



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

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from

other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as

seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion. *Cont'd P4*

First Sunday of Advent

(Year C - December 2, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
2nd Reading: Phil 1:4-6,8-11
Gospel: Lk 3:1-6



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)

Croatian... 11.30am (1,3,4,5th Sunday), 12.30pm (2nd Sunday) - Slovenian... 11.30am (2nd 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

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: Dec 3: Sharry family, 23 Lily St Dec 10/17: Moore family, 39 Willana Ave

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:

ANNIVERSARIES: John Jess (1yr anniv), Pat Mullen, Antonio Gulli, Gino, Carmella, Massimo & Antonio Bisinella, Len Pollard, Kevin Bohan

BAPTISMS: Frasier Lang, Braxton Smith, Billy Trotter, Addison Wall (P&P)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Heidi Maguire, Rainer Benning, Margaret Barry, Gillian Henry, Yvonne Seales, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Duggan-McDonald, Maria Modica, Margaret Straughan, Theo DaCosta, Jela Perse, Andrew Stocks, Veronica Duffy, Winifred Atkinson, Provvidenza Rinella, Alex Sokoloff

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 9, 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 Verdrik, 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.pastoralclusterqeelong.org

Liturgy in the Pastoral Cluster:

Dec 1/2... First Week of Advent

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will be offered for the rest of the year at:

Ss Peter & Paul's - 9 Dec - 11am Mass

Holy Family and Holy Spirit - 16 Dec - 9.30am Holy Family and 11am Holy Spirit

We encourage families to make use of this service.

CHRISTMAS MAILOUT:

The invitations to our Christmas ceremonies will be in the Churches **this weekend, Dec 1/2**. We need help to distribute them. Could you deliver those in your own street and surrounds, or drive to another area and deliver there? Everyone that has to be mailed costs 60c (that's \$60 per 100 and we have about 2,000 to be delivered!). Thankyou in anticipation.

From the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation:

We are not the Message, nor the Solution...

Dear Friends,

Now that the Year of Faith has begun we are urged to use this year to deepen our Catholic faith and also to mark the 50th anniversary of Vatican II.

Perhaps one way of doing this is by taking some time to re-read the Council's documents. What emerges for me from re-reading some of the key documents again? I am especially struck by their passionate conviction that the Church is the bearer of a message of universal salvation for humanity.

And what is that message? **That Jesus Christ is what we have to offer the world.** In Jesus Christ is revealed both the fullness of our humanity and the inner heart of a God who is a communion of persons. All of creation is meant to be brought within God's embrace.

Some crucial questions flow from this for our vocation as disciples - whether we be in parishes or other spheres of mission.

1. **Is this the message that the rising generation of young people is hearing from us?**
2. **Is that the message that our engagement in the public square conveys to all Australians whether Catholic or not?**
3. **Can the Church, while holding fast to the deposit of faith, find a way of expressing her convictions in a way that speaks to the deepest aspirations of this generation for meaning, purpose and community?**
4. **Or will we be seen merely as an increasingly irrelevant group of reactionaries, clinging to a past that is slipping through our grip even as we tighten our fingers?**

The future of the Church in Australia may depend on how we answer those questions.

At a time when the Church in Australia is living the ongoing drama of the Paschal Mystery - let us renew and reform ourselves to make faith in Jesus the Crucified and Risen One the centre of our lives. We are not the message nor the solution. Thank God! Jesus is! (*Mark O'Connor fms*)

The Pope's letter announcing the Year of Faith is an insert in this week's bulletin.

