



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

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	Holy Family -	Brian Everett	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
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Reflection... by Richard Leonard SJ

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's

character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practise of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'.

This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was

proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not simply baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty.

Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. /Cont'd P4

The Baptism of the Lord

(Year C - January 13, 2013.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Jan 20 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5

2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:4-11

Gospel: Jn 2:1-11



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

WEEKDAY MASSES: As per normal program.

OUR LADY'S STATUE: **Jan 21-28:** Johnson family, 63 Ruhama Ave; **Feb 4-11:** Lynch family, 13 Girton St.
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: -

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Joseph Kelly, Laurie Monaghan, Josephine Kennedy, Gertrude & William Paul, Nicola Caimano

BAPTISMS: Molly Dunstan, Joshua Harper (P&P)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Margaret Barry, Gillian Henry, Margaret Donaghy, Rita Duggan-McDonald, Maria Modica, Margaret Straughan, Theo DaCosta, Jela Perse, Andrew Stocks, Veronica Duffy, Winifred Atkinson, Providenza Rinella, Alex Sokoloff, Caroline Mann, David Rhodes

CLUSTER NEWS:

- ◆ **Fr Gerard** will be away on a Retreat Seminar on Christian Meditation in India for the next couple of weeks. We welcome Fr Peter Foley during this time.
- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** Office hours during Christmas and January will follow the customary school holiday program. If no one is in the Office, please leave message on the answering machine.
- ◆ **SITUATION VACANT:** Secretary required with outstanding computer skills, 3-4 days per week. CV to PO Box 594, Geelong Vic 3220.
- ◆ Consideration is being given to restoration at Ss P&P's Church. We would be looking at the restoration of the pews and possibly the lighting. To comply with Heritage Victoria's requirements, if the fluorescent lights are to be replaced, they need to be a replica of what was there prior to 1966 (when the lights were installed). I'm wondering if there is anyone who has photographs of the Church (with the pre-fluorescent lights) could they please contact me on my return. *(Fr Gerard)*



FR MICK'S MATES BAY CRUISE:
 Friday 22nd February, 7.00pm.
 Cost \$20/ticket, only 60 tickets available.
 BYO drinks and plate to share.



Contact David Lunn 0408 378 982 for tickets. All proceeds to Relay for Life.

YEAR OF GRACE PRAYER

Gracious God,

You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.

We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.

You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives. Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationships be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel. Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

/From P1...

When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment

when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For

those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 20, 2013.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

J McKenzie

G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke

V Logan

B Stocks

5.00PM

D Maddalena

K Maddalena

K Maddalena

9.30AM

A Scaddam

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C&J Taylor, E Glynn, M Fiorillo

E Dalton

11.00AM

J McCarthy

G Brown, M Kroger

C Laffy, L Fossey, L Stalio

I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder

D Brown