



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:

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PARISH MANAGER:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -	Paul McBride/Trish Moloney	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 West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection. . .

by Richard Leonard

At the end of *The Laws of Our Fathers*, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us.

'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ...the founder of the Western faiths ...He was a visionary, a prophet ...But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ...Abraham complied.'

'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping. He did

not, so far as the Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ...'

'...I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ...What kind of a starting point is this for ...all the Western faiths? ...Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

'...One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ...it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ...Isaac survived ...He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly,

attempted no sacrifices of his own ...'

'So let us think of Isaac ...the first son of the Western faiths – and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned.

For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ... That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. /Cont'd P4

- 2nd Sunday of Lent -

(Year B - March 1, 2015.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken; Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son, hear him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Ex 20:1-17
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:22-25
Gospel: Jn 2:13-25



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 1st & 3rd Friday

Multicultural Centre:

1.30pm - 1st Fri

Vincentian Village:

3.00pm Monday

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:

Mar 2-9: Washington family, 10 Shannon Ave; **Mar 16-23:** Iannuzzi family, 17 Roxby St

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: Ivan Vanjek, Peter Giuricin, Dorrie Jago and Peter Coogan

ANNIVERSARIES: Fred Tuddenham Snr, Danuta Augustyn, Giovanni Serra, Patrick Hogan, Joan Booth, Vjekoslav Iskra, Julie Fletcher

BAPTISMS: Hugh, Tayla & Kai Franklin, Camille Morrissey and Quinn Wall

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Anita Capicchiano, Cheryl Lambert, Thomas & Harry Mallon, Pat Walsh, Theo DaCosta, Denis Brown, Vernon Bowers, Myrtle Morkel, Suzanne Doots

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, Mar 8, 2015

(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	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 & Pauls - 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11am Mass (during school term)
Holy Family Choir Practice...	Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm
Manifold CWL...	Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays 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 Berkeley 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.pastoralclustergeelong.org

Lent...

The 2015 focus of Lent in the Pastoral Cluster is **OUTREACH**. One of the signs of the times of our community is that many people are housebound or isolated and would welcome an opportunity to go to a pleasant community function, but often don't have anyone to go with. **The invitation as part of Lent is if there is someone that you know who is in this position, we would like you to invite them to come with yourself to one, or some, of the following functions:**



Monday Mar 2... Games Day - Cards and Bingo Afternoon at the Pastoral Cluster Community Centre 1-4pm. A'noon tea provided. Sign-up boards are available at the back of each Church this week. **An opportunity to gather to play either cards or Bingo. Transport can be organized if needed.**

Wednesday Mar 11...	Light Luncheon and Movie at Pastoral Cluster Community Centre, from 12noon with lunch provided.
Tuesday Mar 17...	St Patrick's Day Sing-a-long at the Holy Spirit Hall, 1-4pm with Devonshire tea provided.
Thursday Mar 26...	Eucharistic Adoration at Ss Peter & Paul's, 10am-5pm. From 4-5pm there will be an opportunity to experience Christian Meditation as a form of prayer.
Wednesday Apr 1...	Mass of Anointing at Holy Spirit Church with Luncheon to follow in the Hall

I will be speaking at all the Masses this weekend about this outreach program. Signup boards will be in all Churches in the coming weeks for all Outreaches. (Fr Gerard)

LENTEN PROGRAM 2015 "ARISE":

Groups reflecting on and praying about the coming Sunday of Lent's Gospel are meeting at the Pastoral Cluster Centre at the following times - **MONDAY 10AM, WEDNESDAY 10AM, THURSDAY 7PM.** Everyone welcome!

R.C.I.A. (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS):

At the Rite of Election last Sunday in St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne, our Catechumens **Nancy Henderson, Hans Mulia, Brendan Grayson and Michelle Rundle** became our **ELECT**, ie approved by the Archbishop to receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Our already baptized candidate **Kirsten Day** was also accepted to be received into the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

On the next three Sundays of Lent, we will celebrate the **SCRUTINIES** - rites which are meant to uncover and then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect, to bring out and then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The **First Scrutiny** will be celebrated at 11am Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's next Sunday, March 8th. The **Second Scrutiny** will be celebrated at 11am Mass at Holy Spirit on Sunday 15th March, and the **Third Scrutiny** will be celebrated at 9.30am Mass at Holy Family on Sunday 22nd March. Please pray for our elect.

