

Reflection... by Richard Leonard

hilip was getting ready to graduate from university. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him he wanted this car as a graduation gift from the family. His father did nothing. As his graduation day approached, Philip awaited signs that his father had purchased the car.

Finally, the day after his graduation, his father called him into his study and told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and that he loved him. He handed Philip a beautifully wrapped box. Philip opened the box and found a beautiful, leather-bound Bible, with Philip's name embossed in gold. He did not even take the Bible out of the box.

Angrily, he yelled at his father and said, 'Is this it? With all your money you give me a Bible?' and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible behind. Philip's family ran after him, but he jumped in his car and sped away. He refused to answer his mobile phone, even when his family kept ringing it for hours and hours.

Very late that night, when he had cooled down somewhat, he drove home to discover that his father had suffered a massive heart attack and died two hours before. His father had a history of heart disease. His furious and heart-broken mother told him to go and find the Bible which was the cause of the scene that morning.

He found the Bible right where he had thrown it down on his father's desk. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. He came to a bookmark where his father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, 'And if you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father in heaven give to those who ask Him?'

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words...PAID IN FULL. Philip broke down and sobbed.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year C - November 3, 2013.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: 2nd Reading: Gospel:

2Macc 7:1-2,9-14 2Thess 3:16-3:5 Lk 20:27-38



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 Sun <u>Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:</u> 5.00pm Sat (St Patrick's Chapel) 9.30am - Italian Mass at St Patrick's

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Grace McKellar Centre: 10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues; Maryville Nursing Home: 11am Tues;	Holy Family:	9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs		
	Holy Spirit:	9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am	n 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	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

Nov 4:	O'Neil family, 11 Derby Rd;	Nov 11: Cotter family, 30 Buxton Rd
Nov 18-25	Duggan family, 24 Sheridan St;	Dec 2-9: Moore family, 39 Willana Ave.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Peter Brown, Giuseppe Girgenti

ANNIVERSARIES: Denise Walker, Robert Johnson, Reg Doherty, John Kennedy, Domenica & Carmelo Cicero, Caterina & Guiseppe Azzarello, Margaret O'Dwyer, Eileen, Basil & Bernie Haberman, Hilda Pearson & Julia Brady, Salvatore & Rosa Rao, Domenico Pierina, Santo Caccamo, Rade Ruzic, Madge King

BAPTISMS: Tessa Bennett & Rhys Allan (HS)

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Cheryl Lambert, Patrick Duffy (Ireland), Juliette Isla Kotarac, Anthony Continho, Anthony McCullough (Ireland), Ivanka Juran, Manuel Almeida, June Bongiorno, Anna Alvaro, Carmela Cammarere, Francisca, Jesus & Kristopher Esperanza, Margaret & Joanne Straughan, Kath Leary

<u>Please note</u>: 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, November 10, 2013 (2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers han Welcomers

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

<u>Ss PETER & PAUL'S:</u>

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

<u>8.00AM</u> R Allum F O'Neill I Vanjek, R Allum, J Genova

C Marcantonio, P Walsh

<u>6.00PM</u>

M Lacy G Harrison B Murphy, R O'Neill M Brown, P Ryan J Lynch

<u>5.00PM</u>

A Hubbard P Power, P Hubbard P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchy R&K Maddalena

<u>9.30AM</u>

C Simpson D Lunn, A Negro H Verdnik, M Modica, E Glynn, M Baird, J Shea-

V Resciniti, G Cracco

<u>11.00AM</u>

E Strzelecki M Martin L Strzelecki, A/'L Fossey, M Sleeman M&H Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey T Martin

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 . 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) Holy Spirit School -Monday 9.30am-11.30am. 0-3 years Indoor/outdoor play. Ph 5229 8298 Playgroup -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 First Thursday of each month, 12.pm at Sisters of the Holy Angels, Bell Park, 15 McClelland Rd, Serra Club of Geelong -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 Baptism and Wedding procedures, our Partnership with the Columbans in the Philippines and so on, please visit our webpage: <u>www.pastoralclustergeelong.org</u>

Wedding Blessing Mass Invitation -

2013 is the Centenary Year of Ss Peter & Paul's Parish, Geelong West (sometimes called 'Ashby'). During the hundred years 3,871 marriages were celebrated in Ss Peter & Paul's Church. As part of the Centenary Celebrations <u>all</u> couples who wish to have a

special blessing for their marriage are warmly welcome to a Wedding Blessing Mass



Time...IlamPlace...Ss Peter & Paul's ChurchDate...Sunday November 10



After the Mass refreshments and nibbles will be served in the grounds of the Church.

I'm delighted to say that Natalie Gleeson will be singing for us.

This is another opportunity of celebration of faith and life and we hope you can join us on this special day.

If you will be attending this Mass, could you please fill in the clipboard available at the back of each Church so as to help with organisation and catering.

RE-OPENING OF Ss PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH:



Last week we had the re-opening of Ss Peter & Paul's Church. The overwhelming feedback was positive and affirming of the restoration process. The restoration has again brought life and light to this beautiful Church which has a fond place in the lives and memories of so many people, not just for the regular Churchgoers of Ss Peter & Paul's but the rest of Geelong and beyond. Special thanks to Trish Stickland who has project managed the restoration.

Having undertaken this considerable task, one significant task remains. To pay for the restoration!! Over the coming weeks there will be an invitation for people to sponsor a pew (similar to what we did at Holy Family, Bell Park). Please stay tuned.

