



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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Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. Over the first millennium of Christianity Advent was like a late Lent. Both were five weeks long, both were marked by fasting and penance and both gave the faithful a day off half way through. In Lent *Laudeta* Sunday is still, roughly, half way through the five-week season. Advent, however, was shortened to four weeks in the tenth century, and Pope St Gregory the Great eased the fasting and penitential aspects of this season in the twelfth century, but the not-so-half-way *Gaudete* Sunday has remained. It is, literally, the 'rejoicing' Sunday when we look more directly at Jesus' coming at Christmas.

To enable us to look at Jesus we start with the man who heralded his mission in the world, John the Baptist. In today's Gospel

John the Baptist is the model of humility, opening the way for the Kingdom of Jesus to break in upon the world. We should never underestimate talent spotters, for as this story demonstrates, they all have John the Baptist as their patron saint.

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer in the nineteenth century. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer

Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied, waving away the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family home. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly. 'I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow up to be a man you can be proud of.' And that is what he did.

In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. /Cont'd P4

3rd Sunday of Advent

(Year B - December 14, 2014.)

ADVENT RESPONSE:

Lord, you are our rock and our salvation.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to
the poor.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
2nd Reading: Rom 16:25-27
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38



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.

Christmas Masses

December 24...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	5.30pm	Holy Family (focus on the children)
	7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	8.00pm	Holy Spirit
	Midnight	Holy Family (Carols from 11.30pm)

December 25...	9.00am	Holy Spirit
	9.30am	Holy Family

2ND RITE RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday December 17...	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
Thursday December 18...	7.30pm	Holy Spirit
Monday December 22...	7.30pm	Holy Family

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN CROATIAN:

December 24...	9.00pm	Holy Family
December 25...	11.30am	Holy Family



Christmas Rosters

Rosters for the Masses over the Christmas Eve/Day are below. **We still need helpers where there are ****. You do not have to be from the parish where you will be attending Mass - you can still help out.** If you can assist, please phone Frank 5278 1343 on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Lectors please note: The readings are for the "NIGHT" Mass on Pg 18/19 of 'Break Open the Word' for ALL Masses on Christmas Eve, including Midnight Mass.

<u>Holy Family</u>	<u>5.30pm</u>	<u>Midnight</u>
Commentator	F Kearney	M Baird
Lectors	Children	D Lunn, A Negro
Sp Ministers	L Sells, B McFarlane, E Kelly, J Genova, P Ruggeri	M Baird, M Fiorillo, D Lunn, V Resciniti, ****
Projectionist	F Kearney	C Resciniti
<u>Ss Peter & Paul's</u>	<u>5.00pm</u>	<u>7.00pm</u>
Commentator	A Henderson	B Middleton
Lectors	G Tolan, K Maddalena	M Martin, M Gifford
Sp Ministers	G Tolan, A Henderson, K Maddalena	P McGlinchey, B Middleton, M Gifford
Projectionist	****	R Martin
<u>Holy Spirit</u>	<u>8.00pm</u>	
Commentator	M Kroger	
Lectors	G Brown, J McCarthy	
Sp Ministers	C Laffy, R Pugh, ****	
Projectionist	D Brown	

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Lectors please note: The Readings are for the "DAWN" Mass on Pg 20/21 of 'Break Open the Word' for ALL Masses on Christmas Day.

<u>Holy Spirit</u>	<u>9.00am</u>
Commentator	E Cotter
Lectors	J Sheahan, J O'Neill
Sp Ministers	R O'Neill, J Sheahan, E Cotter
Projectionist	****
<u>Holy Family</u>	<u>9.30am</u>
Commentator	M Lukesic
Lectors	B Rainbow, P Gizycki
Sp Ministers	M Fiorillo, H Verdnik, I Baulch, I Raj, P Carmody
Projectionist	C Resciniti



Roster for Next Sunday, Dec 21, 2014

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, P Ruggeri, R Culo

L Allum, P Ruggeri, R Culo

R Allum

9.30AM

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C&J Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj, T Herath

