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Phone: 5278 1343 Fa	ax: 5278 4618 Email	: <u>cluster@cam</u>	org.au		
Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.					
Trish Stickland -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <u>trish.sticl</u>	kland@cam.or	g.au)	
Bernadette Bilogrevic	- Phone 5278 1343 (email: <u>cluster@</u>	<u>cam.org.au)</u>		
Frank Kearney -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <u>frank.kea</u>	rney@cam.or	g.au)	
Helen Brislane -	Phone 5278 1343 (email: <u>helen.bri</u>	slane@cam.or	<u>g.au</u>)	
Holy Family -	Brian Everett Sepa	ration St, Bell I	Park	Phone 5278 4634	
Holy Spirit -	Mary Abbott Mine	erva Rd Manifo	ld Hts	Phone 5229 8298	
St Patrick's -	Jan Fagan (Acting)	Petrel St, Geo	elong West	Phone 5229 4412	
	147 Separation St Bell Phone: 5278 1343 Fa Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5p Trish Stickland - Bernadette Bilogrevic Frank Kearney - Helen Brislane - Holy Family - Holy Spirit -	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215Phone: 5278 1343Fax: 5278 4618EmailMon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.Trish Stickland -Phone 5278 1343 (cBernadette Bilogrevic -Phone 5278 1343 (cFrank Kearney -Phone 5278 1343 (cHelen Brislane -Phone 5278 1343 (cHoly Family -Brian EverettHoly Spirit -Mary Abbott	147 Separation St Bell Park 3215Phone: 5278 1343 Fax: 5278 4618 Email: cluster@cam.Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.Trish Stickland -Bernadette Bilogrevic -Phone 5278 1343 (email: trish.sticlBernadette Bilogrevic -Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@Frank Kearney -Phone 5278 1343 (email: frank.keaHelen Brislane -Holy Family -Holy Spirit -Mary AbbottMinerva Rd Manifor	Intermediatorial147 Separation St Bell Park 3215Phone: 5278 1343Fax: 5278 4618Email: cluster@cam.org.auMon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.Trish Stickland -Phone 5278 1343 (email: trish.stickland@cam.orBernadette Bilogrevic -Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@cam.org.au)Frank Kearney -Phone 5278 1343 (email: frank.kearney@cam.orHelen Brislane -Phone 5278 1343 (email: helen.brislane@cam.orHoly Family -Brian EverettHoly Spirit -Mary AbbottMary AbbottMinerva Rd Manifold Hts	

Reflection by Richard Leonard

here is an old line that runs. 'If you feel distant from God - guess who has moved?' It picks up the theme in the Romans reading which we have just heard, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.'

In the midst of persecution and suffering, St Paul writes to the community at Rome to tell them that, even in their fear, desolation and grief, nothing, and no one, can separate them from God's love. This shows us that when we feel separated from God we may have walked away from him, usually through destructive behaviour that sets up and maintains distance between us and the source of our faith. hope and love.

St Matthew and Isaiah also knew that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Isaiah's river of plenty and Matthew's loaves and fish are all about the plenty of God's kingdom, the abundance of God's goodness.

Too often we focus on the miracle of transformation that occurs in Matthew's Gospel when all he tells about the actual miracle is that Jesus 'breaks and shares'. Matthew is more interested in the leftovers than he is in the miracle itself. From five loaves and two fish we are told twelve baskets of scraps are left over.

Numbers are rarely random in the Bible. The echo of the seven days of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of this story as Jesus takes seven fruits of the earth to feed the crowd. Similarly, the twelve baskets of scraps, the remnants of the meal at which all were filled and satisfied, echo the sign of God through the twelve tribes of

Israel in the Old Testament.

For us today this story also has consoling resonance. Matthew is telling us that Jesus sees our need, does not turn us away, comes to where we are, as we are, and recreates us through the abundance of his love, so we can be signs of His kingdom in the world.

The Church has always believed that the feeding of the crowd prefigured the Eucharist, this weekly time where we receive the fullness of God in his Word. in the life of the community, in the minister and through the transformation of the Bread and Wine.

/Cont'd P4

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A - August 3, 2014.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O God, come to my assistance;

O Lord, make haste to help me!

You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: 2nd Reading: Gospel:

1Kg 19:9,11-13 Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33



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: Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West: Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts: English... 8am and 9.30am Sunday 6.00pm Saturday 5.00pm Saturday Croatian... 11am Sunday 11am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 11am 2nd & 4th Sundays Slovenian.. 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month 9.30am - Italian Mass at St Patrick's Filipino... 5.00pm every 3rd Saturday of the month WEEKDAY MASSES: Holy Family: 9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs Holy Spirit: 9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat. Reconciliation after Saturday Mass 10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues; Grace McKellar Centre: Maryville Nursing Home: 11am Tues; Multicultural Centre: 1.30pm - 1st Fri Vincentian Village: 3.00pm -Mon 1st & 3rd Sundays 12noon at Holy Spirit, 2nd & 4th Sundays 12noon at Ss P&P, BAPTISMS: 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 St Patrick's Chapel Thurs... Italian Prayer Group 10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament After 11am Mass Holy Spirit Church Fri... Holy Spirit Church Fri... Divine Mercy 3.00pm Sat... Rosary After 9am Mass Holy Spirit Church

