



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:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -

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Holy Spirit -

Mary Abbott

Minerva Rd Manifold Hts

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St Patrick's -

Basil Flynn

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

Reflection... by Richard Leonard SJ

In the third verse of the rousing hymn, *How Great Thou Art*, we sing,

'And when I think that God his Son not sparing sent him to die I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.'

This verse enshrines a long-held tradition that Jesus died as a necessary atonement to God for our sins. From this perspective Jesus' suffering and death was the price of the ransom paid to evil so that we might share in God's life. Alternatively, the death of Jesus is seen as the only thing that satisfied God's anger at our sins, and caused God to love us again.

We should be very careful about what we sing! On the one hand this theology rightly shows us the extraordinary love Jesus has for us. On the other hand it says some very difficult things about God. What loving creator, for example, would say that the torture and death of his beloved son is the only way he can be happy about his creatures? What just judge, no matter how angry he or she might be at the crimes laid out in the courtroom, would allow an innocent man to die for the guilty? And how powerful is God over evil if the only way to keep it in check is through human sacrifice? These are serious questions and they have an impact on our everyday life of faith, and can sometimes alienate us from believing that God is our all-loving Father in heaven.

Today, we rightly hear a lot about victims – people, who through no choice or fault of their own, have been dealt with wrongly by others who are free to act otherwise and who know better. In some of the ways we think about the passion, Jesus becomes God's victim. Through no fault of his own, and seemingly powerless in the face of his Father's will, Jesus becomes a victim of God's need for a sacrifice, a ransom or atonement.

As a result, many of us can feel that sometimes we are God's victims too, because if God wanted Jesus to suffer and die, why should we be surprised or complain when we receive large crosses to carry as well? (Cont'd P4)

- Passion (Palm) Sunday -

(Year B- April 1, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the Cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.



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.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Vincenzo Fazio, Michael Zilavec, Lorenzo Leone, Rozalia Skotnica, Leonardo Cassio, Betty Dark
ANNIVERSARIES:	Constance & Edward McCormack, Mary O'Loughlin, Francesco Ianuzzi, Arthur Allison, Francesco & Sarina Battaglia, Frank & Tony Patti, Giovanna LaSpada, Les McFarlane (Snr)
BAPTISMS:	Maxwell Carroll, Spencer Sharry (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 Seales, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Duggan-McDonald

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

ROSTER - EASTER CELEBRATIONS

HOLY THURSDAY

7.00pm Holy Spirit	Commentator	T McMahon
	Readers	J McKenzie, G Tolan
	Special Ministers	A Henderson, A&L Fossey, J Sheahan, J McMahon, F Kearney
	Projectionist	*****

GOOD FRIDAY

3.00pm Holy Family	Commentator	F O'Neill
	Readers	D Lunn, P Gizycki, G Tolan, L Kelly
	Projectionist	C Resciniti

EASTER VIGIL

7.30pm Holy Family	Commentator	F O'Neill
	Readers	J McKenzie, M Kroger, P Gizycki, D Lunn
	Special Ministers	D Lunn, A Henderson, C Taylor, M Fiorillo
	Projectionist	C Resciniti

EASTER SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Family	Commentator	K Saunders
	Readers	*****
	Special Minister	B McFarlane, I Vanjek, C Marcantonio
9.30am Holy Family	Commentator	T McMahon
	Readers	H Verdnik
	Special Minister	H Verdnik, C Simpson, J Sheahan, J McMahon, M Modica
	Projectionist	C Resciniti
10.00am Holy Spirit	Commentator	E Cotter
	Readers	D Woods
	Special Minister	E Cotter, V Trinder, *****
	Projectionist	*****
11.00am Ss P&P	Commentator	M Foley
	Readers	M Martin
	Special Minister	L Strzelecki, *****
	Projectionist	A Zarb

REQUIRED:

Special Ministers of the Eucharist for Easter Sunday -
10am at Holy Spirit and 11am at Ss Peter & Paul's

Readers for 8am at Holy Family for Easter Sunday.

If you can help phone Frank Kearney Mon-Wed at the Cluster Office on 5278 1343. Thanks.

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

- April 3... RECONCILIATION SERVICE - 5.30pm** Ss Peter & Paul's Church
- April 4... MASS OF ANOINTING - 11.30am** Holy Spirit Church, luncheon to follow
- " **RECONCILIATION SERVICE - 7.30pm** Holy Family Church
- April 5... HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE - 7.00pm** Holy Spirit Church
- April 6... STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 10am** Ss Peter & Paul's, 10.30am Holy Family, 11am Holy Spirit
- " **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - 3.00pm** Holy Family Church
- April 7... BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD - 4.00pm** Holy Family Church
- " **EASTER VIGIL - 7.30pm** Holy Family Church
- April 8... EASTER SUNDAY MASSES - 8.00am & 9.30am** Holy Family, 10am Holy Spirit, 11am Ss Peter & Paul's



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

April 15 - Divine Mercy Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv. At Holy Spirit Church at 1.30pm followed by Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayers, concluding with Benediction. In preparation for the Mass there will be Confessions on Saturday after the 9am Mass at Holy Spirit Church.

