



Pastoral Cluster

Incorporating the Parishes of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

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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

Even in Church circles these days it is quite common to engage a management consultancy company to help find people for a particular diocesan job. This is a good idea and often these companies find excellent people for the task.

I recently saw a consultancy profile, however, for a diocese seeking a lay chancellor. We all know these people must be upright citizens, but I am convinced that Jesus himself may have been challenged to fill this job description! Apart from having degrees in civil and canon law, the desired applicant had to have 'outstanding Catholic faith, an exemplary moral character and have nothing in his or her background that could cause the Church embarrassment or scandal in the future.'

A couple of days later I came across a

tongue-in-cheek summary of a management consultant's report on those who had applied to lead the earliest Christian Church:

'John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and picks fights in public with religious leaders.

'Peter: Has a bad temper, even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive. A loose cannon.

'Paul: Powerful, CEO type of leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

'Jesus: Has been popular at times, but once when his following grew to 5000 he

managed to offend them all and it dwindled down to some faithful women and his best friend. Seldom stays in one place very long.

'Judas: His references are solid. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. Great possibilities here.'

In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much.

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Second Sunday of Advent

(Year A - December 8, 2013.)

ADVENT RESPONSE:

May we be the feet of Christ in our world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths: all people shall see the
salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)

1st Reading: Is 35:1-6,10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



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

WEEKEND MASSES:

Holy Family, Bell Park:

English... 8am and 9.30am (Sunday)

Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts:

6.00pm Saturday
11am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West:

5.00pm Saturday
11am 2nd & 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

BAPTISMS:

1st & 3rd Sundays 12noon at Holy Spirit, 2nd & 4th Sundays 12noon at Ss P&P,
3rd Sunday 2pm at Holy Family

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 9: 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: Maria DeAngelis (in Italy)

ANNIVERSARIES: Giuseppina Lopiccolo, Keith & Julia French, Denise Walker, Sofia Selthafner, John Walsh, Sidney Chamberlin, Giovanni, Mario & Giorgio Rusciti

BAPTISMS: Angelina Bumbak, Lachlan McMaster, Dallas Grgurevic, Lucinda & Gisele Peretin (P&P)

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, Francisca, Jesus & Kristopher Esperanza, Margaret & Joanne Straughan, Kath Leary, Terry Hart, Joe Vanjek

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, December 15, 2013

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh

R&L Allum

9.30AM

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C&J Taylor, E Glynn, M Fiorillo, I Raj

E Dalton

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

Sr J McGonigal

J McKenzie

G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke

V Logan

P Eastman

11.00AM

J McCarthy

G Brown, M Kroger

L Fossey, L Stalio

I Cleary, L Coles, V Trinder

D Brown

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

D Maddalena

K Maddalena

K Maddalena

CLUSTER NEWS:

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH: This Monday coming work on repairs to Holy Spirit Church will begin.

Stage 1 - The works are external and primarily will involve mending the eaves, guttering etc and later there will be cleaning of the roof and walls.



DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS:

This week the invitations to all known Catholics to our Christmas Second Rite Reconciliation and Christmas Masses will be available for distribution. Again we call on you, if you can, to assist with this distribution. The invitations are in order alphabetically according to STREETS.

PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP:

A Vote of Thanks - Recently I received two notifications of thanks firstly from the Provincial of the Columbans, Fr Gary Walker in which he writes: *I received the cheque for \$13,250 for the Malate Parish. Thankyou very much again for the generosity of the Parish Cluster. There are so many people in the Philippines better off because of your commitment. No doubt Christmas will be a great celebration. God bless you all!*

Secondly, Bro Paul Murphy in the Kuya Center Newsletter wrote: ***Geelong Parish Cluster stands strong*** - *Under the leadership of Fr Gerard Keith and his assistants led by Trish Stickland, the parish has once again hosted a very successful parish dinner and auction to support Kuya Center, its Micro Finance Projects and the Columbans. What a great bunch of 'true-cat' supporters you are! Your help is so encouraging to Kuya. My profound thanks and appreciation for your amazing ongoing stamina and support.*

A cheque of \$13,250 has been forwarded this year to the Kuya Center and another \$13,250 to Sisters Kate and Claudia for their work for the poor in the Philippines.

KRISTMAS FOR KUYA WISH LIST - The Gift of Opportunity:

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:

Today you are asked to take a slip of paper with a food item named on it and bring the food item, with any other non-perishable food you wish to donate, to Mass next weekend, and place your gifts **on the carpeted steps in front of the Choir Pit at Holy Family or in the containers provided at Ss Peter & Paul's**. As well as your food gifts, if you have any new toys these can be used as Christmas presents for the children of the needy up to about 12 years of age. If wrapping presents, please put a note on the outside saying for what age group and whether for a boy or a girl. Thankyou for making Christmas a little happier for those less fortunate than ourselves and showing them someone cares.

