



# 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](mailto:gerard.keith@cam.org.au))  
Fr Mick Fitzpatrick

**Web Page Address:**  
[www.pastoralclustergeelong.org](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)

**OFFICE:** 147 Separation St Bell Park 3215  
Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: [cluster@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:trish.stickland@cam.org.au))

**LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:** Frank Kearney - Phone 5278 1343 (email: [frank.kearney@cam.org.au](mailto:frank.kearney@cam.org.au))

**THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:** Helen Brislane - Phone 5278 1343 (email: [helen.brislane@cam.org.au](mailto: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

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making

these false claims and so ran to the Church.

He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's

love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God. /Cont'd P4

## Third Sunday of Advent

(Year C - December 16, 2012.)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and  
Holy One of Israel.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the  
poor. **Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4

2nd Reading: Heb 10:5-10

Gospel: Lk 1:39-44



### 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 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.

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Bogden Masowita, Miroslav Lordanic, June Knight, Mary Sexton, Sophia Selthafner, Wanda Carvalho (Canada)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Angela Zuclich, Kathleen Smith, Lorraine Noonan, Irene Byrne, Monica Cashin, Joan Boyle, Francis Smith, Paola Ierna (1month), John & Irene O'Neill

**BAPTISMS:** Darren Escobido, Arlo Krasic (HF), Thomas Bradby, Henry Hardin, Alla & Billy Rayson (HS)

**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, Caroline Mann, Peter McPartlan, David Rhodes

**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, DEC 23, 2012.**

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

### 8.00AM

F O'Neill

L Kelly

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

L&E Kelly

### 9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Baird, P Gizycki

D Lunn, P McBride, J McMahon, C Simpson, V Resciniti

E Glynn

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 6.00PM

M Lacy

P Dickson

C McShanag, G Harrison, E Cotter

M Brown

T McShanag

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 5.00PM

A Henderson

G Tolan

A Henderson, G Tolan, Dean Dougherty

R&K Maddalena

### 11.00AM

M Foley

J Fraatz

H&M Broekman, D Dougherty, M Mirabile, M Foley, J Gailius

M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski

R Zarb

# - Christmas in the Pastoral Cluster -

<i>Second Rite Reconciliation:</i>	Monday Dec 17...	5.00pm Ss Peter & Paul's
	Tuesday Dec 18...	7.30pm Holy Family
	Wednesday Dec 19...	7.30pm Holy Spirit

## Christmas Masses:

Outlined below are the Mass times for Christmas, as well as the Roster. \*\*\*\* marks the place where we still need assistance. If you can help please phone Frank on 5278 1343 on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

### Christmas Eve, Dec 24:

<b>5.00pm <u>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u></b>	Lectors...	G Tolan, ****
	Commentator...	A Henderson
	Special Ministers...	G Tolan, A Henderson, ****
	Projectionist...	****
<b>5.30pm <u>Holy Family</u></b> (Focus on the children)	Lectors...	L Kelly, ****
	Commentator...	F Kearney
	Special Ministers...	L Sells, B McFarlane, E Kelly, ****, ****.
	Projectionist...	F Kearney
<b>7.00pm <u>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u></b>	Lectors...	B Middleton, M Martin
	Commentator...	M Gifford
	Special Minister	B Middleton, M Gifford, ****
	Projectionist...	R Martin
<b>8.00pm <u>Holy Spirit</u></b> (Focus on the family)	Lectors...	G Brown, M Kroger
	Commentator...	E Cotter
	Special Ministers...	E Cotter, L Stalio, G Harrison
	Projectionist...	D Brown
<b>Midnight <u>Holy Family</u></b> (Carols from 11.30pm)	Lectors...	M Baird, J Taylor
	Commentator...	D Lunn
	Special Ministers...	M Baird, C Taylor, V Resciniti, L&A Fossey
	Projectionist...	C Resciniti/J Gdak

### Christmas Day, Dec 25:

<b>8.00am <u>Holy Family</u></b>	Lectors...	F O'Neill, A Vanjek
	Commentator...	K Saunders
	Special Ministers...	I&A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, J Genova, ****
	Projectionist	****
	**** (Helper needed to work the CD player for music)	
<b>9.00am <u>Holy Spirit</u></b>	Lectors...	J O'Neill, ****
	Commentator...	P Joyce
	Special Ministers...	C Laffy, R O'Neill, J Sheahan
	Projectionist...	****
<b>9.30am <u>Holy Family</u></b>	Lectors...	P Gizycki, T McMahon
	Commentator...	M Lukesic
	Special Ministers...	****, ****, ****, ****
	Projectionist...	C Resciniti/J Gdak

## Cluster News:

Dec 16... **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** will be at Holy Family and Holy Spirit this weekend.

Dec 18... **End of Year Mass** - Holy Spirit School 5pm

Dec 19... **End of Year Mass** - St Patrick's School 10.15am

- ◆ **THANKYOU, THANKYOU, THANKYOU!!!** To all those generous people who assisted with the preparation of the invitations to our Christmas Mailout and to the "walkers" who delivered them. Your efforts are very much appreciated.
- ◆ **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):** The period of Enquiry has finished. This 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.
- ◆ **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**.
- ◆ **RELAY FOR LIFE: Home Product Sales** after the Sunday Masses at Holy Family this Sunday, 16th Dec. If you would like to order a Christmas Hamper please phone Margaret on 5229 1280.
- ◆ **HOLY SPIRIT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** This is the last weekend to purchase Christmas cards and Columban calendars in the St Vincent de Paul Society Piety Stall in the Holy Spirit Church.
- ◆ **HOLY FAMILY ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** For all those who have supported the SVDP Jesse (Giving) Tree Appeal, 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:

- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE: Media Release about the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia.** A photocopy of this Media Release is enclosed in the Bulletin.
- ◆ **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA:** *A Christmas Noel* on Dec 16 - tickets \$25/20 at the door, children free. Enquiries 5223 3554. Also *Free Organ Recitals for Advent* on Dec 17 from 12.30-1.15pm with Anthony Halliday.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **NO MASS AT "WING AND A PRAYER":** Due to unforeseen circumstances, and for the time being, Mass will not be celebrated at 'Wing and a Prayer' on weekdays. Public prayer services (such as Mothers' Prayers on Fridays) will also be discontinued. Any inconvenience, especially to regular patrons of the 1.05pm Mass is regretted.
- ◆ **GEELONG SERRA CLUB:** The Serra Club encourages Church vocations. They meet (normally) twice a month at the Sri Lankan Convent in Bell Park at 12.30pm on Thursdays. Fr Rafter celebrates Mass followed by light lunch and meeting. If you are interested in being a member please contact Bernard Jordan on 5243 6931 (jordanbh@ncable.net.au)
- ◆ **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASSES:** Everyone welcome to attend the Novena Dawn Masses at St Francis, Corio, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd starting Dec 16-24 5.30am everyday. Bring a plate to share for a shared breakfast right after the Mass. More info ph 0409 135 589.

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's

the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.