

Reflection... by Richard Leonard

 $I\!\!I$ n our desire to affirm that the scriptures are inspired, it can be easy to forget that they come out of the lived experience of a community of faith. Indeed, one of the things that is wonderful about our belief in God's revelation is that it occurs within human experience. Today's Gospel is an excellent example. Jesus predicts that one of the consequences of believing in him is that divisions will follow.

We can tell from the whole text of Luke's Gospel that these divisions were certainly a part of the earliest Christian community which wrote this book and that their faith in Christ led them to confront some very tough issues: how could Gentiles inherit the promises made to the Jews; why the rich members of the community had special responsibility to the poor; the centrality of

forgiveness in the Christian life: and what leadership role women should have in the earliest Church. We know that fights over these issues and faith in Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah, divided families and villages, cities, nations and a religious tradition.

This gospel is both a stark reminder of the costs involved in following Jesus and a comfort to us in the church today. Sometimes we can domesticate the Christian community into a 'feel-good' society. Our religious words and actions, however, are always meant to have an edge; our faith should 'afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted'. If Christians at home, at work, in society and on the international stage just go along with what is trendy or current because we're frightened of conflict or because we want to be seen to be part of the crowd, then we are not worthy of this Gospel.

Sometimes when we hear Jesus use the metaphor of a blazing fire we can see a violent image, but I am not sure if it has to be exclusively interpreted this way. Fire is sometimes necessary and good to clear out the layers of undergrowth built up over time that smother the soil of a forest and prevent new growth. Fire is a beacon that gives guidance and attracts attention.

A blazing fire can attract everyone to its light, warmth and power. So maybe this Gospel is a call to purge the weight of old growth that can stop fresh thinking. Maybe it gives guidance to us in the justice we are meant to live and the attention we must call to the needs of all God's children.

/Cont'd P4

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C - August 18, 2013.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, come to my aid!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: 2nd Reading: Gospel:

ls 66:18-21 Heb 12:5-7,11-13 Lk 13:22-30



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

WEEKEND MASSES: Holy Family, Bell Park:

English...

8am and 9.30am (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 S	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
Tues	Meditation Group	5.30pm
Wed	Prayer of the Church	Before 9am Mass
Wed	Holy Family Women's Prayer Group	10.00am
Thurs	Italian Prayer Group	10.00am
Fri	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	After 11am Mass
Fri	Divine Mercy	3.00pm
Sat	Rosary	After 9am Mass

Holy Family Community Centre Holy Family Community Centre Holy Spirit Church Holy Family Community Centre St Patrick's Chapel Holy Spirit Church Holy Spirit Church Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

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:

Fr William Jordan, Miroslav Macarol, Ernesta DiAngelis (in Italy)

ANNIVERSARIES: Bruno Nesci, Manuel Almeida (Jnr), Fr William Durkin, Peter Thaines, Caterina & Francesco Iannuzzi, Gordon Brown, Mary Hogan, Joseph Gillett (Jnr), Marija & Marko Brdar, Matija & Ilija Dzaja, Guerrino Jerman, Peter Javni, Sabel Ramirea

ONE MONTH ANNIV: Margherita Mabilia

BAPTISMS: Oliver Day, Joshua Zivkovic, Sebastiano Patti (HF), Matilda Lyons, Tom McKeon, Marvin Trewin (HS)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Cheryl Lambert, Craig Cole, Patrick Duffy (Ireland), Craig Leite, Juliette Isla Kotarac, Anthony Continho, Anthony McCullough (Ireland), Ivanka Juran, Manuel Almeida, Tony & June Bongiorno

After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list - please phone the office if you wish names reinserted. Please note:

> Roster for Next Sunday, August 25, 2013 (4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY Commentators Lectors **Special Ministers** Welcomers

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Lectors Welcomers Projectionist

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

Special Ministers

6.00PM M Lacy G Harrison C McShanag, G Harrison, E Cotter M Brown T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators Lectors **Special Ministers** Welcomers

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

Recurring Activities in the Cluster:

١.	Holy Family Luncheon -	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.		
1.	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		
		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		
·	Serra Club of Geelong -	First Thursday of each month, 12.pm at Sisters of the Holy Angels, Bell Park, 15 McClelland Rd Bell Park. Ph Bernard Jordan 5243 6931.		
	If you wish to know more about these groups, as well as about our Sacramental Program for children in non-Catholic schools, our			

f 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: <u>www.pastoralclustergeelong.org</u>

Liturgy in the Cluster:

 PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM: This program is for Catholic children attending non-Catholic schools who wish to be confirmed. The program begins on Sunday Sept 8. <u>Enrolments close Wednesday August 21.</u> For enquiries phone Frank Kearney at the Cluster Office on 5278 1343 Mon-Wed.

GEELONG ST PATRICK'S RACING CLUB is proud to announce a Stud Tour and Stallion Parade at the magnificent Rosemont Stud on the banks of the Barwon River at Gnarwarre. Set amongst mature trees and wide expanses of lawn, this is where it all begins. You will be given a tour of the grounds and a stallion parade at this most exclusive property where champions are born. This could be a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to experience the best of the breeding industry. A champagne and chicken lunch will be served from the Pavilion on the cricket ground. A bus will leave from Kardinia Park 11am and return by 3pm on **Sunday 6 October**. \$65 all inclusive cost. Call 0409 007 913 to book your seat.

FEDERAL ELECTION 2013:

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has issued a statement encouraging Catholics to look beyond their own individual needs and consider the common good when deciding their vote. Catholic tradition holds that the common good is underpinned by the promotion and protection of human dignity. Implicit in seeking the common good is the desire to serve the poor, the marginalised, the sick and the forgotten in our community.

