



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

Web Page Address:
www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

OFFICE: 147 Separation St Bell Park 3215
Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: cluster@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm (Closed 1-2pm for lunch), Thurs 9-2pm.

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

PARISH SECRETARY: Bernadette Bilogrevic - Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@cam.org.au)

LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR: Frank Kearney - Phone 5278 1343 (email: frank.kearney@cam.org.au)

THANKSGIVING CO-ORD: Helen Brislane - Phone 5278 1343 (email: helen.brislane@cam.org.au)

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	Holy Family -	Brian Everett	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
	Holy Spirit -	Mary Abbott	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
	St Patrick's -	Basil Flynn	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection... by Richard Leonard

Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins!

I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens

burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching.

In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a

sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

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Third Sunday of Advent

(Year A - December 15, 2013.)

ADVENT RESPONSE:

May we be the voice of Christ in our world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday of Advent (Year A)

1st Reading: Is 7:10-14

2nd Reading: Rom 1:1-7

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24



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.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Drago Salopek (Croatia), Giuseppa Flaccavento
ANNIVERSARIES:	Vincenty Winiecki, Ray, Rosa, Teresa, Giuseppe, Amirando, Isidoro, Giuliano and Angelino Zanardo, Domenico Versace, Gerard Gillett, Thomas Fogarty
BAPTISMS:	Maria Batarilo, Jaxon & Jamieson Bean, Daniel Koon (HF), Tom Sullivan, Marcel Jovanovic (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, Francisca, Jesus & Kristopher Esperanza, Margaret & Joanne Straughan, Kath Leary, Terry Hart, Joe Vanjek, Rita Duggan McDonald, Celia Erfort

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS:

Rosters for the Masses over the Christmas Eve/Day period are below. **We still need helpers where there are ***. You do not have to be from the parish where you will be attending Mass, but you can help out.**

If you can assist, please phone Frank 5278 1343 on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

<u>Holy Family:</u>	<u>5.30pm</u>	<u>Midnight</u>
Commentator	F Kearney	D Lunn
Lectors		M Baird, *** (1)
Special Ministers	L Sells, B McFarlane, E Kelly, ***, *** (2)	M Baird, V Resciniti, M Fiorillo, ***, *** (2)
Projectionist	F Kearney	C Resciniti
<u>Ss Peter & Paul's:</u>	<u>5.00pm</u>	<u>7.00pm</u>
Commentator	A Henderson	*** (1)
Lectors	G Tolan, K Maddalena	M Gifford, M Martin
Special Ministers	G Tolan, A Henderson, K Maddalena	M Gifford, P McGlinchy, *** (1)
Projectionist	J Lynch	R Martin
<u>Holy Spirit:</u>	<u>8.00pm</u>	
Commentator	E Cotter	
Lectors	G Brown, G Harrison	
Special Ministers	E Cotter, G Harrison, C Laffy	
Projectionist	D Brown	

CHRISTMAS DAY:

<u>Holy Family</u>	<u>8.00am</u>	<u>9.30am</u>
Commentator	K Saunders	M Lukesic
Lectors	***, *** (2)	B Rainbow, T McMahon
Special Ministers	I Vanjek, J Genova, C Marcantonio, ***, *** (2)	R Zanardo, ***, ***, ***, *** (4)
Projectionist	*** (1)	C Resciniti
*** (1) Helper needed to work the CD player for music)		
<u>Holy Spirit</u>	<u>9.00am</u>	
Commentator	J O'Neill	
Lectors	J Sheahan, *** (1)	
Special Ministers	R O'Neill, J Sheahan, *** (1)	
Projectionist	*** (1)	

Roster for Next Sunday, December 22, 2013

(4th Sunday of the Month)

<u>HOLY FAMILY</u>	<u>8.00AM</u>	<u>9.30AM</u>
Commentators	F O'Neill	M Lukesic
Lectors	L Kelly	M Baird, P Gizycki
Special Ministers	L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane	D Lunn, P McBride, J McMahon, C Simpson, V Resciniti
Welcomers	L&E Kelly	E Glynn
<u>HOLY SPIRIT:</u>	<u>6.00PM</u>	
Commentators	M Lacy	
Lectors	G Harrison	
Special Ministers	C McShanag, G Harrison, E Cotter	
Welcomers	M Brown	
Projectionist	T McShanag	
<u>Ss PETER & PAUL'S:</u>	<u>5.00PM</u>	<u>11.00AM</u>
Commentators	A Henderson	M Foley
Lectors	G Tolan	J Fraatz
Special Ministers	A Henderson, G Tolan, Dean Dougherty	H&M Broekman, D Dougherty, J Gailius
Welcomers	R&K Maddalena	M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski
Projectionist		R Zarb

CLUSTER NEWS:



FAREWELL TO MARJ KAVANAGH: On behalf of the Pastoral Cluster we say farewell to Marj Kavanagh who, with her late husband Graeme, taught ballroom dancing for 43 years at the Ashby Hall. The association has been a long and amicable one. Over that time many, many people have had the opportunity to learn and enjoy the art of ballroom dancing. We wish Marj all the best.



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH: Repairs are now underway for the restoration/repair of our beautiful Church.
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: Since Reconciliation begins on Wednesday, all invitations need to be at homes by **Tuesday Dec 17th**. Anyone who can deliver before Tuesday, please take from the leftovers at the back of each Church. Each invitation delivered saves the Parish 60c.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: The Holy Spirit Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society sincerely thanks all who generously contributed to the recent 2013 Christmas Appeal. The large amount given will greatly assist many in our community to have a happier and a holy Christmas time.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE - JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:

Last Sunday you were 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 this 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:

Christmas Hampers - *relishes, jams, all the goodies we love!* Will be on sale after Masses on **Dec 15 - Holy Family**

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



HOLY FAMILY MONTHLY LUNCHEON: Please note - there will be **NO** luncheon this Sunday, 15th December at the Pastoral Cluster Centre.

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.

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.

Liturgy in the Cluster:

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



WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE AFTER CHRISTMAS:

Please note there will be NO 9.15am Thursday Mass at Holy Family on Dec 26th, there will be an 11am Friday Mass at Holy Spirit and 9am Saturday Mass at Holy Spirit.

New Year's Eve Mass: Tuesday Dec 31 - 5pm at Ss Peter & Paul's

New Year's Day Mass: Wednesday Jan 1 - 9am at Holy Spirit and 11am at Holy Family.

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

OUR LADY'S STATUE: Dec 16-23 - Mileto family, 82 Sladen St; Dec 30-Jan 6 - Deluca family, 44 Fairy St; Jan 13-20 - Johnson Family, 63 Ruhama Ave; Jan 27-Feb 3 - Lynch family, 13 Criton Cres; Feb 10-17 - Stocks family, 22 Orr St; Feb 24-Mar 3 - Wright family, 42 Logan St.

Community News:

Dec 16... FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL: St Mary's Basilica 12.30-1.15pm - Tom Healy

Dec 22... H.K.U.D.LADO CROATIAN CULTURAL GROUP CHRISTMAS CONCERT: St Mary's Basilica 7pm - Christmas carols and songs with excellent musicians and choirs. Traditional music and instruments, national costumes. No charge!

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 gcdd@rocketmail.com

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!

/From P1...

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who

tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people

everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.