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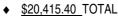


Kristmas for Kuya Gift List- The Gift of Opportunity:

An update on your generous support for the Kristmas for Kuya Gift List -

• \$7,843 was raised for the Wish List on the night itself

- \$ 1,295 was raised from the Raffle
- \$11,277.40 has been raised from donations



Thankyou for your generous support!! (Fr Gerard on behalf of the Columbans, the Sisters of the Holy Missions and Kuya Centre)

Sr Kate O'Neill, who was our special guest and speaker at the Kristmas for Kuya Dinner sent the following vote of thanks to you: Greetings from the Philippines. I wish to sincerely thank you, the parishioners and Primary Schools of the Cluster for your warm welcome and tremendous generosity for the people I work and live among in Manila. Our partnership in mission provides access to education, health and a brighter future to hundreds of children. Your support and advocacy makes a big difference to those in marginalised and destitute situations. It was good to be home and to share with you the fruits of our Philippines partnership. Thank you to all those involved in Kristmas for Kuya - a wonderful celebration which will gift life to hundreds of children and their families. May you be blessed for your generosity and compassion.

- Sr Kate O'Neill RNDM

You can still make donations to support the various programs of the Columbans, Our Lady of the Mission and Kuya Centre, through the Parish Office either in cash, cheque (made payable to the Pastoral Cluster) and Master Card or Visa. There is also tax deductibility.



Liturgy in the Cluster:

BEREAVEMENT MASSES - Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

This weekend the focus of our Mass will be Remembering and Praying for our deceased loved ones. As part of the Bereavement Mass there are leaflets entitled "In Loving Memory Of" where you can write the names of deceased family and friends that you would like prayed for. These leaflets will be placed at the foot of the Cross and will remain there for the duration of November.

LITURGY IN THE CLUSTER THIS WEEK -

- Nov 2/3... BEREAVEMENT MASSES: Remembering and praying for those who have died at all the weekend Masses.
- Nov 8... CLASS MASS: 10.15am St Patrick's Chapel
- Nov 9... GRANDPARENTS MASS: 6pm at Holy Spirit Church Prep/1/2
- Nov 10... GRANDPARENTS MASS: 9.30am at Holy Family Church
- " WEDDING BLESSING MASS: 11am at Ss Peter & Paul's Church
- Nov 12... CLASS MASS: 9.15am Holy Family Church for Gr3/4
- Nov 16... GRANDPARENTS MASS: 5pm at Ss Peter & Paul's Church

LITURGY MEETING:

Thursday Nov 7th, 7.30pm at the Pastoral Cluster Centre. The purpose of the meeting is to organise our ceremonies for Advent, 2nd Rite Reconciliation Service and Christmas Masses.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY - CHICKEN & CHAMPAGNE LUNCHEON: Tuesday Nov 5, 12noon in Holy Spirit Hall. BYO Alcoholic drink, soft drinks provided. Tickets ph Amy 5229 9911, Desma 5278 2712 or David 0408 378 982.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The Manifold Branch will hold a **Special Meeting Monday 11th Nov at 1.15pm in Holy Spirit Hall**. We will discuss end of year activities. This will be followed by a Special A'noon Tea - CWL members a small plate of food please. For information/transport ph Tricia 5221 1986 or Jeanette 5278 2063.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL FETE - Nov 16, 11am-3pm at Holy Spirit School: We will have crafts, books, kids toys, cake stall, plants, rides, mobile farm, reptiles, a wonderful Silent Auction, entertainment and more. All welcome!!

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: Now on sale at Ss Peter & Paul's and Holy Spirit for \$10.50 ea.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:

This week the Australian Catholics - Faith and Living for Contemporary Catholics (Summer edition) will be available for free. The focus of this edition is entitled *What it means to love your neighbour* and articles include *Explaining our refugee stance to children; Caring for yourself while caring for others; and Sr Hilda's Healing Touch.*

Community News:

- Nov 3... AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER CHOIR will present a concert of sacred music in St Mary's Basilica at 3pm. Tickets \$30/25/20 at GPAC or at the door.
- Nov 10... MASS FOR DECEASED: St Joseph's students, staff and friends of the College will be remembered at 2pm in the College Chapel. All welcome!
- Nov 13... SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Hts. Cost \$8 all welcome!
- Nov 14... FREE PUBLIC TALKS FROM CHRIS MACKEY: "Recent advances in Positive Psychology", 7.30-8.45pm at the Geelong West Town Hall Supper Room. Check at <u>www.chrismackey.com.au</u> for more information.

/From P1...

The Gospel we have just heard is often called, 'the little man's revenge'. Zacchaeus was the least likely person in Jericho to host Jesus at dinner. In fact, as this marvellous story goes, that was the last thing on his mind as well. All Zacchaeus seems to have wanted is get a good look at Jesus who was on a 'walkabout' in the village.

Jesus, however, seized the opportunity, given him by the actions of Jericho's chief tax collector, to teach everyone about how God's Kingdom comes in extraordinary packages. Because of his job, the local Jewish community would have hated Zacchaeus and yet Jesus does two things that welcome into the family of God: he calls him by name and dines with him. Jesus might have gone in the door of Zacchaeus' home, but he brings Zacchaeus out through God's door. He enables Zacchaeus to face up to his extortion and wealth and to claim his salvation.

It's the same with us. If only we have the eyes to see, the ears to hear and the arms to embrace, Jesus comes to us through the most unusual people, times and places. We are his family, he calls us by name and he dines with us as often as we choose to accept his standing invitation to this table. But there's a price tag: we are meant to be different people for this encounter, generous with all we have to offer the world and transparent in all our relationships.

No matter how lost we are, how far up a tree we get stuck or even when we are consumed with regret at the dreadful judgements we have made about the wrapping of God's gifts, Jesus calls us by name, invites us to his table and tells us that salvation is near at hand.