NB: Readers at the Scrutiny Masses, please note that the readings will be from Year A - see pages 150-155 "Break Open the Word"



EASTER MAILOUT: Calling all Pastoral Cluster 'Posties'! Your assistance is again required to help with the delivery of invitations to our Easter Ceremonies to all known Catholics within our Cluster. The envelopes are available at the back of each Church this weekend and are organized alphabetically by street. If you can take your own street as well as those close by, your efforts would be much appreciated and we ask that they be hand delivered over the next two weeks. *Special thanks to those who have helped prepare the invitations for mailout.*

FR MICK'S MATES:

- ♦ REGISTRATION FORMS FOR FR MICK'S MATES RELAY FOR LIFE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF EACH CHURCH.



March 13...
March 21/22...
March 21/22...

Please Note: Registrations close March 10!

Fr Mick's Little Mates
Relay for Life at Geelong Showgrounds
Relay for Life at Geelong Showgrounds

Cluster News:

- ♦ **HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP:** At this month's meeting (tomorrow night) at 7pm, Mandy Berry from Bravehearts Geelong will be our guest speaker. She will inform us of the organization and its history and the impact it has for us. Following her talk we will have our usual meeting.
- ♦ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL:** Monthly meeting will be held in Holy Spirit Hall Wed 4th March 1.30pm. Cluster ladies welcome to attend. The 11am Mass at Holy Spirit Church on Friday 13th March will be offered in memory of two of our members who passed away in October 2014 - Vonnice Logan and Dawn King. A light luncheon will follow Mass in the Parish Hall. CWL members a plate to share please. For information/transport ph Noella Duggan 5278 2142 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.
- ♦ **WELCOME TO CHILDREN IN THE PASTORAL CLUSTER'S RECONCILIATION PROGRAM:** This Sunday at the 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, there will be a Presentation and Welcome to the children who are beginning this program.

Community News:

- Mar 4... **PICTURING THE PASSION:** Caroline Danaher at All Saints Newtown 7.00pm.
- Mar 7... **ANNUAL BOOK FAIR:** St Patrick's Church Hall Portarlington 9am-3pm, incl bbq, cakes, craft, jumping castle, etc. For further information please ph the Drysdale Parish on 5251 2502.
- Mar 10... **GEELONG CATHOLIC DINERS CLUB:** Guest speaker Jemma Sisia, who established a school in rural Tanzania and has been twice featured on Australian Story. For bookings ph Terry 5221 7339 by **Friday Mar 6th**.
- Mar 11... **POETRY OF THE PASSION:** By Rod Horsfield, Wesley Church at 7pm.
- Mar 14... **GAVAN PODBURY SEMINARS GEELONG ST PATRICK'S CUP:** Enjoy a 3-course meal in air-conditioned comfort from \$60 or hire your own umbrella with table and 10 chairs from \$170 or marquee from \$250 (discounted price for parishioners). Entry from \$12 conc, children free u/17. Ph Catherine Moon for tickets on 0409 007 913.
- Mar 20... **CLONARD COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** Two information sessions 1pm and 4.30pm and a 'See the College at Work' on Monday 23rd March. Contact details 5278 2155.
- Mar 22... **ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** Two information sessions 11am and 12.15pm. Contact details to Claire Hewitt hewittc@ignatius.vic.edu.au
- Mar 23... **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** 9am-12noon or 4pm-6.30pm. This includes tours every 15 mins. Contact details 5226 8100.
- Mar 24... **SACRED HEART COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** Tour 1 - 4pm, Tour 2 - 5pm followed by Information sessions. Contact details: Registrar, Judy Smith on 5222 0490.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Will be held Friday 6th March, 11am at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St. Theme - ***Do you know what I have done to you***, written by WDP Committee in the Bahamas who, like Australia, are very concerned by the domestic violence in our countries. Your support in prayer and attendance will be appreciated. Our guest speaker will be Chaplain to Barwon Prison, Ms Marg Hayes. Everyone is welcome and a light lunch will be served after the Service. Transport is available if required - ph Amy O'Brien 5229 9911 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.



IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL: Sunday 15th March, 11am-4pm at St Patrick's School, Britannia St Geelong West.

Free entertainment, major auctions including a gourmet dinner for 6 at the Telegraph Hotel, birthday party for 10 children, electric scooter. Stalls include drinks and ice creams, Celtic cakes and jams, showbags, lucky dips, Molly's Lollies and much, much more! The more the merrier, so please come!



Week 2 - NIGER - Growing Food for Life

Mariama is raising her daughter in a country that suffers widespread poverty and inequity. When her little girl became malnourished, she received life-saving food and care at a Nutrition Centre, supported by Caritas Australia.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2015 and help save the lives of people living on the brink of survival in Niger, giving them access to nutritional support and essential food for life.



/From P1...

We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God. We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ...he

was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel

sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else. Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.