



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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OFFICE HOURS:

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

PARISH MANAGER:

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PARISH SECRETARY:

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LITURGICAL CO-ORDINATOR:

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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 -	John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong Wes	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection... by Richard Leonard

'A very drunk man stumbles upon the local Baptist minister conducting his Sunday service down by the river. He proceeds to venture into the water and stand next to the minister. The minister turns, notices the man and says, 'Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?' The man looks back and says, 'Yes Reverend, I am.' The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. 'Have you found Jesus?' the minister asks. 'No, I didn't!' replies the man. The minister then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, 'Now brother, have you found Jesus?' 'No, I did not!' says the drunken man again. Disgusted, the minister holds the man under for at least thirty seconds this time, brings him up and demands, 'For the grace of God,

have you found Jesus yet?' The man wipes his eyes and pleads, 'Are you sure this is where he fell in?'

One of the actions I find most consoling about the scene in today's Gospel is that John the Baptist immersed Jesus in the waters of the Jordan. Indeed the word *baptism* is derived from the Greek word, *bapto*, or *baptizo*, to wash or to immerse. Most of us were baptised with just a sprinkling of water. These days, however, the Church encourages adults and infants, where possible, to follow in the more ancient tradition of full immersion. We all know the amount of water used in the baptism does not destine the power of the sacrament - that's found in how we live our Christian commitment away from the

font. What full immersion does is link the ritual of baptism more directly to the experience of Jesus and enables the symbolism of the water to be more fully realised.

'There are no half measures about immersion, we are in there boots and all. In an extraordinary visual metaphor Mark tells us this is what God does for us in Christ. We don't have a detached God who only presides over us. We don't have a coaching God who sits on the sidelines barking orders at us on the field of life. And we don't have a policeman God who wants to catch us breaking the rules. We have a God who in Jesus the Lord immersed himself in our world, heart and mind, soul and divinity, boots and all. /Cont'd P2

- The Baptism of the Lord -

(Year B - January 11, 2015.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him and said: this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	1Sam 3:3-10,19
2nd Reading:	1Cor 6:13-15,17-20
Gospel:	Jn 1:35-42

**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

WEEKDAY MASSES DURING JANUARY WILL RETURN TO THE NORMAL TIMETABLE.

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:	No Mass during Jan

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Brian Gardiner
ANNIVERSARIES:	Stefania Gwizdek, Rose Seljak, Silvana (Miano) DeVito, Alison DaCosta, Ugo Giuseppe Semilia, Dorothy Jacobs, Domenico Lombardo, Eric Holloway, Max King, Laurie Monaghan, Alfreda Palana and deceased members of the Brando and Cipri families
BAPTISMS:	Jack Gardas and Harry Knight
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Julita Aquino, Anita Capicchiano, Cheryl Lambert, Thomas & Harry Mallon, Pat Walsh, Theo DaCosta, Denis Brown, Vernon Bowers, Brian Carr, Myrtle Morkel, Laurie Mathieson, Suzanne Doots

CLUSTER NEWS:

- ◆ **OUR LADY'S STATUE:** Jan 12: Montalto family, Graylea Ave; Jan 19-26: Hennessy family, Hennessy Ave.
- ◆ **PASTORAL CLUSTER OFFICE:** Office hours from Monday January 5 will be as normal.
- ◆ **BAPTISM PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:** The Pastoral Cluster will offer a Baptism Program for children attending school and have parent(s) who are Catholic. The 3-week program will begin on Sunday 8th Feb and finish on Wednesday 25th Feb. It is a mix of evening meetings for children and parents once per week and a lesson for the children during the first part of the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family on the Sundays of Feb 8, 15 and 22. **Enrolments close on Wednesday Feb 4, 2015. Contact Frank Kearney at the Pastoral Cluster Office on 5278 1343 or email: frank.kearney@cam.org.au**
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS GOLDEN JUBILEE IN AUSTRALIA 1964-2014: Saturday 24th January 2015 - 11am Mass followed by morning tea and entertainment in the Mercy Room. All parishioners warmly invited.**

/From P1...

This is why the earliest association the Christians made with the waters of baptism was that it symbolised Jesus' tomb. We are the only world religion to believe that God took our flesh and died. Because of the three days Jesus spent in the tomb, we plunge our adults and children into the watery tomb of the font three times. And as we do we call on the

Trinity to enable them to die to sin, and rise to the freedom of Christ's life. In this context we can see that the deeper the font and the fuller the immersion, the more easily everyone present understands the power of the symbols.

For all those baptised in Christ, a curious thing happens. As Jesus fully immersed himself in our world, so we are fully immersed

in Christ. But we are not spared from the world as if we are initiated into a reclusive religious sect. We are sent out to the world knowing, because of Jesus, that we are loved by God and are pleasing to God. We are sent out with faith, hope and joy to fall into the arms of the world and discover that here, too, is where Christ dwells.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 18, 2015.

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators	8.00AM K Saunders
Lectors	B Rainbow
Special Ministers	A Vanjek, P Ruggeri, R Culo
Welcomers	L Allum, P Ruggeri, R Culo
Projectionist	R Allum

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators	6.00PM J McCarthy
Lectors	J McKenzie, Sr J McGonigal
Special Ministers	G Wright, E Cotter, D Kosmetschke
Welcomers	
Projectionist	P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators	5.00PM
Lectors	K Maddalena
Special Ministers	K Maddalena
Welcomers	T McNair
Projectionist	

9.30AM

A Scaddan
H Verdnik, T McMahon
C&J Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj, T Herath
E Dalton
C Resciniti

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)