As there is no Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's on Sunday 15th December, food items could be left at Holy Family at either Mass or left at the Cluster Office on Monday 16th December.

NO ROOM AT THE INN - Pre Christmas Appeal for Samaritan House:

On the weekend of Dec 14/15, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Churches across the Geelong region are invited to take up a second collection to support the Samaritan House Crisis Accommodation for the Homeless. Your generous support for those who might otherwise be sleeping rough in today's equivalent of the Christmas Stable, will be most appreciated.

FR MICK'S MATES:

Please Note: Fr Mick's Mates Committee Meeting - **Wednesday December 11th 4pm at Cluster Offices.**

Christmas Hampers - *relishes, jams, all the goodies we love!* Will be on sale after Masses on **Dec 8 - Ss Peter & Paul's**

Dec 15 - Holy Family

Raffle tickets will also be on sale with the raffle being drawn after the Mass on December 15th.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS: Now on sale at Ss Peter & Paul's, Holy Family and Holy Spirit for \$9. Also, St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards are available for sale at Holy Spirit.

GARAGE SALE: A number of items (eg office and lounge chairs) are available for purchase from the Pastoral Cluster Community Centre. The items are available to view at the carparks at the rear of the Centre. If you are interested please call in during Office hours to make a purchase. **Please note - there is no delivery.** The proceeds will support our parish commitment to our Philippines Partnership.

WING AND A PRAYER: Bookshop, fair-trade, gifts, chapel. Call in for some great Christmas ideas - 75 Malop St, ph 5221 4451. Open Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-2pm and Mass Tues-Thurs 1.05pm-1.30pm. We'd love to see you!

Liturgy in the Cluster:

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & SENIOR PARISHIONERS LUNCHEON; Many thanks for all those involved in this Saturday's Anointing of the Sick Mass and Luncheon. The focus of the Mass and Luncheon was companionship and certainly it was a celebration of that Christian ideal.

LECTORS:

Please collect your copy of "**Break Open the Word 2014**" from the Sacristy of the Church where you are rostered.

LITURGY IN THE CLUSTER:

Dec 11... **HOLY FAMILY END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS** - 7pm in Holy Family Church
Dec 17... **HOLY SPIRIT END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS** - 5pm in Holy Spirit Church
Dec 18... **ST PATRICK'S END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS** - 9.15am in St Patrick's Chapel
Dec 19... **END OF YEAR CLUSTER SCHOOL MASSES** - 11am in St Patrick's Chapel

Christmas Masses -

Dec 24... **5pm Ss Peter & Paul's**
5.30pm Holy Family (focus on the children)
7.00pm - Ss Peter & Paul's
8.00pm - Holy Spirit (focus on the family)
Midnight - Holy Family (Carols from 11.30pm)

Dec 25... **8.00am - Holy Family**
9.00am - Holy Spirit
9.30am - Holy Family

2nd Rite Reconciliation -

Wed Dec 18... 5.00pm - Ss Peter & Paul's
Thurs Dec 19... 7.30pm - Holy Family
Mon Dec 23... 7.30pm - Holy Spirit



Community News:

- Dec 9... **FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL:** St Mary's Basilica 12.30-1.15pm - Beverly Phillips
- Dec 10... **CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB:** Pre-dinner drinks 6.15pm, 6.45 dinner at Dromoland House, 258 Pakington St. Musical entertainment - Ben Costanzo, \$33 for 3-course meal. Contact Terry and Judy O'Brien 5221 7339.
- Dec 11... **FREE AUTISM WORKSHOP** - For parents of pre-schoolers called "Challenging Behaviour and Autism" at the Peter Canon Performing Arts Centre, St Joseph's College Newtown, from 7.30-9.30pm. Registration essential - ph 9375 2469 or www.autismpartnership.com.au
- Dec 16... **FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL:** St Mary's Basilica 12.30-1.15pm - Tom Healy
- Dec 23... **FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL:** St Mary's Basilica 12.30-1.15pm - Frank DeRosso
- Dec 25... **GEELONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER:** 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 St.** Door opens 9.30am till 3.30pm and dining commences 12pm. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending, please contact 5221 9170 during office hours for catering purposes. From Saturday Dec 21 ph 0408 133 561. Enquiries gccdd@rocketmail.com

/From P1...

Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility.

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE.

For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.' If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again.

May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'