



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

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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 -

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St Patrick's -

Basil Flynn

Petrel St, Geelong West

Phone 5229 4412

Reflection... by Richard Leonard SJ

The American political drama *West Wing* has been a huge hit on television. Well-scripted, cleverly cast and finely acted, it dramatises events around the most powerful office in the world. This is one drama series that does not need to invent stories. With former White House insiders hired as consultants, *West Wing* explores important issues and demonstrates the process by which a public position is adopted. The best aspect of this drama, however, is that it portrays the power of the backroom players involved in the process. Every democracy, every institution, including the Church, has people who are not the public face of the organisation but are very powerful in shaping what the group stands for and where it goes. A politician friend of mine says, 'Parliament is theatre sports writ large; real power and the important decisions are worked out in the backrooms, small offices and corridors.' Yes *Minister's* Sir Humphrey Appleby would drink to that!

John the Baptist is the greatest of the backroom boys in the Christian story. When the gospels were written, the significance of John's role as a herald and mentor came to the fore. In first century Palestine there may not have been parliamentary corridors for John the Baptist to strut, but his words and actions on the banks of the Jordan were powerful in recognising who was to follow, what the Christian faith would stand for and where it would head.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Birth of John the Baptist is one of the most ancient feasts commemorated in the earliest Christian Church? Its position in relation to Christmas is important too. By 354 the Christians had taken over the Roman celebration of the winter solstice as Christmas Day. John's birthday is on the summer solstice. After the summer solstice, the northern hemisphere's sun declines in length and warmth. It is reborn at the winter solstice. Hence, John comes to prepare the way for the eternal light we celebrate in Jesus at Christmas. In Luke's Gospel, John embodies the old covenant, made to Israel. Jesus, the new and everlasting covenant, made, not just to Israel, but also to all people everywhere, sees the power and warmth of God's love for us burst forth for eternity.

Many biblical scholars now think that, for a period of time, Jesus was most probably a disciple of John the Baptist. John may have helped Jesus discern his special calling and to recognise his destiny. Whatever of that, we know that Jesus made a break with John in many ways and called his own disciples. (Cont'd P4)

Nativity of John the Baptist

(Year B- June 24, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

He will be great in the sight of the Lord and will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb; and many will rejoice at his birth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Since my mother's womb,
you have been my strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

He came to bear witness to the light,
To prepare an upright people for the Lord. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24

2nd Reading: 2Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Gospel: Mk 5:21-43

**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:

If anyone would like to have our Lady's Statue or if you could spare an hour a month to help Tina Montalto 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: Fr Andrew Fennessy, Miranko Skazlic, Lynne Furness, Margaret Kocsi

ANNIVERSARIES: Matthew Barr, Margaret McFarlane, Daniel Brady, Anna Baretta, Giovanna Puglia, Maria & Pasqual Pino, Stefano Mileto, Rocco & Francesca Danielle, Rajko Jovic, John Dempsey, Bessie & John Keppel, Judy Hayes, Vjekoslav (Stan) Pogacic, Zlatko Lehpamer, Alec Sexton, Josip Dubrovic

BAPTISMS: Jake Alford, Nianh Skelly, Jacob Simic, Lucy Sutherland (P&P)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Heidi Maguire, John Consedine, Florence Williams, Gillian Henry, Yvonne Seales, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Duggan-McDonald, Maria Coppelino, Andrew Stocks, Maria Modica, Margaret Straughan, Pat Baum

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, JULY 1, 2012.

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum

A Vanjek

F Chrimes, J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane

U Guardiano, K McArthur

9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor

P Carmody, D Farrar, R&R Zanardo

M&E Hoffman

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

E Cotter

D Boyle, M Abbott, D Torpy

V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

11.00AM

M Currie

P Joyce, B Middleton

V Trinder, M Currie, P Joyce

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

C O'Brien

D Woods

N Neeld, P McGlinchy

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

*We welcome Fr Peter Foley who will be our Supply Priest whilst Fr Mick is on leave with his family during June.
We thank Fr Peter for his generous support.*

- June 23/24... **PROPAGATION OF FAITH** - Collection at all Masses.
" **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - 11am at Ss Peter & Paul's
June 28... **CLASS MASS** - 9.15am at Holy Family Church for Preps



MASS OF THE ANOINTING:

At Ss Peter & Paul's with Luncheon to follow on Wednesday June 27 at 11.30am.

There is a sign-up board at the back of the Church to assist us with catering.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS APPEAL: There will be a 2nd collection today, **June 23/24** to support the Catholic Missions. The focus of this year's Mission Appeal is "**Feed My Body, Feed My Soul**". Recent drought and famine have left thousands of people in remote southern Ethiopia vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. With limited access to health, education and nutrition, the need for physical and spiritual support is greater than ever. With support through Catholic Mission, the local Catholic Church's health and emergency food program has already saved many lives across the region. By continuing to support missionaries and build churches in partnership with local communities, the Catholic Church is also feeding the spiritual hunger of the people.

PASTORAL CLUSTER COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP: From July 15 to July 20 a group from the Pastoral Cluster (Principals of the three Primary Schools, three teachers, Trish Stickland and Fr Gerard) will be visiting the Philippines. The purpose of the visit is to regenerate our Partnership with the Columbans and the Kuya Centre. Over the coming weeks I will provide some insight into this Partnership and how together we can make a difference in the service of the poor.