E Dalton

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

J McCarthy

J McKenzie, Sr J McGonigal

G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke

P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

11.00AM

G Langridge

G Brown, M Kroger

L Fossey, L Stalio, L Sells

I Cleary, L Coles, S Norris, T Stefek

D Brown (even months), A Boras (odd)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

K Maddalena

K Maddalena

T McNair

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS: Dragica Neri

ANNIVERSARIES: John Walsh, John & Irene O'Neill, Ann & Peter Whitney, Sofia Selthafner, Jim Vivian, Alina Syndradzki, Jose Medeiros, Domenico Versace, Maria DaCunha, Manuel Ramos

BAPTISMS: Mia & Madeline Gixti, Pippa Mahoney, Sasha Toulmin and Sonny White

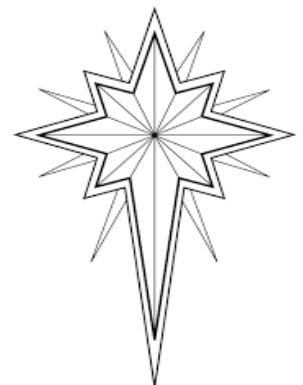
PRAY FOR THE SICK: Julita Aquino, Anita Capicchiano, Cheryl Lambert, Barbara Mason, Thomas & Harry Mallon, Pat Walsh, Theo DaCosta, Denis Brown, Vernon Bowers

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.*

Ss Peter & Paul's Church celebrates Christmas with the return of the Nativity Scene on the lawns of the Church grounds.

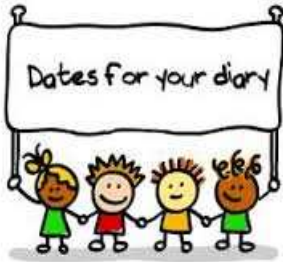
We are most grateful to the Spina Bros (Rob, Mario, Tony and Fred) for the construction and restoration of the original statues to their former glory. Listed below are details of businesses who kindly assisted with this project.

- **Security -** Barwon Security
- **Building -** Calco Trusses & Timber, Barwon Tce South
Geelong (Stuart, Justin, Paul & Staff)
Leens Building Supplies, North Geelong (Jack & Staff)
- **Perspex -** Murooba Products, 8 Albert St Moolap (Gordon)
- **Electronics -** Jaycar Electronics, 48 Mercer St Geelong
- **Animal Statues -** Simply Perfect Pieces, 1 Murray St Colac (Helen, Rodney & Staff)
Sacred Art Studios, 7274 Chiffley Dve Preston (Guiseppe)
- **Star -** Delighting, Newtown (Neil)



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** - 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**



Cluster News:

- **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:** If you are still holding any food or toys for our Jesse (Giving) Tree Appeal, or you wish to donate further items, they could be left at the Cluster Dining Room during office hours on Monday 15th December. Hopefully next weekend we can give a short report of how many families, through your support, we have been able to assist.
- **HOLY SPIRIT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** Our Society sincerely thanks all who generously contributed to the recent 2014 Christmas Appeal collection which raised \$1,900 and also many thanks to the Holy Spirit Primary School for a further donation of \$1,000. This large amount will greatly assist many in our community to have a more happy and a holy Christmas time.
- **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 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 21... GEELONG CROATIAN COMMUNITY 7TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Featuring a collection of traditional Croatian and International Christmas songs and Carols at St Mary's Basilica 6.45pm following the 5.30pm Mass. All welcome - free entry. For further information ph Vesna Grgic on 0403 183 123.
- 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.
- Jan 24... SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS GOLDEN JUBILEE IN AUSTRALIA 1964-2014:** A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners within the Pastoral Cluster to join us in celebration of our Golden Jubilee in Australia. Commencing with 11am Mass at Holy Family Church Bell Park, followed by morning tea in the Mercy Room (Holy Family Primary School). All welcome!

/From P1...

The nobleman's name? Randolph Churchill.
His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Just like Farmer Fleming or Lord Randolph Churchill, he could not have known the implications of

what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

No wonder we have him as our focus on *Gaudete* Sunday. And so may we all rejoice

today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.