



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:
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OFFICE:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, 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

For most of its history today's feast was a dual observation. The Purification of Mary accompanied the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

It's not that long ago that western cultures had ceremonies to 'purify' women after childbirth. These rituals have their roots in some appalling thinking about how the flow of women's blood defiles them and those who touched them. Maybe the only modern reclamation we could make of these rites would be to understand them as purification of the memory. After the selflessness of a pregnancy and the great pain of childbirth, a mother could use such a ritual moment to reclaim her body. In any case, it is right and good that we no longer overly emphasise this side of today's feast.

The Presentation of Jesus is easier to handle and to understand. Jewish law stipulated that within forty days of a child's birth the parents should present their baby in the temple as an act of thanksgiving. In the Bible the number forty always indicates a time of formation. So forty days after Christmas the Church has today's celebration. As Luke describes the scene Simeon and Anna represent the Old Covenant. He embodies all those who longed to see the Christ. She embodies all those who prophesied his coming. In a few sentences Luke tells us that just as the Israelites entered the Promised Land after forty years in the desert, so now the time of waiting, searching and hoping is over. Israel can receive the promised Messiah. The old covenant has been fulfilled and the

new covenant is established in Jesus.

The word 'presentation' is used in two revealing ways these days. In psychology they talk about a 'presenting problem'. In medicine people are said to 'present' with certain symptoms. In both cases, the word presentation is used to indicate that something more important lies beneath what is first observed. Further investigation reveals the deeper causes and the best course of action.

So to us. We present ourselves in the temple today and it's important we remember that we do have to put on a show for God. God does not need a performance from us; God invites us to an encounter of love.

/Cont'd P4

The Presentation of the Lord

(Year A - February 2, 2014.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1st Reading: Is 58:7-10

2nd Reading: 1Cor 2:1-5

Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

**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:

Feb 3 - Lynch family, 13 Criton Cres; **Feb 10-17** - Stocks family, 22 Orr St; **Feb 24-Mar 3** - Wright family, 42 Logan St.

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: Henryx (Henry) Antczak

ANNIVERSARIES: Giuseppe Marcantonio, Paola Sparta, Mary Smith, Maria & Antonio Polimeni, Josef Kukac

BAPTISMS: Elbie Stonehouse (HS)

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, Ida & Theo DaCosta

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, FEB 9, 2014.

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers

8.00AM

R Allum
F O'Neill
I Vanjek, R Allum, J Genova
C Marcantonio, P Walsh

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdnik, M Modica, M Baird, J Sheahan
V Resciniti, G Cracco

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

M Lacy
G Harrison
B Murphy, R O'Neill
M Brown
J Lynch

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

5.00PM

A Hubbard
P Power, P Hubbard
P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchy
R&K Maddalena

11.00AM

E Strzelecki
M Martin
L Strzelecki, A/L Fossey, M Sleeman
M&H Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey
T Martin

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 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:

- ♦ **ASHBY HALL:** The process for the lease of the Ashby Hall is well underway, albeit not finalised yet. The lease arrangement, if it succeeds will ensure that the Hall is now leased for market value. These additional funds will enable money to be set aside for the ongoing maintenance of the Hall, as well as other parish-based expenses. The tenant will have exclusive use of the Hall, consequently the monthly luncheons and funeral catering will now be held at Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts. (More details later).
- ♦ **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**
- ♦ **PARISH FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM:** This program is for children who are in Grade 3 or above and attend a non-Catholic school but have been baptized. The course will run over four weeks with a mixture of one hour evening meetings for parents and children (7.30pm Tuesdays) and Sunday morning lessons for the children during the first half of the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church. **Enrolments for this program close on Wednesday March 5 2014. Contact Frank Kearney at the Pastoral Cluster Office on 5278 1343 or email frank.kearney@cam.org.au**
- ♦ **THE 8 UNITS AT 5 MALONE ST GEELONG:** Some 20 years ago the parish of Ss Peter & Paul's entered a partnership with the State Government Housing Department to provide affordable housing for pensioners. The upshot of the partnership is that the Church land (formerly the tennis courts) was given over to the Housing Department so that they could build units which they administer. As part of the partnership agreement the parish has the right to nominate residents for those units. When a unit becomes vacant, we are expected to nominate someone fairly quickly, hence it is important for us to have a waiting list. At present there is no one on the waiting list. **Anyone interested in the possibility of living in one of the units, please contact Trish Stickland during office hours on 5278 1343.**



RELAY FOR LIFE:

Fr Mick's Mates - Bay Cruise

\$20/person - Finger food provided, BYO drink.

When... Friday February 28th

Time... 7-9pm from Cunningham Pier, Geelong. All aboard!

Contact... David Lunn 0408 378 982

Fr Mick's Mates Registrations will be taking place all through February - registration forms available (with an envelope attached) from the back of all Churches. Please place your form and money in the envelope and return through the collection plate.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

In Christian Meditation "we seek to become the person we are called to be, not by thinking about, or of, God, but by being with God"

(John Main OSB)



Meditation is a universal spiritual wisdom and a practice that we find at the core of all great religious traditions. It is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness. Meditation helps people of all ages and cultures to find a simple and practical way to awaken and deepen their spiritual life.

The Cluster Meditation group meets each Tuesday during the school term at 5.30pm in the Cluster Office, with sessions finishing at about 6.15pm. The sessions begin with a short talk (about 8 minutes) from leading spiritual directors, then we move into a short time of preparation for our 25 minute silent meditation. The mantra we use is "Maranatha" - an Aramaic word (the language that Jesus spoke) meaning "Come Lord". At the end of the session the group disperses fairly quietly and promptly.

All are invited to join the core group of eight or so people, try it out and continue if you feel it is right for you. For more information contact Fr Gerard or Frank Kearney at the Pastoral Cluster Office ph 5278 1343, or email cluster@cam.org.au

- ♦ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL** will hold their first meeting for 2014 at 1.30pm **Wed 5th February** in Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave. Members a small plate of food for afternoon tea please. For information/transport ph Tricia Joyce 5221 1986 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063. Ladies from the Cluster most welcome to attend.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL:

Help us to help others

By 2016, Geelong stands to lose up to 3,000 direct jobs in the industrial, aerospace, retail, refinery and automotive sectors. The adverse impacts on local economy and communities remained to be seen (*ABC News Fri 8 Nov 2013*).

Vinnies volunteers aim to highlight and assist people to overcome issues of poverty and hardship in their local community. This session provides attendants an opportunity to see how Vinnies volunteers are offering hand-ups to people in need by respecting their dignity, sharing the hope and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

Vinnies Information Session:

Topic - *Be Part of a Solution*

Sat 8 Feb, 9am-10.30am at Vinnies Centre, 162 Fyans St South Geelong. (Morning tea served)

Register now by phoning 0487 750 959 or email vinniesworkshops2014@yahoo.com



GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for a 2-course meal, stimulating guest speakers and the opportunity to meet new friends, all for only \$28. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Dromoland House on Pakington St. For more information and reservations, please phone Terry on 5221 7339.

Community News:

- Feb 3...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE** invites all former students, current and past parents and members of its community to the inaugural Maguire Celebration starting at 6.45pm at Simonds Stadium. The evening of music and celebration will involve the launch of the 2014 school year and the annual awards presentation. Details - schgeelong.catholic.edu.au
- Feb 8...** **LOURDES DAY MASS:** The 7th Lourdes Day Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Basilica, 10am in association with the World Day of the Sick. It is a Mass of healing and hope for sick and infirm people, their carers and all interested parishioners. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be available and there will be a blessing with Lourdes Water at the conclusion of the Mass.
- Mar 15...** **ST PATRICK'S DAY BALL:** The Geelong Irish Society invites you to its Ball at 6pm - 5 courses and entertainment, celebrating 50 years. Contact Paula on 0438 400 003.

VOLUNTEER WANTED: To play a small organ in the South Wing, McKellar Centre, for the patients on any day of the week and at a time to suit the volunteer. No binding obligation. If you can help please ph Fr Mick on 5278 1343.

COMING ATTRACTIONS TO ST MARY'S PLAZA THEATRE IN FEBRUARY:

Sun 2nd 1.30pm - How to Marry a Millionaire;	Fri 7th 7.30pm - The Kite Runner;	Sun 9th 1.30pm - The Incredible Mrs Ritchie
Fri 14th 7.30pm - Blue Jasmine	Sun 16th 1.30pm - PS I Love You;	Fri 21st 7.30pm - Kid Galahad
Sun 23rd 1.30pm - The Scapegoat;	Fri 28th 7.30pm - About Time;	

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

"... they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (Lk 2:22)

Do we give the Lord the first fruits of our time every week by attending Mass? Do we set an example for our children and grandchildren by attending Mass and joyously participating in the celebration of Mass each week? How do we know what God wants us to do unless we communicate with him?

From P1...

Seeing that God knows us intimately it's crazy that we should be anything but ourselves before him. But we sometimes go through the pretence of dressing things up, pretending otherwise or putting on a show.

Today's feast reminds us that when we encounter the presence of God a range of responses are on display. Just recall the

ones in today's Gospel: expectation, hope, frailty, thanksgiving, foreboding, puzzlement, love and joy.

May Jesus' presentation enable us to let pass in peace any need to act before God, but rather embrace a new way of encountering God's presence, where we own just how we are, and not how we would

like to be. When we do this we can enjoy the possibilities of a rich, deep and realistic relationship with God. We also find that it's so much easier to discover, with God, the causes and the actions that will lead us to healing, fulfilment and peace.