OUR LADY'S STATUE:

Aug 4/11 - Sheahan family,76 Sladen St; Aug 18/24 - Trinder family, 20 Downie Pl. If anyone would like to have Our Lady's Statue or if you could spare an hour a month to help, ph Tina Montalto on 5278 9314.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:

Patricia McMahon, Roma Brown

ANNIVERSARIES: Janina Duraj, Hypol Fernandes, Sante Greed (1 year), Jim Cudmore, Dorothy Fairbrother, Margaret Slaymaker, Jozef Lichtenfeld, Joy Scaddan, Raffaele & Tonino Gulli (Italy), Imelda Wood, Joseph Hagebols, Kate Dempsey, Cath Edwards, Vincent Barbaro, Rocco Cutri, Achille DiFilippo, Ercole Iezzi, Rocco Resciniti, Pranas Saldukas

BAPTISMS: George Bradby, George Stokes, Georgie and Lachlan Wright

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, Monica Duggan, Julita Aquino, Manuel Almeida, Anita Capicchiano, Cheryl Lambert, Barbara Mason, Joan Gazenbeek

Roster for Next Sunday, August 10, 2014

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

8.00AM R Allum F O'Neill I Vanjek, R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio C Marcantonio, R Allum

<u>6.00PM</u>

D Ryan J Ryan B Murphy, R O'Neill, J Ryan M Brown J Lynch

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

<u>5.00PM</u>

A Hubbard P Power, P Hubbard P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchey

9.30AM

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

<u>11.00AM</u>

E Strzelecki M Martin, A Kissane E Strzelecki, L Fossey, M Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey R Martin

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:

First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share. Pastoral Cluster Luncheon -. Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share. Holy Family Luncheon -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 Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre Legion of Mary -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) . Holv Spirit -1st and 3rd Sundays at 11am Mass (during school term) 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11.00am Mass (during school term) Ss Peter & Paul's-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 Second Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Dromoland. Dinner & Guest speaker. Ph Terry on 5221 7339 Catholic Diners' Club -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:

PRIESTS' CONFERENCE: On the evening of Monday 4th August through to Thursday afternoon, Fr Mick and I will be away at the annual Melbourne Archdiocesan Priests' Conference.

- Tuesday 9.15am Holy Family Communion Service (NB: No Mass at Grace McKellar)
- Wednesday 9.00am Holy Spirit Communion Service
- Thursday 9.15am Holy Family Mass as normal

FAREWELL AND WELCOME: Firstly we say farewell to Mons James Murray who has been the resident in the unit behind the Pastoral Cluster Office. The Monsignor has now moved to Rice Village. We wish him every good health and blessing in his new abode. I'm sure in his customary outgoing and generous way he will contribute to the life at Rice Village. Secondly, we welcome Olivier, Patrick, Ishema and Serge, refugees from North Kivu - the north east of Democratic Congo, who will now reside in the unit for the next 3-5 weeks until a more permanent arrangement is made. Please make them very welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - Education Assistance Program, Geelong Region

A new initiative established by St Vincent de Paul in Geelong is its Education Assistance Program to support needy families to cover the cost of Catholic Secondary Education. SVDP recognizes that one of the most effective ways for people to break out of the poverty cycle is through good education. A brochure and information on how to support this program will be in the bulletin in coming weeks.

HELP NEEDED FOR RCIA PROGRAM: Over the last couple of weeks Fr Mick has been seeking volunteers to assist with accompanying those who express an interest in becoming a Catholic. If you are interested, the catechetical sessions will be held at 7.30pm-9pm on Wednesdays throughout the school terms, commencing on Wednesday 13th August. The sessions will normally be at the Cluster Centre, Bell Park. Fr Mick would love to hear from anyone willing to help in this important work.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The Manifold Branch meeting will be held at 1.30pm in Holy Spirit Hall, Wednesday 6th August. Please return Mary Glowrey Cause Raffle books and any member attending the General Conference can pay registration at this meeting. For information/transport ph Tricia Joyce 5221 1986 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.

HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: Just a reminder that this month's meeting will include a Dutch Auction. Please bring an item along this Monday at 7pm. Also, tickets will be available for our Father's Day Raffle.

