



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

Today's Gospel announces that 'God is with us'. In this final week of Advent the following story reminds us that God comes to us in unpredictable ways often with unsettling messages.

'I hurried into the shop to grab some last minute Christmas gifts. I looked at all the people and grumbled to myself. I would be in here forever. I hurried to the toy department and wondered if the grandkids would even play with my gifts.

'My eye caught a little boy holding a doll. He kept touching her hair and he held her so

gently. I watched him turn and ask, "Aunty Jane, are you sure I don't have enough money?" Gently, the woman replied, "Emily doesn't need a doll David." The woman went to another aisle. The boy continued to hold the doll. David looked so sad that I couldn't resist asking who the doll was for. "My sister wanted it so badly for Christmas." I told him that maybe Santa was going to bring it. He said "No, Santa can't go where my sister is...I have to give the doll to Mummy to take to her." I asked him where his sister was. He looked at me with the tear-filled eyes, "She has gone to be with Jesus. Daddy says that Mummy is going to have to go to be with both of them

soon too." My heart nearly stopped beating.

'David went on, "I told Daddy to make sure Mummy goes nowhere until I got back from the store. I want Mum to take this doll to Emily."

'While he wasn't looking I reached into my purse and pulled out some cash. "David how about we count that money again?" He grew excited, "I asked Jesus to give me enough money. I just know I have enough." I slipped my money in with his and we began to count it. He looked up from the count and exclaimed, "Jesus has given me enough money for Emily's doll." /Cont'd P4



Fr Gerard, Fr Mick and the Pastoral Cluster Staff,
wish you a happy, holy and safe Christmas!



Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Year A - December 22, 2013.)

ADVENT RESPONSE:

May we be the hands of Christ in our world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel:

God-is-with-us.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Feast of the Holy Family (Year A)

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Mt 2:13-15,19-23



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:	James Vivian, Peter Brown
ANNIVERSARIES:	Giuseppe Pitaro, Rosina Iezzi, Catherine, Joseph & Felix Capicchiano, Marjorie & Charles McShanag, Zlatko Velcek, Irene & John O'Neill, James Hickey, Leslie Cranbourne, Maria Pino, Zbignief Traczyk, Peter Kenny, Elizabetta & Vincenzo Pitaro, Michael Calafiore, Andrew & Valeria Korczykowski, Eva, Boris & Andrew Uroda
BAPTISMS:	Madison Attard, Sadie Greaves, Harrison Lloyd, Maya Walsh (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, 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Holy Family:

5.30pm

Commentator	F Kearney
Lectors	J Madunic, A McLean
Special Ministers	L Sells, B McFarlane, E Kelly, *, * (2)
Projectionist	F Kearney

Midnight

D Lunn
M Baird, J McKenzie
M Baird, V Resciniti, M Fiorillo, B Kline, * (1)
C Resciniti

Ss Peter & Paul's:

5.00pm

Commentator	A Henderson
Lectors	G Tolan, K Maddalena
Special Ministers	G Tolan, A Henderson, K Maddalena
Projectionist	J Lynch

7.00pm

B Middleton
M Gifford, M Martin
M Gifford, P McGlinchy, B Middleton
R Martin

Holy Spirit:

8.00pm

Commentator	E Cotter
Lectors	G Brown, G Harrison
Special Ministers	E Cotter, G Harrison, C Laffy
Projectionist	D Brown

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Holy Family

8.00am

Commentator	K Saunders
Lectors	*, * (2)
Special Ministers	I Vanjek, J Genova, C Marcantonio, *, * (2)
Projectionist	* (1)

9.30am

M Lukesic
B Rainbow, T McMahon
R Zanardo, H Verdnik, P Carmody, D Lunn, * (1)
C Resciniti

* (1) Helper needed to work the CD player for music)

Holy Spirit

9.00am

Commentator	J O'Neill
Lectors	J Sheahan, * (1)
Special Ministers	R O'Neill, J Sheahan, * (1)
Projectionist	L Coles

Roster for Next Sunday, December 29, 2013

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM

Commentators	R Allum
Lectors	A Vanjek
Special Ministers	J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane
Welcomers	U Guardiano, K McArthur

