



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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Fr Mick Fitzpatrick

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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
St Patrick's -	Basil Flynn	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

The gospel story about doubting Thomas has to be one of the most misunderstood episodes in the New Testament.

If you're like me, for years we have been consoled by Thomas doubting that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Thomas' doubts were in Jesus, we have been led to believe. But let's read the story very carefully. It's not Jesus Thomas doubts, it's the disciples. In fact when Jesus appears to them seven days later, Thomas has the opportunity to share in the experience of the Risen Lord and like the others he immediately confesses Easter faith.

There are three elements in this story that should give us great comfort. The first is that Thomas doubts the early Church, and not just in regard to a minor issue of discipline or procedure. He doubts the central Christian

message: that God raised Jesus from the dead. Some of us, too, at various times in our lives, can have doubts about all sorts of things in our faith. There are very few Catholics who get through life without asking some serious questions of God, about Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. These questions are good in themselves. They are necessary for a mature, adult faith. What we need to ensure is that we sincerely want answers to the questions we ask and not just use them to justify our wandering away from our faith. Thomas is the patron saint of all of us who sometimes struggle to believe what everyone else in the church seems to accept. And he is also the patron saint of those of us who seek the courage and patience to wait for the answers.

The second consoling fact to this story concerns the earliest Church. Even though they were filled with the presence of the Risen Lord and though Thomas refuses to believe their witness, they remain faithful to him in his doubts. We know this because he is still with them a week later. They didn't expel him from the group or excommunicate him, they held on to him in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself.

Sadly for us, today, there are some who argue that Catholics who struggle with their faith should 'shape up or ship out'. While every group has its boundaries and there are limits to what people can dissent from, we could take the earliest Church as our model and stay faithful to our doubters and help them come to see the transforming truth that has changed our lives. /Cont'd P4...



LEST WE FORGET



2nd Sunday of Easter

(Year A - April 27, 2014.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33
2nd Reading: 1Pet 1:17-21
Gospel: Lk 24:13-35



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.

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

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Fred Nogger, Dot Connors

ANNIVERSARIES: Robert & Kathleen Convery, Anne Walpole, Josephine Mullavey, Maria Ivelja, Angelo Negro, Hannah Barr, Manuel Almeida Jnr, Joseph & John Brady, Stefania & Stanislaw Gwizdek, Antonio & Josephine Puglia

BAPTISMS: Hayden Ellis, Lenny Parsons, Liliana Wood

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

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, May 4, 2014

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

8.00AM

R Allum

Lectors

V Pavlovic

Special Ministers

J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane, I Baulch

Welcomers

K McArthur

Projectionist

R Allum

9.30AM

J Siketa

C&J Taylor

P Carmody, D Farrar, R Zanardo, B Kline, L Greco

M&E Hoffman

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

6.00PM

E Cotter

Lectors

J O'Neill

Special Ministers

C Laffy, M Abbott, D Torpy

Welcomers

B Stocks

Projectionist

11.00AM

C Neilson

B Middleton, M Wright

V Trinder, R Pugh

D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack

L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

5.00PM

C O'Brien

Lectors

Sr J McGonigal

Special Ministers

N Neeld, P McGlinchey

Welcomers

B Pleasance

Projectionist

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:

- **Pastoral Cluster Luncheon -** First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.
 - **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:



DIVINE MERCY:

The Divine Mercy Feast will be celebrated on April 27th this year at Holy Spirit Church at 2pm with Rosary and Divine Mercy prayers. 3pm Holy Mass concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Confession from 1pm. Please join in to spend an afternoon on this day with Our Lord.

THANKYOU, THANKYOU! - There's a saying "it takes a whole village to raise a child", it likewise takes a whole village to have the Easter Ceremonies that we have. There are too many to thank individually, but to our sacristans, musicians, special ministers, readers, commentators, collectors, the RCIA team, co-ordinators - but thanks for a job well done. Your involvement enables us to celebrate well the core of our Christian faith. One person I would like to thank in particular is Frank Kearney, the Liturgy Co-ordinator for the Pastoral Cluster. Also special thanks to Sr Jean who led four sessions of Formation in Prayer and in doing so opened up the possibilities to experience a variety of prayer in our rich Catholic tradition.

Next week the results of the first Parish Survey will be made available.

PARISH FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM: This program is for children from Catholic families who attend a non-Catholic primary school. The children must have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The program begins on **Sunday 1st June** and finishes on **Tuesday 15th July**. The First Eucharist celebrations will be on the last two weekends of July. **ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON WED 28TH MAY**. For further details contact the Pastoral Cluster Office on 5278 1343 or email cluster@cam.org.au

RELAY FOR LIFE - FR MICK'S MATES:

I am delighted to announce that Fr Mick's Mates again has won the highest fundraiser for the Relay for Life event for 2014 in Geelong. This win is a testimony to the Fr Mick's Mates hard working committee and all those who support the various endeavours within the parish and beyond. Together we raised over \$15,000 which in turn will mean that three Research Awards will now be undertaken. Congratulations to all concerned - great work!!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are a way to save up to 50% or receive 2 for 1 offers from many of the best restaurants, arts, attractions, hotels, travel, shopping and much, much more **AND** they are available for sale at the Cluster Office for \$55. Please contact Trish on 5278 1343 - all proceeds to Fr Mick's Mates (available for collection now). Order forms available at the back of each Church.

MOTHERS FOR MOTHERS HIGH TEA: Tickets have now sold out.

HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP are conducting a Mothers' Day Raffle. Tickets are available after 8am and 9.30am Masses this Sunday. There are a variety of prizes, cost per ticket is \$1 or 3 for \$2 and it will be drawn on Mother's Day. Good luck one and all!

SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: You are invited to attend on **April 30**, 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall. Cost \$10 - all very welcome!!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- May 5...** **FR RICHARD LEONARD**, well known author and commentator, will speak about the role of the Internet in our lives at a free community presentation in McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College, 7pm. His address ***The World in our Face - How do people of faith download the best and leave the rest?***, will be followed by supper. All welcome!
- May 17...** **CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY:** Invitation to a Reflective Experience 9.15am-1pm at the Auction Room, National Wool Museum with lunch to follow at the Black Sheep Café. RSVP by **May 9** to 0409 430 396 or noreen.nicholson@gmail.com
- May 14...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 'THE EVENT':** An evening of fine dining and the chance to share the story of a Sacred Heart College Alumni with guest speaker Kristi Van Es - Offspring Project. From 6.30pm at Lyndon Grove, \$50/person, 3 course meal with drinks from the bar - tables of 10. Enquiries to Kelly Suvoltos 5222 0403 or alumni@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au. All proceeds donated to Offspring.
- May 18...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Annual Luncheon Social 12.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall. Open invitation to members, widows and family. Cost \$10/person, bring a casserole or a sweet to share, drinks supplied. Ph Joe Lambert on 5229 8442 to confirm attendance. Proceeds to overseas missions.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers and our Australian response is an important social issue today. To assist you in forming your own views on this important issue, a summary of the Catholic social teaching on migration and asylum from various sources presented by the Australian Bishops is outlined below.

***I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Mt25:35) -
What the Catholic Church teaches on asylum and migration:***

Healing the Global Wound - The Catholic Church teaches that all people have the right to live a dignified life in their homeland. Tragically, over 45 million people around the world are displaced. This festering wound typifies and reveals the imbalances and conflicts of the modern world. War, natural calamities, persecution and discrimination of every kind have deprived millions of their home, employment, family and homeland.

The right to seek asylum - The Catholic Church teaches that anyone whose life is threatened has the right to protection. Whether because of persecution, armed conflicts, natural disasters, or economic conditions that threaten their lives or physical integrity. It is the element of persecution, threat or danger, or being forcibly displaced that gives rise to a right to seek asylum rather than to migrate through ordinary channels.

Human Dignity - The Catholic Church teaches that human life is sacred because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Human dignity is inalienable. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival.

Devotion to Humanity - The Catholic Church teaches that all nations have a right to regulate migration across their borders. This right is coupled with the duty to protect and help innocent victims and those fleeing for their lives. The right of nations to regulate their borders is an extension of the right of all persons to live a dignified life in their community. Borders are for the protection of people, not for the exclusion of people seeking protection.

Justice and Mercy - The Catholic Church teaches that the purpose of the law is to serve justice and mercy. Laws, which subject asylum seekers to arbitrary and prolonged immigration detention or banish them from seeking protection, fail to uphold justice and mercy and are immoral. It is not illegal to seek asylum. Many asylum seekers are survivors of crimes, torture and trauma. Indefinite detention adds further stress and suffering, impacting on their mental and physical health. The Catholic Church advocates the implementation of just and rapid procedures to determine each person's claim for protection.

Solidarity - The Catholic Church teaches that the most vulnerable people are not simply those who are in a needy situation to whom we kindly offer an act of solidarity, but are members of our family with whom we have a duty to share the resources we have. Solidarity towards migrants and refugees is inscribed in the common membership to the human family.

The right to be part of a community - The Catholic Church teaches that all people have the right to be part of a community. Asylum seekers who have been forced from their homeland have a duty to integrate into the host community. We must favour this integration by helping migrants to find a place where they can live in peace and safety, where they can work and take on the rights and duties that exist in the country that welcomes them.

Welcome the stranger - Jesus identifies himself as a stranger to be welcomed (Mt25:35). The Catholic Church teaches that Christ has in some way united himself to every person, whether or not one is aware of this. Christ will consider done to himself the kind of treatment that is reserved to any human person, in particular to the least among them, the stranger. While the gospel compels us to welcome strangers it also presents the opportunity to practice the commandment to love God *"with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength"* and to love the other *as you love yourself"* (Mark12:29-31). Pope John Paul II invites us to an ever deeper awareness of the mission of the Catholic Church: *"to see Christ in every brother and sister in need, to proclaim and defend the dignity of every migrant, every displaced person and every refugee. In this way, assistance given will not be considered an alms from the goodness of our heart, but an act of justice due to them."*

The Holy Family in Exile - The exiled Holy Family of Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, is the archetype of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, pilgrim and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave their native land, their beloved parents and relatives, their close friends, and to seek a foreign soil. For God decreed that his only Son should experience the hardship and grief of exile. The firstborn among many of our brothers and sisters, and precede them in it. For this reason, the Catholic Church seeks to look after and care for refugees and migrants in their trials and welcome the stranger who knocks at our door seeking refuge.

/From P1...

The final element in this extraordinary story which can help us in our Easter faith concerns the significance of the time between the first and second appearances of Jesus. We're told it was seven days and the parallel to the story of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of John's Gospel. And even though the earliest disciples experience the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, they are still locked in their fears one week later. The creation of

the early Church, the movement of its earliest leaders from timidity to boldness took time and having a doubter in their midst ends up a great blessing for them all, for Christ is present at every step of the Church's creation and re-creation as well.

This story was written for people like us who do not have access to the historical Jesus. The birth of the Church is an ongoing act of God's creation in every generation. It takes time, and people will be at different stages

at different moments. Our fidelity to one another on the long journey of faith is only surpassed by our Crucified God who does not give up on us, no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt.

May this Eucharist give us confidence enough to hold on to each other in good times and bad so that we can all continue to experience his presence and have life in his name.