



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:

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OFFICE:

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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 -

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LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Frank Kearney -

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THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:

Helen Brislane -

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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

The Italian film, *Life is Beautiful* vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about.

And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything.

If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

(Cont'd P4)



Happy Mother's Day!



- 6th Sunday of Easter -

(Year B- May 13, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth;
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
And my Father will love them,
And we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Gen 11:1-9
2nd Reading: Rom 8:22-27
Gospel: Jn 7:37-39



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:

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: Rosario Dinero, Wanda Podhaiski, Kathleen Steele

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Shelley, Joanne Giamperi, Franco Marafioti, Tadeusz, Maria & Franciszek Andrus, Dorothy Cushen, Leo O'Dwyer, Mary O'Neill, Elisabetta Pitaro, Giuseppe, Maria & Teresa Pitaro, Nicholas Hoare, Carmella Bisinella, Margaret O'Shea, Clare Middleton, Katie Dacre

BAPTISMS: Zoe Judd, Sophie Preiato (P&P)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Margaret Dunn, Heidi Maguire, Ljerka Lehpamer, Dymphna 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 20, 2012.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

9.30AM

L Lehpamer

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C&J Taylor, E Glynn, M Fiorillo

E Dalton

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

J McKenzie

G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke

V Logan

B Stocks

11.00AM

J McCarthy

G Brown, M Kroger

C Laffy, L Fossey

I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder

D Brown

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

D Maddalena

K Maddalena

K Maddalena, B Ditung,

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 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
- June 2/3...** **EUCARIST COMMITMENT MASSES** - 5pm & 11am Ss P&P, 6pm Holy Spirit, 9.30am Holy Family

NEEDED URGENTLY: The parishes rely on volunteers to help make our liturgies more meaningful and run smoothly. At Ss Peter & Paul's and Holy Spirit we need people to be part of Commentator/Reader Rosters and to assist with the projectionist work at all Masses. We are particularly looking for those in the 20-50 year old group as many of our older parishioners have been involved for many years. Neither task is beyond most. If you can use a computer, even at the basic level, you can handle the requirements of projectionist - it is not difficult. If you can assist please contact Frank at the office on 5278 1343.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY: On Monday May 28th all three schools with the Pastoral Cluster staff will gather for a Faith Formation Inservice with Fr Elio Capra. **The Pastoral Cluster Office will be closed on that day and there will be no Monday Mass at Vincentian Village.**

THANKSGIVING: Last week the Geelong members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (an ecumenical group of civic and religious leaders) attended the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family. At the luncheon afterwards I was pleasantly surprised by the many, unsolicited and genuine affirmations by the members of the Order about their experience of the Holy Family Mass and its community. (I'm sure the members of the Order would have been likewise complimentary had they attended a Holy Spirit or Ss Peter & Paul's Mass.)

Sometimes it takes an "outsider" to help the "insider" recognize the good things that they have. Indeed at the Pastoral Cluster we are blessed in many ways with our community, staff, Churches, facilities, activities, and so on. These blessings just don't occur but, rather happen because of the generous sharing of time, talent and treasures by the Pastoral Cluster's Priests, staff and parishioners.

As we draw to the end of the financial year and in the aftermath of the Federal Budget, I need to report with some disappointment that for the last six months the amount given has fallen \$19,000 below the amount pledged. I know there can be many reasons for this, some of which are beyond a person's control, but I do urge contributors to continue to support the Thanksgiving Program because it is your way of enabling the Pastoral Cluster to continue to be the faith-filled, sacramental and pastoral contributor to the local community that is clearly obvious to others. (Fr Gerard)

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: 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.

ENROLMENTS FOR EUCARIST PROGRAM For Catholic children attending non-Catholic schools: Enrolments close on **Wednesday 23rd May** and the program begins on **Sunday 3rd June**. For enquiries or enrolment forms contact Frank Kearney at the Cluster Office on 5278 1343 on Mon-Wed 9-5pm or on Wed 23rd May from 7-8pm at the Cluster Office, 147 Separation St Bell Park.

Cluster News:

PLEASE NOTE:

- ♦ Fr Mick will be celebrating his 80th birthday in October. Please put Sunday afternoon, October 7th, in your diary!

Community News:

- 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.
- May 24...** **YEAR OF GRACE:** A meeting to learn about the upcoming Year of Grace events and resources, to be held in the Pastoral Cluster Community Centre, 7.30-9pm with fingerfood and refreshments provided.
- 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

A VOCATION VIEW:

God's love for us has been revealed:

"Love one another as I have loved you."

The world is in need to see people who are striving to love others with all their hearts.

What about you?

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/)

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".

If you didn't see the photocopied article about the Kazama Grameen Bank in last week's bulletin, there are some spare copies at the back of the Churches.

...Invitation...

St Brigid's Parish Gisborne takes pleasure in inviting you to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr Gerry Spillane on Sunday 20th May.

Celebrations will commence with Mass at 11am in St Brigid's Church, 66 Aitken St Gisborne, followed by a luncheon in the School Hall next to the Church.

We look forward to your company!

(/Cont'd from P1)

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble.

That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus the Lord showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the joyful way we sacrifice ourselves for them.