Outlined below are five key elements of mission which have been adopted from an article by Fr John Burger (SCC):

- ♦ **Missionaries need humility:** To be a missionary one needs to be humble enough to learn a new language, new customs, a new culture.
- ♦ **A missionary's heart must be open to the Holy Spirit:** A missionary needs to be open-minded and open-hearted so as not to be a prisoner of his or her own judgements but able to find Christ in unexpected places.
- ♦ **Missionaries have respect for the freedom of the other:** A missionary must respect the people and the cultures he/she encounters (even when customs or ways are different or may shock). Missionaries are always trying to find common ground and to plant seeds of trust.
- ♦ **A quality of being is what marks a missionary:** No one can be a missionary without a spirit of goodwill, really paying attention to others. Pope John Paul II said: "*One is a missionary because of what one is rather than what one says or does*".
- ♦ **Missionaries have a growing relationship with the Risen Lord:** Missionaries need to nourish a relationship with Jesus Christ by dedicating time for prayer and reflection on the Gospels.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: The Winter Edition of Australian Catholics is available for free. The magazine focuses on Faith and Living for Contemporary Catholics - this quarter's edition is on the Church and Education and topics covered are: *My School, a Place of Possibility; how do schools open pathways for students and how do they bridge students' reality and dreams?* There is a variety of other interesting articles on this important topic.

Cluster News:

- ♦ **HOLIDAYS, HOLIDAYS!!!** During the school holidays the office will operate according to our holiday program. If no one is in attendance please leave a message on the answering machine or, alternatively, via our email cluster@cam.org.au
- ♦ We welcome Fr Mick back from holidays on June 30.
- ♦ On July 3 through to July 8 Fr Gerard will be at the World Community for Christian Meditation National Silent Retreat at Newman College in Melbourne University. Fr Laurence Freeman OSB will be the Retreat Director.
- ♦ **THANKYOU:** We wish to express our appreciation and thanks for all the kindness, support and expressions of sympathy at the sad passing of our beloved Ljerka. We were overwhelmed by the attendance at the funeral and the generosity of so many with donations to Fr Mick's Mates cancer research (more than \$3,000). We are very proud that Ljerka was so respected and loved in the community and we all miss her and have a tremendous legacy to live up to. (*Frank Lehpamer and family*)

THE 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 the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Dromoland House on Pakington St. For more information and reservations please ph Terry on 5221 7330.

A VOCATION VIEW:

"What then will this child be? For the hand of the Lord was with him"

Pray that the hand of the Lord will be with many of our young people, that they have the courage to choose a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

Community News:

Jun 23-24, 29-30, Jul 1/5-7... ROMEO & JULIET: Geelong Repertory Theatre Company is presenting this much-loved Shakespeare classic at the Woodbin Theatre in Coronation St Geelong West. Tickets \$18/25 available from GPAC 5225 1200 or online.

Jun 24/25... LOVE'S BODY EXHIBIT: The Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment, in conjunction with the Office of Evangelisation, warmly invites you to view this exhibition at the Wesley Congregational Hall, 100 Yarra St. 10am-3pm on Sunday and 9.30am-4pm on Monday.

July 2... SHIRLEY POWER IN CONCERT: 1.30pm in the Belmont Theatre Hall, 52 Thomson St. Entry \$3 - tea/coffee after.

July 4... SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts. Cost \$8.

July 27... OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE VICTORIAN PILGRIMAGE TO RIO 2013: 6.30pm Praise and Worship, 7.30pm Mass, 8.30pm Carnivale at St Mary of the Sea, 33 Howard St West Melbourne.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Would you like to join us but don't like night meetings? Why not come along on a Thursday afternoon at 2pm once a month to Ss Peter & Paul's in Geelong West and find out the many different things we do. Ph 5243 2870 if you are interested.

TWO MORE SPECIAL MINISTERS FOR HOLY COMMUNION are needed for the Multicultural Aged Centre - Bella Chara. There is no need to have any previous experience, this is a very fulfilling ministry and requires only ONE HOUR a month on a Sunday morning. The Catholic residents would greatly appreciate receiving Holy Communion as they are unable to go to Mass, so please contact Fr Gerard, Fr Mick or ring Sue O'Donoghue 5221 1584. We thank the two people who have already volunteered.

THANKYOU TO ALL PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE DEANERY DINNER HELD RECENTLY: The proceeds from the raffle have purchased four new beds at the new Samaritan House, an outstanding result. Another raffle will be held at the Deanery Concert - details to be published shortly.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - *Thoughts on Giving:*

"But after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie" (Acts 13:25)

Stewardship is recognising that everything we have is a gift from God. We can take credit for nothing. Do you take time daily to thank God for the gifts you have received? Do you show gratitude to God every day? Are you generous without expecting anything in return?

(/Cont'd from P1)

Jesus does not wait for followers to come to him, he heads to the towns and villages where the people are and he speaks to them in ways they can understand. Jesus preaches to Israel first, but then to the Gentiles. Jesus rejects the harsh, ascetical life of the desert for spirituality of the everyday and, unlike John, Jesus does not just preach repentance for sins, but preaches conversion through forgiveness and compassion. As Louise Pambrun puts it, John's ministry was 'like the fast before the feast'.

Like John, however, Jesus never wavered from the price that must be paid for faith in our just and merciful God. So this feast flags that we have six months to Christmas, not for shopping or any of the other excessive elements that have hijacked that day, but to recommit ourselves to living out a spirituality that values the everyday and the ordinary, that knows the power of compassion and mercy and is ready to pay the price for living it.

Today is the feast of backroom players. May all of them exercise their power with integrity. And who knows, maybe the real-life counterparts of Sam Seaborne in *West Wing* or Sir Humphrey in *Yes Minister* may, one day, have their birthday declared a public holy-day. I bet they're quietly working on it even as I speak!