCIA** - 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's (readings from Year A)
- Mar 18...** **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** - 9.30am at Holy Family and 11am at Holy Spirit
- Mar 25...** **THIRD SCRUTINY RCIA** - 9.30am Mass Holy Family (readings from Year A)

"TOWARDS THE LIGHT" - Lenten Reflections: Group meetings are being held on **10am Monday, 7.30pm Monday, 10.00am Wednesday and 7.30pm Thursday**. If you ordered but haven't collected your 'Towards the Light' booklet, they are available in the Sacristy. There are also a few copies of **'Your Face O Lord I Seek' Lectio Divina - Praying the Scriptures in Lent and Holy Week Year B 2012**, still available for free.

PROJECT COMPASSION:



Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion support long term partnerships for justice and transformation around the world. This week we meet Khin, 10, one of an estimated two million people who have fled poverty, violence and instability in Burma. Caritas Australia supports a range of programs on the Thai-Burma border for these communities made vulnerable by displacement, including learning centres offering primary education for students who cannot attend Thai schools. Khin attends one of six centres Caritas Australia provides with infrastructure, books, tables and uniforms, textbooks, stationery and lunch for students.

With your ongoing support, together we will continue to advocate for all children's right to education.

Cluster News:

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

You are invited to participate in this year's Relay for Life at Deakin University, Waurin Ponds Campus, beginning Saturday March 17 12noon and finishing Sunday March 18 12noon.

Registrations can be made at each of the three parishes on Mar 3/4.

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

BY HELPING US

NOW, YOU CAN
HELP US DEFEAT
CANCER IN THE

FUTURE



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.

CANCER SURVIVORS AND CARERS: You are warmly welcome to attend the Survivors and Carers Morning Tea - Saturday March 17 at 10.30am, followed by a Survivors and Carers Walk at 12noon. If you wish to attend this Morning Tea please contact Trish Stickland, Team Captain, at the Parish office 5278 1343.

FR MICK'S MATES MINI RELAY FOR LIFE: The children from Preps through to Grade 2 from the three parish schools of Holy Family, Holy Spirit and St Patrick's, will be holding a Mini Relay for Life event at St Patrick's school grounds on March 8 at 11am. The focus of this event will be on Health and Wellbeing. Thanks to Trish Stickland, the Team Captain, for initiating and development of this event. Also thanks to the staff of the three primary schools.

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday 12 March**.

EASTER MAILOUT WORKING BEE:

Easter is soon upon us and as part of our outreach to all known Catholics in the Pastoral Cluster we are again inviting them to our Easter Ceremonies via the Easter Mailout. Once again I would like to call on your generosity to assist us with the preparation of the Easter invitations for delivery.

When: Tuesday March 6th at 2pm

Where: Pastoral Cluster Office, 147 Separation St Bell Park

HOLY FAMILY:

- ♦ **REFURBISHMENT DONORS BOOK:** In the Narthex there are a couple of copies of names of people who made a formal donation to the refurbishment for Holy Family Church. If you are one such person please check to see if we have the correct spelling of your name. Sorry for the late response - Fr Gerard
- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY LUNCHEON:** This luncheon is held every third Sunday of the month. You are welcome to attend - please bring food and drink to share. (Cold meat, salad, drinks etc rather than BBQ food)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

- ♦ **IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL:** 11am-4pm **Sunday March 18** at St Patrick's Primary School, Britannia St Geelong West. A great fun day for family - rides, bric-a-brac, food stalls, entertainment as well as the 'Leprechaun Drop' (a chance to win \$1,000 cash). All welcome!
- ♦ **FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE:** Domenica 18 Marzo 2012 nella chiesa di St Patrick in Britannia St Geelong West - alle ore 9.30am. La messa sara celebrata da Mons James Murray. Tutti siete benvenuti.

HOLY SPIRIT:

- ♦ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL:** Monthly meeting 1.30pm Wed Mar 7. Please note the Holy Angel Sisters luncheon is being held in the Hall from 12noon. Members might like to attend this prior to our meeting which we will hold in the former Tennis Room. We will be having our trip to Barwon Park Winchelsea on **Wed 21 March**. Information/transport ph Jeanette Sheahan on 5278 2063.



Community News:

Mar 7... **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall - cost \$8.

Mar 18... **ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE 2012 OPEN DAY:** 11am-2pm at the College in Peninsula Drive in Drysdale. Applications close **Friday May 18**. Email info@ignatius.vic.edu.au or website www.ignatius.vic.edu.au for more details.

(/Cont'd from P1)

We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ...he was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else. Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.