



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:

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LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:

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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 -	Jan Fagan (Acting)	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small

statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings - Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not

held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

/Cont'd P4

2nd Sunday of Advent

(Year B - December 7, 2014.)

ADVENT RESPONSE:

Lord, help us to trust in your love for us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

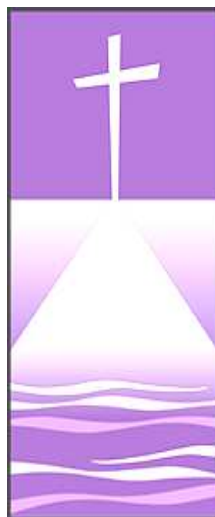
Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**3rd Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Is 61:1-2,10-11
2nd Reading: 1Thess 5:16-24
Gospel: Jn 1:6-8,19-28

**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
 Slovenian.. 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month
 Filipino... 5.00pm every 3rd Saturday of the month

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:

Dec 8-15: Moore family, 39 Willana Ave.

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: Yvonne Hart, Frank Kerley and Renee Sheedy

ANNIVERSARIES: Lou & Tony Past, Gerard Gillett, Alison Carmody, Len Pollard and 1 month since death of Salvatore Daniele

BAPTISMS: Sophia Galle, Domenic Servello and Frankie Szponar

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Julita Aquino, Anita Capicchiano, Cheryl Lambert, Barbara Mason, Thomas & Harry Mallon, Pat Walsh, Theo DaCosta, Denis Brown, Vernon Bowers

Please note: *After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list . Please phone the office on 5278 1343 if you wish names reinserted.*

Roster for Next Sunday, Dec 14, 2014

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

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

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Baird, J Sheahan, M Perera,

V Resciniti, E Glynn

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

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

5.00PM

A Hubbard

P Power, P Hubbard

P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchey

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin, A Kissane

E Strzelecki, L Fossey,

M Broekman, D Dougherty, L Fossey

R Martin

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
- **Legion of Mary -** Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre
- **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 Tues of each month, 6pm at Berkely Lodge. 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.pastoralclusterqeelong.org

Cluster News:



DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS:

We require your assistance once again to deliver the Christmas invitations that have been left over in the Churches. Please collect from the Parish Office, 147 Separation St Bell Park. We need them to be delivered this week. Many thanks - Fr Mick

- **R.C.I.A. (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS):** The period of Enquiry has finished. This Sunday, Dec 7th at the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and Welcome to Baptismal Candidates. Our Catechumens are **Nancy Henderson, Kirsty Phillips and Michelle Rundle**. Our Baptised Candidates are **Shaun Lipski and Kirsten Day** (absent today). Please pray for these good people, welcome and support them in their faith journey. - Fr Mick
- **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** Available for purchase from the Piety Stall in the Holy Spirit Church from 16th November until 13th December. Cards (pkts of 8) at \$7 and Calendars \$9 and Holy Family calendars available at \$9.
- **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HOLY FAMILY AND Ss PETER & PAUL'S CONFERENCES JESSIE (GIVING) TREE APPEAL:** Today you are asked to take a slip of paper or more slips if you wish, and bring the items named with any other non-perishable food you wish to donate to Mass next weekend and place your gifts at Holy Family on the carpeted steps in front of the choir pit, or at Ss Peter & Paul's in the alcove inside the front door on the right. As well as the food items, if you have any new toys for children these can be used as Christmas presents for the children of the needy. If wrapping the presents please put a note on the outside saying for what age group and whether for a girl or boy. Thankyou in anticipation for making Christmas a little happier for those less fortunate than ourselves and showing them someone cares. ***Our Conference will NOT be making a cash collection this weekend.***
- **HOLY SPIRIT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** Will have their annual Christmas Appeal collection at Holy Spirit Church on this weekend of **Dec 6/7**. This appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming holy season of Christmas.
- **SENIORS LUNCH THANKYOU:** Thankyou to the organizers and helpers who devote their time each year serving the Seniors with such a scrumptious meal and yummy sweets with kindness and love. Also Fr Mick for the Healing Mass. We all appreciate it so much. - *George McK and friends*

PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP

- * **WISH LIST:** The Wish List highlights a variety of programs that you can support. What the 'Wish List' shows is that a relatively small amount, by our standards, can make an extraordinary difference in the lives of our Filipino friends. Copies of 'Wish List' are available at the Office.
- * **THANKYOU FROM FR KEVIN O'NEILL:** *I would like to thank everyone in the Cluster for your hard work and generosity in running the various activities to raise financial support for the work of the Columbans in the Philippines. The ongoing partnership between the Cluster and the Columbans over many years is very much valued and appreciated. The changes made in the lives of the poor of the Philippines is huge due to the support from everyone in the Cluster. Mum and Dad wrote to say that the fundraising event for Kuya and the Partnership Program was a great occasion. Be assured of my continued prayers for everyone in the Cluster, which includes the teachers and children at the three schools. With best wishes - God bless.*
- * **THANKYOU FROM FR PETER O'NEILL:** *Greetings from Taiwan. I would like to thank the Cluster for once again donating a large amount of money to our Columban parish in Malate, Manila to assist the needs of the poor in the parish. Your generosity and zealous missionary work in raising so much money is exemplary. I proudly informed all the Columbans in Taiwan how hard the Cluster worked to raise the money for Malate church. The Cluster is an inspirational example of the wonderful partnership with our Columban Society. May God bless you, the parishioners, teachers and students, for your generosity. Wishing you a happy Advent season and advanced Merry Christmas - take care.*

FR MICK'S MATES:

- * Please return all raffle tickets by **December 14th**.
- * **Raffle Tickets \$1** - Crochet blanket, Gourmet Basket with relishes, jams, shortbreads, etc, Milana's Lingerie & Swimwear Voucher, Perfume Pack, Beauty Pack.
- * **Christmas Market Stalls** - Holy Spirit December 7 and Ss Peter & Paul's December 13/14.



2015:

February...

February 8...

March 13...

**March 21/22...

September 10...

November 3...

December...

Team Registrations - forms available at all Churches

Fr Mick's Mates BBQ - at Bunnings

Fr Mick's Little Mates

Relay for Life Event at Geelong Showgrounds (Please note change of date)

Movie Night - at St Mary's (2 sessions)

Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Christmas Hamper - Sales and Raffles

**** PLEASE NOTE: Relay for Life Event Change of Date** - Due to venue being double booked it will now be held on **March 21/22, 2015**



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: Please take your copy of **Australian Catholics** magazine - free today at the back of all Churches. This Christmas Issue **Hope at Christmas** includes articles on **The Expendables of the Bible; A New Dawn in Dili, A Christmas Wishlist and a special on 12 Days of Christmas Challenge**. Great reading!

Community News:

Dec 13... **NIGHTSCAPE CHRISTMAS:** Next social event in the Pioneer Room, 1st Floor St Mary's Parish Office. Enquiries or ticketing email nightscape@iinet.net.au

Dec 16-24... **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASSES:** 5.30am at St Francis, Corio - 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. More details ph parish office on 5275 4120.

Dec 25... **GEELONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER:** Christ Church Hall, cnr Moorabool & McKillop St from 9.30am-3.30pm with lunch 12noon. For catering purposes ph SVDP 5221 9170 or 0408 133 561. Available to any person or small family at no cost who may be alone and would like to join others to celebrate this special day in true Christmas spirit.

DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST - Sunday 7 December:

This Sunday has been designated a Day of Solidarity with the Christians of the Middle East by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Australian Bishops received a letter of request from the Conference of Bishops and Representatives of the Middle Eastern Apostolic Churches in Australia and New Zealand seeking the support of the Australian Catholics. The Conference unanimously supported the request that 7 Dec 2014 be a day of Solidarity, involving prayer and a financial offering to help alleviate the suffering of Christians, especially the many Iraqi refugees. The request comes as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

We are aware that the situation for Christians and other minorities in the Middle East is deteriorating by the day, especially as the northern winter will set in soon. Communities that have been present in the region since apostolic times are being driven out in the midst of unspeakable atrocities. The present tragedy in the Middle East not only impacts upon the communities of the area, but has far-reaching implications for the peace and security of the world.

LEAVING COLLECTION FOR CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: After each Mass this weekend, as we are aware that you have been asked to support St Vincent de Paul this weekend. Anyone who would like to contribute to this cause, please do so as you leave the Church.

"It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. Religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women able to wake the world up".

(Antonio Spadaro, Conversation with Pope Francis, 2014)

**Let us pray for many young people willing to leave everything to follow the Lord.
Let us pray for new witnesses of faith to awaken the world to the presence of Christ.**

/From P1...

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next.

We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to

a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.