The bishops invite us to read and reflect on some issue statements that will be printed in the bulletin over the next few weeks.

Life

All human life is to be respected, particularly the most vulnerable including the unborn, the sick and elderly, people living with disability, and communities affected by poverty, abuse, famine or war. The Church has a long history of defending the dignity of women and of having women leaders in a variety of areas including education, health care and welfare. We continue to commit ourselves to working with all sides of politics to offer practical support and life-affirming alternatives to abortion for women facing an unexpected pregnancy. Respect for human life requires constant vigilance to ensure euthanasia and assisted suicide are never legalised in Australia. These acts, presented as acts of mercy, would in fact abandon those who need our care and protection most. We are saddened by the incidence of suicide in the Australian community and encourage every initiative, especially in the field of mental health, to alleviate the pressures that can lead people to take their own lives.

Indigenous Australians

A sustained effort from all Australians and all political parties is needed to achieve lasting dignity and justice for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters. This must involve appropriate indigenous representation, so Australia's first peoples are heard and their needs are pursued as a national priority. Much work has been done on 'Closing the Gap' between indigenous and other Australians on measures such as education, health and housing, but there is a long way to go. Appalling standards of housing and health, alarming levels of imprisonment and great educational disadvantage and poverty are some key indicators of the problems which weigh heavily upon indigenous peoples throughout the country. This year, the bishops' statement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday details the challenges facing the Indigenous community, including combating alcohol and drug abuse, and calls for true national reconciliation.

Community News:

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- Aug 25... BELMONT'S GRAND VARIETY CONCERT: Drop of a Hat Geelong Production A Concert of Fun and Fine Music with an all star cast of Geelong's finest performers on Stage 2pm at Belmont Seniors Theatre Hall, 52 Thomson St. Tickets only \$12 on sale now. Phone 5241 1776 proceeds to Knights of the Southern Cross charity work. Please support.
 - **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA:** "Of Angels and Mortals" a Concert by a capella trio *Grace Notes*, 3pm in the Basilica with sacred music. Wine and cheese at interval in the Pioneer Room. Tickets \$25/\$20 Conc at the door. Children 12 and under no charge.
- Aug 31... LEGION OF MARY: "Increase our Faith" Join us for our Reflection Day, 10am-3pm at St Francis Hall, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. For more info ph Adela Buaya 0409 135 589, Theresa Vickers 0401 632 033, John McCarthy 0409 042 393 or Chuck Leazyk 0408 128 585.
- Sept 11... MOVIE NIGHT: For Fr Mick's Mates.
- Sept 12... CHRIS MACKEY FREE TALK: *Improving Mental Health using Brain Science* 7.30-8.45pm at Geelong West Town Hall, Supper Room.
- Sept 13... LET'S TALK JUSTICE: Problem Gambling Free community Open Forum 6.45 for 7pm start, concluding 8.30pm at Wesley Church Hall, 100 Yarra St Geelong. A presentation and public discussion on problem gambling, its impacts on the individual, family and local community. Hosted by Geelong Young Vinnies with the support of Bethany.
- Sept 19... ANNUAL DEANERY DINNER: An invitation to attend our Dinner at Samaritan House 'helping the homeless of Geelong', 6.30 for 7pm. Guest speaker Mr Ian Cover with entertainment from St Ignatius College. Tickets \$45 from Deanery Office, 150 Yarra St Geelong Ph 5222 1977 or ph Catherine Moon 0409 007 913. RSVP 3rd Sept.

Nov 5... MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON

Feb 28 2014... BAY CRUISE (Friday evening)

- Mar 15/16... RELAY FOR LIFE AT DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
- THE GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for a 2-course meal, stimulating guest speakers and the opportunity to meet new friends, all for only \$28. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at Dromoland House on Pakington St. For more information and reservations please phone Terry on 5221 7339.

Image: Leff GO TO THE MOVIESTING When: September 11, 2013 Where: St Mary's Plaza Theatre & Hibernian Hall Cost: \$20 - All proceeds to Fr Mick's Mates - <u>Two Sessions -</u> Movie Session 1 at 4.00pm - BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL Movie Session 2 at 7.30pm - (Awaiting confirmation - Proposal "A Song for Marion") Finger food and refreshments served at 6.00pm.							
A great opportunity to support Fr Mick's Mates and share a light meal together. 40 Tickets available for each session.							
Contacts: David Lunn 0408 378 982 Trish Stickland 5278 1343 / 0418 522 527							
<i>From P1</i> A blazing fire can attract everyone to its light, warmth and power. So maybe this Gospel is a call to purge the weight of old growth that can stop fresh thinking. Maybe it gives guidance to us in the justice we are meant to live and the attention we must call to the needs of all God's children. And maybe it is a reminder that the life of our Christian community is meant to be attractive through its gentle power and warmth. If the price we pay for witnessing to any of these values is that we divide the crowd, so be it.	What's comforting about this gospel is that it recognises conflict as a necessary part of the Christian life. There are some who want to pretend that the followers of Jesus should never disagree with one another or with those outside the Church. Conflict in itself, Jesus teaches us today, is an element of our commitment to the kingdom of God. What marks out the way we should disagree with one another inside and outside the Church, however, is that it is conducted with charity, dignity, careful listening and compassion. Christians always look to put the best	possible interpretation on the opinions of those with whom we disagree and to be reconciled to those we have hurt, to heal divisions where we can. May this Eucharist give us the courage to divide the crowd for the right reasons. May we be a blazing fire that casts light on darkness where people are exploited and injustice smothers the growth Christ wants to see in the human family. No one promised us that Christian faith was ever going to be a picnic!					