Cluster News:

- ◆ **FR GERARD IS AWAY ON ANNUAL LEAVE** from Nov 12 and returning Dec 7.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS & COLUMBAN CALENDARS** will be available for purchase from the Piety Stall in the **Holy Spirit Church** until Sunday 16th December. Cards: Pkt of 10 - \$8, one card \$1. Calendars: \$9 each.
- ◆ **THE HOLY SPIRIT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** will have their annual "Christmas Appeal" collection this weekend, 1st and 2nd December. This appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming holy season of Christmas.
- ◆ **MANIFOLD CWL** will hold their final meeting and Christmas breakup lunch on **Tuesday 4th Dec**. Meet at 11.30am Hamlyn Park Pokies, Calvert St Hamlyn Hts. Bring along a wrapped gift for Kris Kringle, value around \$5. Booking essential by 3rd Dec. All members invited. Contact Tricia Joyce 5221 1986 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.
- ◆ **FESTA DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE PROGRAMMA:** Domenica 9 Dicembre nella chiesa di St Patrick, Britannia St Geelong West. Alle ore 9.30am. La messa sara celebrata da Mons James Murray. Dopo la santa messa ci sara la processione con la statua nel cortile della scuola. Seguira la benedizione tutti siete benvenuti.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** Our parish group once again will be distributing food parcels and toys to the needy in our area at Christmas time. As in previous years, it is hoped parishioners will help by donating items of food and toys for children. Today you are asked to take a slip of paper with a food item named on it and bring the food item to Mass either next Sunday or on Sunday Dec 16, and place your gifts on the carpeted steps in front of the choir pit. New toys that can be used as Christmas presents for the children of the needy are most welcome. If wrapping presents, please put a note on the outside stating for what age group and whether for a boy or a girl. Thank you for making Christmas a little happier for those less fortunate than ourselves and showing them someone cares.

RELAY FOR LIFE:

- ◆ **HOME PRODUCT SALES** - After the Sunday Masses at:
Holy Spirit... 2nd Dec **Ss Peter & Paul's...** 9th Dec **Holy Family...** 16th Dec
If you would like to order a Christmas Hamper please ph Margaret on 5229 1280

Community News:

- Dec 4...** **RETIRED OFFICER'S KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Next meeting will be held at White Eagle at 12noon.
- Dec 7...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Christmas Break-up Social, 7pm at the home of Alan and Louise Fossey. BBQ meat and drinks supplied, cost only \$5/head. **Bring a salad or a sweet.** Ph Joe Lambert 5229 8442 to confirm attendance. **Next branch meeting February 13, 2013.**
- " **ELVIS SPECIAL:** St Mary's Plaza Theatre presents "**Fun in Acapulco**" 7.30pm with raffles, door prize, supper. All welcome! A suggested donation of \$3/head would be appreciated.
- Dec 11...** **EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE CONCERT:** St Joseph's College is presenting this concert in aid of **Jackie Virgona**, who is undergoing heavy medical expenses for brain tumour treatment. The concert features Amy Lehpamer, Shandelle Cooke and the Dave Gardner Quartet plus many more talented artists at St Joseph's College Performing Arts Centre. Supper is provided, tickets \$40 are available from Wing and a Prayer or by phoning Kate Zampatti on 0401 062 081.
- ◆ **MARYVILLE NURSING HOME** has vacant beds for either respite or long term accommodation. For further details contact Cheryl Conder 5221 5299 (fax 5221 4024)
 - ◆ **ANAM CARA GEELONG** is looking for more volunteers to assist in their Op Shop at 141 Moorabool St Geelong. For further details contact Sherylyn or Anne on 5222 5831.
 - ◆ **GEELONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER 2012: Tuesday 25th Dec** - a fully catered traditional Christmas dinner is available to any person or small family at no cost, who may be alone and would like to join others to celebrate this special day in the true spirit of Christmas. **Christ Church Hall, cnr Moorabool & McKillop Sts** - doors open 9.30am till 3.30pm, dining commences 12noon. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending please ph during office hours for catering purposes: **5221 9170** until Thurs 20th Dec, or **0408 133 561** from Friday 21st Dec.
 - ◆ **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB** which meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month with guest speakers and a 2-course meal, is getting into the spirit of the Season. Come join us for a festive Christmas meal with live musical entertainment and an exciting raffle, all for only \$32. We will be meeting Tuesday evening, Dec 4, at Dromoland House on Pakington St. For more information and reservations, please phone Terry on 5221 7339.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal

waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.