



# 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

For some years now family therapists have used an exercise called 'the genogram' to help families understand their internal dynamics.

Each spouse sits down and writes out their family tree. Usually it stretches back at least three generations. Next to each name they write a letter indicating any 'careers' this relative may have picked up in his or her lifetime. It is not just the person's occupation that interests a family therapist, though it's interesting to see the way doctors, farmers, musicians and civil servants pop up in some families.

A career in the genogram has more to do with personal or social dispositions like using

alcohol, drugs, work and gambling in a destructive way; like having a propensity to violence or holding a criminal record; like 'having to get married' or whether one's relatives are hetero or homosexual. When people start to dig, they find all sorts of family secrets, especially in older generations. Most families have an 'Auntie Lizzie' who, sixty years on, is still spoken of in hushed tones. They eventually discover she had an abortion. Then sometimes there is an Uncle James 'who never married'.

What family therapists notice is that certain careers are passed down the generations. This exercise can be very helpful when families are struggling to understand why a child is an early victim of alcoholism, gambling

addiction, or given to violence. While behaviour can be thought to 'come out of nowhere', this exercise shows that, whether by nature or nurture, destructive behaviour has been on one or both sides of a family system for generations.

The point of the genogram is that knowing our pedigree for good or for ill enables us to build on our strengths while breaking the cycle of our families' negative careers.

Today's feast tells that Jesus, Mary and Joseph had a career in holiness. I suspect there are not many of us would write Saviour or Saints on the people in our family trees! But there is every reason to believe that holiness is handed down from one generation to the next. /Cont'd P4



**Fr Gerard, Fr Mick and the Pastoral Cluster Staff,  
wish you a happy, blessed and safe New Year!**



## Feast of the Holy Family

(Year A - December 29, 2013.)

**ADVENT RESPONSE:**

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

**Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**Epiphany of the Lord (Year A)**

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6  
2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3,5-6  
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

**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

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE AFTER CHRISTMAS:

**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.  
**January 2nd:** Thursday 9.15am at Holy Family  
**January 3rd:** Friday 11am at Holy Spirit  
**January 4th:** Saturday 9am at Holy Spirit

### OUR LADY'S STATUE:

**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.

### AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Fr John O'Hara (Columban Priest), Anthony Continho, Rosario Trifiletti, Ignacy (Charlie) Sawczuk, Ante (Tonko) Kivela

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Francesco Mirabile, Allan Mee, Tony & Lou Past, Giovanni & Gabriella Rondi, Peter Bahl, Antonio & Chiara Tino, Nicholas DeStefano

**BAPTISMS:** Jonathan Kinch (HS)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Cheryl Lambert, Patrick Duffy (Ireland), Juliette Isla Kotarac, 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

### CLUSTER NEWS:

- ◆ Fr Mick, the Pastoral Cluster staff and I would like to thank the many people who offered Christmas greetings and gifts. They are very much appreciated and will be well enjoyed.
- ◆ **PASTORAL CLUSTER OFFICE:** The Parish office will be closed on New Year's Day. Throughout the next week 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.
- ◆ **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 last week 80 households in our area received a box of food and parcels for the younger children. Thanks for your generosity. We wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.

*/From P1...*

The problem with holiness is that we often equate it with perfection. To be a holy person does not mean one is perfect. Perfection rests only in God.

Jesus enjoyed perfection in his humanity, but we must allow Mary and Joseph to be less than perfect, else we make them truly divine as well. As a family, they were not perfect, they were holy. They struggled together to understand the best way they could bring God's reign to bear in our world.

Their destinies were vastly different, but intimately connected. They needed each other.

And so to us. If we allow the Holy Family to be too removed from our experience, they have little to say to the fights, misunderstandings and problems that can sometimes characterise our families. If on the other hand we concede that Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as a family, were not perfect, they can be a model of the very thing we want in our own homes: love, justice, fidelity and kindness that reveal a life of holiness.

They can show us a mutual respect that allows each family member to find his or her own path to revealing God's creative and saving love for our world. And they can provide us with the assurance of knowing that as a result of their holiness we have all been welcomed into the family of God.

When any of us do the genogram we can rightly and proudly put Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the top of our tree and mark them as Saviour and first among the Saints.

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 5, 2014.**

(1st Sunday of the Month)

### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 8.00AM

R Allum

A Vanjek

J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane

U Guardiano, K McArthur

### 6.00PM

E Cotter

J O'Neill

C Laffy, M Abbott, D Torpy

B Stocks

C O'Brien

D Woods

N Neeld, P McGlinchy

### 9.30AM

T McMahon

C&J Taylor

P Carmody, D Farrar, R Zanardo, B Kline

M&E Hoffman

### 11.00AM

B Middleton

P Joyce, J Senftleben

V Trinder, P Joyce, R Pugh

D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles