



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

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his followers to be patient, as the wait for salvation will soon be over. The Israelites longed to see the day when the Messiah would come. Each generation hoped and prayed that they would be the one to witness the appearance of God's anointed. The Jewish people still hope and pray for this event in every generation.

But Jesus did not come as many expected. Some thought he would arrive in a dramatic event and the end of the world would occur. Others expected a regal entrance or a political overthrow of the Romans. Luke's Gospel repeatedly points out that the very people who longed for the day to see the Messiah missed out because they were looking for the wrong signs.

John the Baptist is the first to see Jesus for

who he really is for the world. He recognises that Jesus' sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low, make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth.

Advent is not a season where we have to pretend that we do not know Jesus is coming and then put on mock surprise at Christmas. Advent is the season which celebrates a 'patient yes'. Every year all of us in the Church stand in a queue and remind ourselves of how blessed we are to have seen our salvation in Jesus. We remember the faith of those who longed to see what we see and to know what we know. And we cultivate our patience for life's valleys, mountains and crooked paths where sometimes we can feel Jesus' absence more than his presence, where only when we look back we can see he was with us all the way.

So, as we all wait together in line this Advent let's say yes to all that salvation holds for us:

yes to God's personal love; yes to Jesus' kingdom of justice and peace; yes to every opportunity to serve the Gospel and yes to knowing that our God is a companion to us at every step of our journey, even in the most unexpected ways.

Scottish poet John Bell expresses it this way:

'Light looked down and saw the darkness.
"I will go there", said light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
"I will go there", said peace.
Love looked down and saw hatred.
"I will go there", said love.

So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us.'

Second Sunday of Advent

(Year C - December 9, 2012.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Zeph 3:14-18
2nd Reading: Phil 4:4-7
Gospel: Lk 3:10-18



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 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: Pantaleone DePalma (Italy), Milan Stante, Henry Virt

ANNIVERSARIES: James Hickey, Mario Almeida, Gerard Gillett, Domenico Versace, Antonietta DePalma (1month), John Walsh

BAPTISMS: Laura Arico, Sailor Losinno, Lucius Scopacasa, Aimey Siketa, Ellena Siketa (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 16, 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

A Scaddam

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, L Stalio

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

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:

- Dec 8/9... **Second week in Advent**
- Dec 12... **End of Year Mass** - Holy Family School 7pm
- Dec 17... **Reconciliation Service** - Ss Peter & Paul's 5pm
- Dec 18... **End of Year Mass** - Holy Spirit School 5pm
- “ **Reconciliation Service** - Holy Family 7.30pm
- Dec 19... **End of Year Mass** - St Patrick's School 10.15am
- “ **Reconciliation Service** - Holy Spirit 7.30pm

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.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

The period of Enquiry has finished. Next Sunday Dec 16th at the 9.30am Mass we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and Welcome to Baptised Candidates. Our Catechumens will be **Chris McWaters, Jude Moar, Anna Penn, Thea Penn, Shea Rigg and Samantha Rundle**. Our Baptised Candidates are **Fiona Chisholm and Jo McWaters**. Please pray for these good people, welcome and support them in their faith journey. Next Sunday's ceremony is quite moving, so please come.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS ANNUAL APPEAL - Dec 15th and 16th:

Envelopes available for a Second Collection at all Masses next weekend. Senior parishioners of Holy Spirit Manifold will remember that Fr Maurice Adams, an assistant to Fr Tresidder, was amongst the first priests from the Archdiocese of Melbourne to begin the mission in Papua New Guinea in 1968. Great things have been achieved.

BAPTISM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:

The Pastoral Cluster is offering a Baptism Program for children of Catholic parents who are already attending school. This is the first of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Church. If you would like your child to be baptised and are committed to helping them live out the Catholic faith, please contact Frank Kearney at the Pastoral Cluster Centre located at 147 Separation St Bell Park, or phone him on 5278 1343 on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 9am and 5pm. The next program will begin on **Sunday February 10th 2013** and you need to be enrolled by **Wednesday February 6th, 2013**.

Cluster News:

- ◆ **RELAY FOR LIFE: Home Product Sales** after the Sunday Masses at Ss Peter & Paul's on 9th Dec and Holy Family 16th Dec. If you would like to order a Christmas Hamper please phone Margaret on 5229 1280.
- ◆ **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 SPIRIT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** The annual Christmas appeal held last weekend for the Holy Spirit Conference of the SVDP Society returned the wonderful sum of **\$1,379**. Sincere thanks! The Society is still selling Christmas cards (packs of 8 for \$5) and Columban Calendars (\$9 each) in the Piety Stall in the Holy Spirit Church.

Prepare



Cluster News/cont'd...

- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** If you missed out last Sunday on collecting a slip with the name of a food item required to make up hampers for Christmas for the needy in our area, you can collect one or more slips today as you leave the Church. Please bring the food item to Mass **next Sunday, 16th Dec**, as hampers have to be made up on Dec 18th. Please 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 also. 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.
- ◆ **Ss PETER & PAUL'S ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** The Ss Peter & Paul's SVDP would appreciate non-perishable food and donations to be left under the Christmas Tree in front of the Sacred Heart Altar. Thankyou.

Community News:

- 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.
- Dec 16... A CHRISTMAS NOEL: Music at the Basilica** presents 'Seasons' Ensemble with leader Wendy Galloway and conductor Frank DeRosso presenting Bach, Manfredini, Schubert, Balbastre, D'Aquin, Corelli. Lee Abrahmsen, soprano with selections from Handel's *Messiah* with Beverley Phillips, Harpsichord and Jamie Parker, Violin. Tickets \$25/20 at the door, children free. Enquiries 5223 3554.
- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA PRESENTS FREE ORGAN RECITALS FOR ADVENT** - Mondays from 12.30-1.15pm. Dec 10 Rhys Arvidson, Organist from St Peter's, Eastern Hill and Dec 17 Anthony Halliday, Melbourne-based international organist.
 - ◆ **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 11, at Dromoland House on Pakington St. For more information and reservations, please phone Terry on 5221 7339.
 - ◆ **MARYVILLE NURSING HOME** has vacant beds for either respite or long term accommodation. For further details contact Cheryl Conder on 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.

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*)