MOVIE FESTIVAL for				SCHOOL MASSES FOR AUGUST
Fr Mick's Mates		Aug 8 Aug 14 Aug 15	11am - Holy Spirit School (Gr 3/4) 9.15am - Holy Family School (Gr 5/6) 9.15am - Holy Family School (Whole School) 9.45am - St Patrick's School (Whole School)	
When Time Where	September 10, 2013 7.30pm	" Aug 21	11am - Holy Spirit School (Whole School) 9.15am - Holy Family School (Gr 1/2)	
	St Mary's Plaza Theatre & Hibernian Hall	Aug 22 Aug 28 Aug 29	11am - Holy Spirit School (Gr 1/2)	
	Cost	\$20 - Includes Finger Food, Tea and Coffee served after Movie.		UPCOMING CLUSTER EVENTS Dates for your Diary -
For tickets ph David Lunn 0408 378 982 or Noreen Haberman 5229 9352		Oct 26 Nov 4	KRISTMAS FOR KUYA - Philippines Partnership MELBOURNE CUP DAY LUNCHEON	

Cluster News /Cont'd:



LEGION OF MARY:

The legion of Mary is a Lay Catholic Apostolic Movement beginning in 1921 in Ireland, with many millions of members throughout the world who, with special devotion to Mary, are at the service of the Church as she leads us to Jesus. We aim to assist the Priest and Parish in a deeper love of God especially through the Rosary and the works deemed necessary to foster our Christian calling. If you are interested in joining our group you are most welcome. We meet at 9.30am on each Friday at the Holy Family Community Centre. Ph John 0409 042 393 or Cristita 5277 0979

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK: (3rd - 10th August)

The theme for this year is from Pope Francis' Letter for World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "Every vocation is an exodus from self ... it leads us on a journey of Adoration of the Lord ... and service to him in our brothers and sisters". A reminder to all of us that all vocations require sacrifice and service. Whether married, consecrated life, priesthood or apostolic celibacy - we are all called to serve God and our neighbour. Please pray that many young people may hear the Lord's call to serve, particularly in priesthood and religious life.

Community News:

Aug 14/15/16... "ALL SHOOK UP": St Joseph's College in association with Clonard and Sacred Heart Colleges, will present this musical at The Playhouse GPAC at 7.30pm. The season will conclude with a performance Sat Aug 16 at 5pm.

- Aug 16... CHORAL WORKSHOP will be held at St Luke's Uniting Church Highton from 10am to 3.30pm. With Rick Prakhoff, Manfred Pohlenz, Hugh Davidson morning and a/noon tea provided, BYO lunch. Cost \$20 senior students no charg. Ph Jane 0447 238 432 by 1st August to register.
- Aug 21... ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES: Featuring Greg Craven, Vice Chancellor of Aust Catholic University "Children, Cows and Catholicism" at the CQ Club, 113-123 Qeen St Melb 7am-9am. \$45/head, ph 0439 172 465.
- Aug 31... MUSIC AT THE BASILICA: *Psalmfest* will be held at St Luke's at 3pm with proceeds to Anam Cara House. Dr Malcolm John Conductor, Brendon Lukin organ and Marianne Black and Allister Cox cantors. Ph Jeannette 5223 3554 to join the occasional choir and arrange for music to be prepared for you.
- Sept 10... ANNUAL DEANERY DINNER: At Dromoland House, Pakington St \$45/person for a 2-course meal and a night of lively Cabaret music with Bert LaBonte and the Dave Gardner Quartet. Please contact Catherine Moon 5222 1977.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE ENROLMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2015: Limited places are available in Years 9 and 11. Closing date for applications is Friday 22 August. Ph the Registrar, Judy Smith, for further information on 5222 0490.

Royal Commission to review the Melbourne Response

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has announced that it will be holding a public hearing commencing on Monday, 18 August, to examine the Melbourne Response. The Royal Commission has allowed two weeks for the hearing.

The scope and purpose of the hearing is to inquire into how the Melbourne Response has responded to victims of child sexual abuse and allegations of child sexual abuse against personnel of the Archdiocese, the experience of people who have engaged in the Melbourne Response and any other related matters.

It is anticipated that the Royal Commission will hear from victims who have used the Melbourne Response, Archbishop Hart and Cardinal Pell who established the Melbourne Response whilst Archbishop of Melbourne as well as the Independent Commissioners, Compensation Panel and Carelink.

The Archdiocese respects the Royal Commission and is committed to full co-operation with the inquiry being undertaken by the Royal Commission. Information about the involvement of the Archdiocese with the Royal Commission will be available at <u>www.cam.org.au/Royal-Commission</u>.

Our prayers are with the victims and their families and those entrusted with the conduct of the Royal Commission.

- Mons Greg Bennet

/From P1...

It's all about abundance. Our God has abundantly provided for us so that we can abundantly provide for all the world which is given into our care. 'Those to whom much is given, much is required.' The problem is that when we look around we see that while some of us have so much, others have nothing at all.

If this reality doesn't move us to a change of heart and right action then we have not understood the story of the loaves and the fish, that God's goodness is never intended for a select few. Sometimes people look at the poverty in the world and think, 'How could God allow that?' This question can cause us to feel distant from God, but in light of what God has given us and our ability to share from this abundance, when we think like and feel like this, guess who has moved away from whom?