ST PATRICK'S IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL 2012: The weather was great, the crowd was huge and the Festival this year was absolutely fantastic! St Patrick's Primary School is very fortunate to have such a wonderful parent community that all work together to help improve our school while having a lot of fun at the same time! There was a 97% volunteer rate from school parents offering to help set up, run and pack up the Festival this year - which is absolutely amazing. It is also a time when friendships between families, the staff and the general school community spirit really blooms. The rides continue to be one of the main attractions of the day and kids keep going back for their 15th or 16th turn on the very popular *Cyclone* ride. The Art Show, with the theme of *Things with Wings*, displayed the creative work of our students and encouraged their artistic minds. The day held something for everyone, including the Leprechaun Drop, Irish Dancing, books, clothes, face painting and delicious food and drinks on offer. We even launched our very own St Pat's cookbook that proved to be a huge success. (*Virginia Mansfield, Irish Folk Festival Co-Ordinator 2012*)

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: The Easter edition 2012 of Australian Catholics is available for free at all of our Churches. This magazine is informative and accessible with its focus on faith and living for contemporary Catholics. This edition the focus is on our vocation to God; articles include Finding your True Calling, What is it that Touches your Heart? Religious Life Today, Discovering your Charism. You may wish to forward a copy of this to your own children/grandchildren who might find some of the articles helpful.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Your Project Compassion donations allow Caritas Australia to partner with communities to enhance their human dignity and capacity to respond to their own needs. Amongst the many projects undertaken by Caritas, one is to help reduce the gap between the health status between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

IF YOU CAN, PLEASE RETURN PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AT THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AS THEY FORM PART OF OUR LITURGY.

Cluster News:



FR MICK'S MATES - RELAY FOR LIFE:

CONGRATULATIONS! Fr Mick's Mates has once again won the award for the highest fundraiser at the Geelong Relay for Life Event 2012. It is a great effort achieved because of the generosity of effort of the team and the Pastoral Cluster community at large.

Looking back on the year that has been, there have been many endeavours of fund-, friend- and awareness-raising. These include the Melbourne Cup Luncheon, the Bay Cruise, the BBQ's after Masses and at Bunnings in Corio, the registrations, the stalls selling crafts, relishes and jams, the Mini Relay for Life event at St Patrick's School in which the children from the three Cluster Primary Schools participated, raffles, etc.

Also many thanks to the 124 people who registered as team members. Fr Mick is delighted he has so many 'mates'.

Special thanks to our patron **Fr Mick**, our team captain **Trish Stickland**, the committee of **David Lunn, Amy O'Brien, Noreen Haberman, Desma Dougherty, Vicki Resciniti, Michael and Anne Scaddan, Margaret Haines, Margaret Brown and Betty Rice**.

Relay for Life Tops - Could the following people please collect their tops from the Office... **Gwen Phelan-Dickson, Mary Foley, Branco & Mira Matijevic, Audrey & Robert Partridge, Douglas Boyle**.

A pair of sunglasses were left at the Relay for Life site on Sunday. They are available for collection at the Office.

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- ◆ **THANKYOU!** To all those who delivered the Invitations to our Easter Ceremonies.
 - ◆ **COMBINED CATHOLIC RAFFLE:** Please return any raffle books outstanding by **Sunday April 1st**. Thankyou.
 - ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be NO luncheon at Ss Peter & Paul's Hall on Easter Sunday, it has been changed to **April 22**.

HOLY SPIRIT:

- ◆ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL** will hold their monthly meeting in the Parish Hall on **Wed April 4**. This will be after the Anointing Mass and Luncheon. Details ph Jeanette Sheahan on 5278 2063.

Community News:

Apr 3... **RETIRED OFFICERS KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Next meeting will be held at the White Eagle (Fellmongers Rd) at 12noon.

Apr 4... **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA:** "Ecce Homo - Behold the Man", a special Easter encounter with music, meditation, poetry, etc at St Mary's Basilica 8pm. No charge, donations welcome. Enquiries Jeannette 5223 3554.

Inserted in this week's Bulletin is the **Pastoral Letter on the True Meaning of Marriage from the Catholic Bishops of Victoria**.

GEELONG CATHOLIC DEANERY:

- ◆ Deanery Dinner Thursday April 19 at 6.30pm at Drumoland House, 258 Pakington St Geelong West. Guest speaker will be Bishop Vincent Long and his talk will be his memorable address last year for the honoured "Rerum Novarum" lecture. For bookings please contact the Deanery Executive Officer Catherine Moon 5222 1977, 0409 007 913 or deanexec@pipeline.com.au or cmoon2@bigpond.com. Proceeds to support Samaritan House, Geelong's new crisis accommodation for the homeless.
- ◆ Another fundraiser to support Samaritan House has been the generous offer of **Blue Illusions Quality Ladies Wear and Accessories**, Shop 109, Ground floor at Westfield, who will donate 20% of the retail price of all purchases from the store **next Thursday, April 5**.

(/Cont'd from P1)

Mark's account of the passion tends to reinforce Jesus as victim. Mark has Jesus eating with the outcasts, his friends betraying, denying or deserting him. He tells us that Jesus is terrified at the prospect of death and calls on his 'Abba' or 'daddy' to help him out. In the end he accepts 'the will of God' but even then feels abandoned by God on the Cross.

I often think we misread what Jesus is referring to when he accepts God's will in the Garden. Rather than refer to the particular will of the Father to see Jesus suffer and die on Good Friday, I think it's more helpful and consoling to understand it as referring to God's will that Jesus remains faithful to the way he lived. If by doing that Jesus threatened the religious and political authorities of his day so much that they have to murder him, then his death is the ultimate sacrifice which reveals how far God was prepared to go in love for us. This reveals to us that Jesus came 'to live', and that by faithfully living this life he was put to death by the powers of sin. Through the cross we see the price to be paid in confronting sin in our day and obediently living out the demands of God's kingdom of justice and peace.

This Holy Week let's celebrate that God spared nothing in showing us how to live. As we commemorate Jesus' life, death and resurrection may we move from being victims of a bloodthirsty God to choosing again to follow Jesus' example and live lives which are faithful, loving and obedient. May we also appreciate that this life continues to, literally, threaten 'the hell out of' those opposed to the reign of God in our world, but that as Jesus was faithful to God and God to Jesus, so they will remain faithful to us as well, no matter what.