9.30AM

T McMahon
C&J Taylor
P Carmody, D Farrar, R Zanardo, B Kline
M&E Hoffman

HOLY SPIRIT:

6.00PM

Commentators	E Cotter
Lectors	J O'Neill
Special Ministers	C Laffy, M Abbott, D Torpy
Welcomers	
Projectionist	B Stocks

11.00AM

B Middleton
P Joyce, J Senthleben
V Trinder, P Joyce, R Pugh
D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack
L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

5.00PM

Commentators	C O'Brien
Lectors	D Woods
Special Ministers	N Neeld, P McGlinchy
Welcomers	
Projectionist	

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 Family Choir Practice -** Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church, 7pm
 - **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
- 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:**
www.pastoralclustergeelong.org

CLUSTER NEWS:

PASTORAL CLUSTER OFFICE: The Parish Office will be opened as usual on Monday 23rd Dec and Tuesday 24th Dec. After Christmas until 27th December the office will be manned on an ad-hoc basis. If no one is in the office please leave a message on the answering machine.



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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL JESSE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL: Thanks to all the parishioners, parish school children and other groups of Holy Family and Ss Peter & Paul's parishes for responding so magnificently to our appeal for donations of food and presents. On Tuesday this week 80 households in our areas received a box of food and presents for the younger children. Thanks for your generosity. We wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year!



THANKYOU to all who notify the Office when you notice a change of address or house that has been sold, as you are delivering the Christmas letters. It helps me keep the parish records up-to-date. (*Helen Brislane*)

FR MICK'S MATES:

- ⇒ **Raffle Winners** - Congratulations to 1st - Monica Sleeman, 2nd - Marie Brown, 3rd - Lorraine Dougherty and 4th - Pat Ryan. The raffle raised \$345.
- ⇒ **Christmas Hampers** - Many thanks to Betty Rice and Margaret Brown for their extraordinary efforts of stocking their Christmas stall with hampers, sewing, etc. They raised \$2,326.50. Please note, there are still eight hampers available at \$25 each by phoning Margaret on 5229 1280. Thankyou.

SURVEY ON SEXUALITY, MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY: I forwarded the findings of our survey to the Archbishop, Mons Greg Bennet the Vicar General and Matthew MacDonald, Executive Officer of the Life, Marriage and Family Office. Each responded favourably and with thanks for the survey. The generic response from Matthew MacDonald was as follows:

"Archbishop Hart would like to thank all who contributed to the recent survey in preparation for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family. We received over 1,100 contributions. Each Australian diocese has submitted a synthesis to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. From those, a submission will be made to Rome before the end of January. At some stage after the Extraordinary Synod, which begins on 5th October 2014, Pope Francis will respond with some form of letter or Apostolic Exhortation."

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

Dec 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.

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.

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:



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 -
Mon Dec 23...

7.30pm - Holy Spirit

PLEASE NOTE: There is **NO** Tuesday morning 9.15am Mass at Holy Family on Dec 24th.



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.

Community News:

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 gccdd@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!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the sea and established it upon the rivers." (Ps24:1-2)

How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we all have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without him nothing would be possible.

/From P1...

'In a few minutes his aunty came back and I wheeled my cart away. I could not keep from thinking about the little boy as I finished my shopping in a totally different spirit than when I had started.

'On the way home I remembered a story in the newspaper several days earlier about a drunk driver hitting a car and killing a little girl and that the mother was left on life support. Two days before Christmas I read in the paper where the family had turned the machine off. The day before Christmas there was a funeral

notice saying that a Requiem Mass would be celebrated on St Stephen's Day for Julia Norris and her daughter Emily. Michael was their husband and father, and their son and brother was David.

'As I gathered with my family in front of an overblown meal which none of us could finish, holding expensive gifts we didn't need and drinking more alcohol than was necessary, I thought "we've lost the plot with Christmas". God-with-us arrives as a simple child in need of love; and in the honour of that day we spend money, eat

too much and get drunk.

'I left the table went to my desk and wrote a card for each member of my family. I told them what I'd never been able to say: "I want you to know I love you."

'When they read those cards, my family thought I was losing it, but through David and that doll, God visited me in the last week of Advent and Christmas will never be the same again.'

