



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIESTS:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.

PARISH MANAGER:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -	Brian Everett	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
Holy Spirit -	Mary Abbott	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
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Reflection... by Richard Leonard

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has

spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practice of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'.

This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only

convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. /Cont'd P4

The Baptism of the Lord

(Year A - January 12, 2014.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1st Reading: Is 49:3,5-6

2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:1-3

Gospel: Jn 1:29-34



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 MASSES DURING JANUARY WILL RETURN TO THE NORMAL TIMETABLE.

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

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

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:	Michal Bandrowski, Carmen Marijanovic, Palmira Fantini
ANNIVERSARIES:	Silvestro Uzzo, Stefania Gwizdek, Domenico Servello Snr, Josephine Kennedy, Laurie Monaghan, Rosa Vantino, Antonietta DeAngelis, Max King & one month since death - Maria DeAngelis
BAPTISMS:	Charles Alder, Alexia Bei, Jude Bruce, Ellaiza Pangilan (P&P)
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Cheryl Lambert, Patrick Duffy (Ireland), Anthony McCullough (Ireland), Ivanka Juran, Manuel Almeida, June Bongiorno, Anna Alvaro, Francisca, Jesus & Kristopher Esperanza, Kath Leary, Terry Hart, Joe Vanjek, Rita Duggan McDonald, Celia Erfort

CLUSTER NEWS:

- ♦ **PASTORAL CLUSTER OFFICE:** The Parish office will return to its normal timetabling.
- ♦ **BAPTISM PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:** The Pastoral Cluster will offer a Baptism program for children attending school and who have parent(s) who are Catholic. The 3-week program will begin on **Sunday 16th Feb** and finish on **Tuesday 4th March**. It is a mix of evening meetings for children and parents once per week and a lesson for the children during the first part of the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church on the Sundays of Feb 16, 23 and Mar 2. **Enrolments close Wed Feb 12 2014. Contact Frank Kearney at the Pastoral Office on 5278 1343 or email frank.kearney@cam.org.au**

/From P1... Jesus is not baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in

us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original

Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate, say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 19, 2014.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators	8.00AM
Lectors	K Saunders
Special Ministers	B Rainbow
Welcomers	A Vanjek, C Marcantonio, P Walsh
	R&L Allum

9.30AM

A Scaddan
H Verdnik, T McMahon
C&J Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj
E Dalton

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators	6.00PM
Lectors	Sr J McGonigal
Special Ministers	J McKenzie
Welcomers	G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke
Projectionist	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	5.00PM
Lectors	D Maddalena
Special Ministers	K Maddalena
Welcomers	K Maddalena