



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)
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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: Trish Stickland - Phone 5278 1343 (email: trish.stickland@cam.org.au)

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -	Brian Everett	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
Holy Spirit -	Mary Abbott	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
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Reflection... by Richard Leonard SJ

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in his religion class at school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.' 'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked. 'Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

Given the ways the Scriptures have divided Christians over the centuries and because previous generations wanted to protect the truth of the Bible, we were often taught that the Holy Spirit dictated the text. In this schema, the real skill of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

seems to have been their shorthand!

Today we begin reading through Luke's Gospel. And in the opening verses of this extraordinary document, Luke puts paid to the idea that he is simply listening to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in his ear. What we now call the Gospel of Luke was the first instalment of a two-part letter written to his friend and disciple, Theophilus. Epic letters like this one and the Acts of the Apostles, which is its sequel, where the writer praises the deeds of a great man and lists his achievements, were very common in the Hellenised world of Ancient Rome. Luke knew how to write it and, more importantly, Theophilus knew how to read it.

It is not a documentary on the life of Jesus, recording a series of facts. If it were, then it cannot be reconciled with the other Gospels for they disagree with each other about many important details. As Catholics we believe the Holy Spirit guided the writing and selection of the scriptural record so that it contains no

errors regarding our salvation. Our life lived in harmony with the scriptures is its own testament to our belief that the Bible is not a book of facts: it is a book of truth.

Luke knows that Theophilus has already been instructed in the way of salvation in Christ, and he makes it clear that the truth of this way is what he is attending to. In this Gospel he paints a vivid and intimate portrait of who Jesus is and why he has the message of salvation for all people everywhere.

These days we often hear people asking others to be 'up front' and to 'lay your cards on the table'. Long before it was trendy, Luke does precisely this in the second part of today's Gospel. At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, Luke summarises the story he is about to tell Theophilus and his community in what is called 'the programme'.

In the tradition of the greatest of the prophets, we are told Jesus has come for /
Cont'd P4

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year C - January 27, 2013.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News
to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Feb 3rd - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 1:4-5,17-19

2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:31-13:13

Gospel: Lk 4:21-30



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 28:** Johnson family, 63 Ruhama Ave; **Feb 4-11:** Lynch family, 13 Girton St.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Keith Patterson, Paola Sparta, Fr Con Groot

ANNIVERSARIES: Ross Smith, Natale & Rosa Cucinotta, Damian Taylor, Gavan Coughlan, Josip Brajkovic, Allan McFarlane, Heather Brown, Gerard McGrath, Kevin Lee, Alois Baum, Troy Guthridge, Giuseppa Puglia

BAPTISMS: Milan Cucanic, Winfred Carroll-Andrews, Cameron McMahon (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, Francis Remedios, Ida DaCosta

CLUSTER NEWS:

- ◆ 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*)
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** The Pastoral Cluster Conferences of the SVDP Society at Holy Spirit and Holy Family visit on average 15 families per week to provide emergency relief and welfare assistance. Most are our most vulnerable families with young children or elderly citizens who have no one else to turn to in their hour of dire need. These Conferences are now seeking additional volunteer members to join in their outreach teams. Have you, your family or friends, ever considered sharing renewed hope with people who are in genuine need and perhaps be bearers of Light of Christ to them? (1Jn3:16-17). There is a role for you. Please drop in to our Information Evening (*Come and See*), **Tues 19th Feb 7.30-8.30pm** at Hoy Spirit Parish Hall, Bostock Ave. Or please call Peter on 0408 133 561. Web: www.vinnies.org.au

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.



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.



/From P1... those of us who are poor, captive, blind and oppressed. But, unlike the former prophets, Jesus is not only a companion in our distress or an advocate on our behalf, he has also come to turn the world upside down and establish the definitive reign of God in our lives. In Jesus, all that Israel longed to see is fulfilled.

And so to us. As the spiritual children of Jesus, Luke, Theophilus and his community, we are inheritors of a tradition that is upfront in what we are called to do. Our programme is explicit. We are called to be companions to the poor, to set prisoners free, to fight oppression, to enable others to confront what they would prefer to ignore and to boldly proclaim that there is no

one beyond God's favour.

As tough as these demands are, they are not optional extras. They define who we are as Christians and how we are sent to change the world.

May this Eucharist give us courage for the task at hand.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEB 3, 2013.

(1st 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

R Allum

A Vanjek

J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane

U Guardiano, K McArthur

6.00PM

E Cotter

J O'Neill

D Boyle, M Abbott, D Torpy

V Logan, P Ryan

B Stocks

5.00PM

C O'Brien

D Woods

N Neeld, P McGlinchy

9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor

P Carmody, D Farrar, R&R Zanardo

M&E Hoffman

11.00AM

M Currie

P Joyce, B Middleton

V Trinder, M Currie, P Joyce

A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles