



# Pastoral Cluster

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

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## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

I have never been able to reconcile the long faces some of us put on in Lent with the prayers of the Church that describe this as 'a joyful season'. The following story takes seriously that laughter is an essential element of our Lenten observance.

Once upon a time in a nice little forest, there lived an orphaned bunny and an orphaned snake. By surprising coincidence, both were blind from birth.

One day, the bunny was hopping through the forest while the snake was slithering along the same path. The bunny tripped over the snake and fell down. 'Oh, my,' said the bunny, 'I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where I'm going. In fact, I'm also an orphan, so I don't even know what I am.' 'It's quite okay,' replied the snake, 'my story is

much the same as yours. I've been blind since birth and never knew my mother. Tell you what, I could slither over you, and figure out what you are.'

'Oh, that would be wonderful,' replied the bunny. So the snake slithered all over the bunny, and said, 'Well, you're covered with soft fur; you have really long ears; your nose twitches; and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny.'

'Oh, thank you! Thank you,' cried the bunny in obvious excitement. The bunny then suggested to the snake, 'Maybe I could feel you with my paw, and help you in the same way you've helped me.' So the bunny felt the snake all over, and remarked, 'Well, you're scaly and smooth, you have a forked tongue, you're impossible to pin down and you have no

backbone at all. I'd say you must be either a contractor, a consultant or possibly someone in senior management.'

On reflection the Gospel of the man born blind is a joyful one too. Imagine this man's elation at having his sight restored. As the story develops the all-seeing Pharisees move to spiritual blindness by putting on the blinkers of the law. They cannot recognise Jesus or his works of mercy because of their tunnel vision.

Jesus doesn't fit their worldview. Meanwhile the blind beggar, who has sight restored, goes on to gain insight about who Jesus is and the way that God works in the world; he begins to see how shallow and pathetic the Pharisees really are.

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## Fourth Sunday of Lent

(Year A - March 30, 2014.)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory to you, Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:****5th Sunday of Lent (Year A)**

1st Reading: Ezek 37:12-14  
2nd Reading: Rom 8:8-11  
Gospel: Jn 11:1-45

**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  
Croatian... 11am 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:

**Mar 31:** DeLuca family, 44 Fairy St;

**Apr 7&14:** Iannuzzi family, 17 Roxby 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:** Mary Cudmore

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Dorothy Finn, Angelina Verderame, Amirando & Maria Zanardo, Desmond Brennan, Betty Dark, Mark Lomas, Arthur Allison

**BAPTISMS:** Eamon & Tully Loman, Hunter McDonald and Gus Reed

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** June Bongiorno, Anna Alvaro, Francisca, Jesus & Kristopher Esperanza, Kath Leary, Terry Hart, Joe Vanjek, Rita Duggan McDonald, Celia Erfort, Theo DaCosta, Tanya Cervek, Kulandai Raj, Monica Duggan, Graeme Allsop, John Kimber, Kathleen Nehill, Julita Aquino

### 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, APR 6, 2014.**

(1st Sunday of the Month)

### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators  
Lectors  
Special Ministers  
Welcomers  
Projectionist

### 8.00AM

R Allum  
V Pavlovic  
**J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane, I Baulch**  
K McArthur  
R Allum

### 9.30AM

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

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators  
Lectors  
Special Ministers  
Welcomers  
Projectionist

### 6.00PM

E Cotter  
J O'Neill  
C Laffy, M Abbott, D Torpy  
B Stocks

### 11.00AM

C Neilson  
B Middleton, M Wright  
V Trinder, P Joyce, R Pugh  
D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack  
L Coles

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators  
Lectors  
Special Ministers  
Welcomers  
Projectionist

### 5.00PM

C O'Brien  
Sr J McGonigal  
N Neeld, P McGlinchey  
B Pleasance

## 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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)

## Cluster News:

**HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH RESTORATION:** As you perhaps know, significant work has been done to professionally clean the exterior of the Church. The next stage - the painting of the exterior of the Church - is now underway. The colour scheme will be the same (or at least as close as possible). In the Pastoral Cluster we are blessed with three beautiful Churches and this restoration is part of our ongoing stewardship and care of these buildings, not only for ourselves but for future generations.



**EASTER MAILOUT:** Calling all Pastoral Cluster 'Posties'! Your assistance is again required to help with the delivery of invitations to our Easter Ceremonies to all known Catholics within our Cluster. The envelopes are available at the back of each Church this weekend and are organised alphabetically by street. If you can take your own street as well as those close by, your efforts would be much appreciated and we ask that they be hand delivered over the next two weeks. Special thanks to those who have helped prepare the invitations for mailout.

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** As part of our Lenten preparation there are four opportunities for Second Rite Reconciliation -

⇒	<b>Monday 31st March</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Spirit*</b>	} * <b>Children from the schools and our Catechetical program who are making their First Reconciliation will be in attendance.</b>
⇒	<b>Tuesday 1st April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Family*</b>	
⇒	<b>Wednesday 2nd April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's*</b>	
⇒	<b>Wednesday 16th April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>	

Furthermore, Fr Mick and I are aware that these dates may not be convenient or that some people may not wish to come to Reconciliation in the dark. To accommodate this situation there will be opportunities for First Rite Reconciliation available after the 5pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's and before the 6pm Mass at Holy Spirit (5.30-5.50pm) on April 5th and 12th.

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

On the next three Sundays - the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, we will celebrate the **SCRUTINIES** - rites which are meant to uncover then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The **SECOND SCRUTINY** will be celebrated at 11am Mass at Holy Spirit on Sunday 30th March and the **THIRD SCRUTINY** will be celebrated at 9.30am Mass at Holy Family on Sunday 6th April. Please pray for our Catechumens, who became **elect** after the Rite of Election - JANE ANGLETON, TAMMY ELDREDGE and ROBYN TIGANI and our already baptized candidate JOANNA LEWIS.

### PROJECT COMPASSION:

One element of Lent is that it is a time of almsgiving, that is support for the poor and disadvantaged of our world. Over the coming weeks there will be stories of how your support for Project Compassion is a tangible and effective way of almsgiving. **Project Compassion Boxes are available at all Churches.**



**Your support for Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to build a just world by enabling vulnerable communities to be architects of their own future.**

This week we meet Martina, a teacher in the Solomon Islands. She teaches children songs from Caritas Australia's *Disaster Risk Management project* which was established because natural disasters threatened the homes and communities of people there. Through the power of nursery rhymes and songs, children are learning how to stay safe during an emergency.

**Please donate to Project Compassion today. Your donation means we can help communities around the world to prepare for the unexpected.**

**LENTEN PROGRAM - IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER:** There will be a 4-week program on Prayer that explores different ways of communing with God in prayer. The next session is 31st March. Times of the sessions are: Tuesday 1.30pm, 7.30pm and Thursday 7.30pm at Holy Spirit Hall. We thank Sr Jean McGonigal RSM for leading these sessions.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: Easter Edition - *Laughter in Heaven - Sharing the Joy* -**

There are still some copies available in the Churches.

### A CALL TO MISSION - An Invitation to Review:

Many thanks to those who filled in the survey - your thoughts and views are much appreciated and they are helpful in our Review process, as well as planning for the future. (Fr Gerard)

## RELAY FOR LIFE - FR MICK'S MATES:

*(Entertainment books available for sale \$55. Please place order with Trish 5278 1343)*

Thankyou to all those who have been engaged in the Relay for Life for 2014. There are many generous souls who have supported the Pastoral Cluster's efforts to walk in solidarity with those who have cancer, those who are survivors and those who are carers. I believe it's a great community event with people from so many different and varied walks of life coming together for a very good cause.

### CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY:

**Time:** 6.30-7pm Candle Bag Inscription & Decoration with 7.30-8pm the Candlelight Ceremony  
**Date:** Sunday 13th April  
**Place:** Deakin University Waterfront Campus: John Hay Courtyard  
**Entrance:** From Gheringhap St main entrance  
**Parking:** In the Deakin Uni Carpark CP2 off Smyth St - free after 4.30pm



**The Raffle winners of the '4Dame Raffle' were:** Kylie Behr, Elizabeth Hoffman, Paul Taylor and Frank Pellizzeri.

**HOLY FAMILY WOMENS GROUP:** The next meeting will be held **Monday 7th April at 6.30pm** (please note change of time). At 7pm, following a short meeting, our guest speaker will be Fr Kevin Dillon who will report on the recent Vic Parliamentary Enquiry into sexual abuse of children within religious institutions. Everyone is welcome to join us to hear Fr Dillon report on the current situation.

**MANIFOLD CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE:** Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th April, 1.30pm** in Holy Spirit Hall. Please note change of date. For transport/information ph Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 or Noella Duggan 5278 2142.

