



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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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

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion. This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us. (Cont'd P4)

- 5th Sunday of Easter -

(Year B- May 6, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

2nd Reading: 1Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17



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: Apr 30 - Iozzo family, 21 Manifold St;

May 7 - Kolotelo family, 23 Bostock Ave; May 14 - Spitale family, 4 Marathon 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: Grace Miller (USA), Michael Hayes, Istvan Luczo, Rick Tolkin, David Markov

ANNIVERSARIES: Carmel & Joe Phelan, Teresa Hogan, Brian O'Donnell, Ron Smith, Rosa & Natale Cucinotta, Maria Grazia Lombardo, Antonia Gergurevic, Mary Sexton

BAPTISMS: Baylee & Summer Alleyn, Xavier Flanagan, Evangeline Seg, Ella Vuckovic

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Margaret Dunn, Heidi Maguire, Ljerka Lehpamer, Dympna Murray, John Consedine, Florence Williams, Pasha Alden, Joseph Escorse, Gillian Henry, Yvonne Seales, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Duggan-McDonald, Maria Coppelino, Andrew Stocks, Maria Modica

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 13, 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:

www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

LITURGY IN THE PASTORAL CLUSTER

- May 6...** **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD -** 9.30am Mass at Holy Family and 11am Mass at Holy Spirit
" We welcome to the **Order of St John of Jerusalem** Knights who will be present at the 9.30am Mass Holy Family. The Knights are an order which dates back to the 11th Century and is the oldest surviving international Christian Order of Chivalry. The motto of the order is: "**Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum, For Faith For Service to Humanity.**"
- May 11...** **CLASS MASS -** 9.15am at St Patrick's in the Chapel
" **CLASS MASS -** 11am at Holy Spirit Church
- May 12/13...** **MOTHERS DAY MASSES -** The school children will be involved at 5pm Ss P&P, 6pm Holy Spirit and 9.30am Holy Family Masses. The focus of these Masses is to celebrate the important vocation of Motherhood.
- May 23...** **CLASS MASS -** 10.15am at St Patrick's in the Chapel
- May 24...** **WHOLE SCHOOL MASS -** 10am at Holy Spirit Church
- May 26/27...** **FEAST OF PENTECOST**
- May 30...** **CLASS MASS -** 10.15am at St Patrick's in the Chapel
- May 31...** **CLASS MASS -** 9.15am at Holy Family Church
- May 19/20/26...** **CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASS** for children from Holy Spirit
- May 20/27...** **CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASS** for children from Holy Family
- May 26/27...** **CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASS** for children from St Patrick's

HOLY FAMILY RAMP:

Just over 12 months ago we had the renovation of Holy Family Church. To complete the refurbishment we needed to undertake an upgrade of the ramp so that it could be more aesthetically pleasing and could provide good access for the elderly and those with disabilities. I'm delighted to announce that a new ramp will be erected. The drawings of the new ramp are on the noticeboard at Holy Family Church.

The payment of this new ramp will be made possible because of the generous support of **Councilors Srechko (Stretch) and Eddy Kontelj**, who together are allocating \$50,000 from their Council Ward funding. The Councilors have a discretion to allocate funds to a community organization that is making a valuable contribution to the wider community. Both Councilors, Eddy and Stretch, wanted to recognize Holy Family's contribution through this Ward funding. The wider City of Geelong councilors supported the proposal.

We thank Councilors Stretch and Eddy for their generous support and recognition of Holy Family Parish.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY: On Monday May 28th all three schools will be closed and the staff will come together with Fr Elio Capra and the Pastoral Cluster staff for a Faith Formation Inservice.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: Thankyou to all who contribute regularly to support our parish. **For those who give weekly and monthly**, the next set of Thanksgiving envelopes are ready to collect today. Letters are laid out in street order, regardless of suburb. Please fill in a pink form and return it to the Parish Office, or email Helen.brislane@cam.org.au if you would like to **begin contributing** regularly by envelope or credit card, or if you would like to **change your pledge or frequency** of giving. Many thanks for your generous financial support.

COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES: Recently I received a letter from Fr Sean Connaughton who has established the Kazama Grameen Micro Credit scheme in the Philippines and who has now retired back to Ireland. This Micro Credit scheme is what we support as part of our Columban Partnership. Fr Sean wrote: "*Dear Fr Keith, I have been writing to you (inside my head) for weeks. I hope you are in good health despite climate and politics, that's all we hear of your country here. Your extreme generosity to Kazama Grameen families is also at the top of their list... Visiting them over a year ago I could see how many new villages/barrios with networks of little projects (pigs, chicken, shops, sewing, boats, welding and so on), and how they have multiplied. Much of this is thanks to you (and the parishes and schools) and COAF... I keep saying try to limit it, ie keep it around 30,000 max or 29 branches but more and more applicants keep coming. But we keep trying to service the areas that you saw. We praise the Lord that all our good trained staff stay with Kazama and are happy and dedicated apostles... Fr Sean*" Enclosed in our bulletin is an article about the Kazama Grameen Micro Credit scheme in the April edition of the Far East.

Cluster News:

PLEASE NOTE:

- ♦ **Fr Mick will be celebrating his 80th birthday in October.** Please put Sunday afternoon, October 7th, in your diary!
- ♦ **Catholic Women's League Health Awareness Committee** are holding a Brunch at RACV Club, Bourke St Melbourne from 11am to 1pm on **Tuesday May 8**. Cost \$45 and funds go to Ovarian Cancer. There will be a guest speaker. Coach will be running from Geelong at extra cost payable on day. For tickets and more details ph Jeanette Sheahan on 5278 2063 by April 23.

A VOCATION VIEW:

Who shall come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith?

We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the Vine and the Branches One again.

How about you?

Holy Spirit:

- ♦ **WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION:** The 9am Mass at Holy Spirit Church on Saturday May 12 will be having prayers and readings pertaining to World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO) Day. We encourage CWL members to attend this Mass.

Community News:

- May 9...** **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts
- "** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Monthly meeting next Wednesday 7.30pm at Clairvaux Meeting Rooms Belmont. Members please attend and bring a plate.
- May 10...** **FREE TALKS ON MENTAL HEALTH:** Chris Mackey is offering free public lectures on mental health and wellbeing and the next meeting will be on **Positive Psychology** from individual to city-wide interventions. 7.30-8.45pm at Geelong West Town Hall, Supper Room.
- May 14...** **DEMENTIA AWARENESS for home and community care and aged care volunteers** - All volunteers working within Home & Community Care programs are encouraged to attend the McKellar Centre, 1-4pm. Light refreshments, no charge, facilitator - Alzheimers Australia: Wendy Henderson. RSVP 30 April 12.
- June 15-17...** **TABOR JOURNEY PROGRAM:** For separated, divorced or widowed people coping with the loss, grief, heartache and struggle that follows the end of a marriage/relationship. Ph CatholicCare 5221 7055 or email geelong@ccam.org.au

HKUD LADO GEELONG: Are you a past, present or future member of HKUD 'LADO' Geelong? The Croatian Cultural Artistic Association 'LADO' Geelong is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2012. To celebrate this wonderful milestone we have planned a series of events throughout the year, which we would love to share with you. If you have any LADO memorabilia/photos/footage to contribute or want to learn more about the events, please let us know via email hkudlado@yahoo.com or Facebook [facebook.com/groups/hkudladogeelong/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hkudladogeelong/)

GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for a 2-course meal, stimulating guest speakers and the opportunity to meet new friends, all for only \$28. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Dromoland House on Pakington St. For more information and reservations, please phone Terry on 5221 7339.

YEAR OF GRACE:

Beginning at Pentecost, the Catholic Church in Australia will enter into a **Year of Grace**, a time of retreat and renewal as we contemplate the face of Christ through prayer, reflecting on the scriptures and the liturgy. **On Thursday May 24 in the Pastoral Cluster Community Centre, Bell Park**, you are invited to learn more about the upcoming Year of Grace events and resources. Each evening session will run from **7.30-9pm** with fingerfood and refreshments provided. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how your parish can get involved in this exciting nationwide initiative.

(/Cont'd from P1)

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'