## Community News:

- Mar 30...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE GEELONG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:** Annual General Meeting and Reunion at Celestine Moran Hospitality Centre, Sacred Heart College, 1-3.30pm. Ph 5222 0403 for details or email [ksuvoltos@shcgeelongcatholic.edu.au](mailto:ksuvoltos@shcgeelongcatholic.edu.au)
- "** **SURF COAST RURAL AUSTRALIANS FOR REFUGEES FILM NIGHT: *Train to Lisbon*.** 4pm at Reading Cinema, Waurin Ponds. Tickets ph Carmel 0417 326 940, Wesley Centre Office, 218 Ryrie St or Wing and a Prayer Book Shop, 75 Malop St.
- April 2...** **SAMARITAN HOUSE GEELONG LTD: *The Great Gatsby*** has unfortunately been cancelled. Monies paid will be refunded. Enquiries ph 5243 2870.
- April 5...** **GEELONG RALLY FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS** - End Mandatory Detention; End offshore processing; it's NOT illegal to seek asylum: Market Square Mall, Lt Malop St at 12.30pm.
- April 12...** **THE STUDY TOUR OF BIBLICAL LANDS:** Catholic Theological College 15 Nov-18 Dec to Jordan, Israel,, Palestinian Territories, Turkey and Greece. Information session 2pm. RSVP/information ph 9412 3314, email [jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au](mailto:jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au)
- April 13...** **PRAYER SERVICE IN SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES ASYLUM SEEKERS:** 1-1.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with celebrant Bishop Vincent Long. *Whoever turns refugees away forgets that Jesus was also one* (Pope Francis 2013)
- "** **WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES:** Palm Sunday at the State Library, Melbourne, cnr Swanston & Latrobe Sts

### GOOD WORKS - GOOD LIFE PROGRAM:

During Lent St Bernard's Parish is taking a close look at some of the good works that help make Geelong a better place to live. On April 3 *Employing Young People who have a Disability, DAL - Gourmet Café and Catering Business*. All sessions begin 7.30pm.

**CWL SPANISH PILGRIMAGE:** The Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga is organizing a Pilgrimage through Spain and Portugal - dates **10th to 22nd October 2014**. Following the pathways of the great Spanish Saints - Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, along part of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, it will finish at the revered Marian site at Fatima. Anyone is welcome to join the Pilgrimage which will be accompanied by an experienced bi-lingual guide and Chaplain, Fr Tony Shallue, PP Myrtleford. Deposits are due by **10th April**. Full details from Sylvia: email [f.sneaves@wideband.net.au](mailto:f.sneaves@wideband.net.au)

### CATHOLIC SECONDARY COLLEGES OPEN DAYS:

**Thursday April 24...** **St Joseph's College**, Newtown Campus: 135 Aphrasia St Newtown; Westcourt Campus: 31 Minerva Rd Herne Hill. Pre-register for our Open Day online at [www.sjc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sjc.vic.edu.au) Ph: 5226 8100, email: [sjcoffice@sjc.vic.edu.au](mailto:sjcoffice@sjc.vic.edu.au)

**LENTEN MEDITATIONS:** **Music at the Basilica Inc** presents Lenten Meditations on the Wednesdays of Lent - 2nd and 9th April from 5.15-5.45pm. Enjoy music, readings and quiet reflections at the end of a busy day. Enquiries Maureen Zampatti 0407 680 751.

**If you would like to know more about the work of the Truth Justice and Healing Council which is the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, please visit website to sign on to the weekly newsletter: [www.tjhcouncil.org.au/](http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au/).**

/From P1...

This Gospel also contains a critical theological lesson: disability and illness do not come from personal sinfulness. It's surprising that we need to keep saying this, but too readily we hear otherwise intelligent and good Christians, for example, telling us that some illnesses have been 'sent' by God as punishment for sins or they wonder what their families have 'done' to deserve disabled children. It's true that God permits

us to live in an imperfect world where we are prone to illness and disability. But that same world gives us the freedom to be creative in the face of adversity, to be compassionate with those who are sick or disabled and free to believe that there is a purpose for each human life. God, the source of all love, does not actively send bad things to us, instead, he is our constant companion in dealing with them; giving us the courage and strength to cope with, and

sometimes overcome, them.

The task of this joyful season is to bring our good humour and compassion to bear on the blind spots in our own lives and be on our guard for the times when we are too confident about who God is, how he works or what he can or cannot do. May it never be said of us that we were so consumed by our own religious vision that we missed God's woods for the trees.