

### Reflection ... by Richard Leonard

he earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ, now raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds.

We know the community of Ephesus, for which this Gospel is written, was experiencing great persecution. Is it any wonder, one generation after the earliest disciples, that the sign of Christ's Risen presence are his marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Over recent years films like Stigmata, Dogma, Agnes of God and even the appalling Daredevil give a hysterical and cynical prominence to the stigmata. There are regular 'believe it or not' documentaries that usually follow suit. Even some pilgrims flocked to Padre Pio's monastery in the south of Italy to see if his hands really bled, or if his wounds really wept. This desire to see outward signs of inner faith is a long way short of Jesus telling us today, 'Happy are those who believe without seeina.'

Our day-to-day lives should be the clearest manifestation of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

It seems, however, that words and wounds still make a claim on us today. You and I know that we don't have to go to a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life, that our doubts in the presence of God can be greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this, or pretend it doesn't happen. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake and with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven.

Years ago I remember struggling with some personal issues during a retreat.

/Cont'd P4

### - 2nd Sunday of Easter -

(Year B - April 12, 2015.)

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe.

3:13-15,17-19

#### Alleluia!

#### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** 3rd

Sunday of Easter						
1st Reading:	Acts 3:13-15					
2nd Reading:	1Jn 2:1-5					
Gospel:	Lk 24:35-48					



#### 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		Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts: 6.00pm Saturday 11am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month			<u>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's, Geelong West:</u> 5.00pm Saturday 11am 2nd & 4th Sundays		
WEEKDAY MASSES: Holy Family:9.15am Tues, 9.15am ThursHoly Spirit:9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat.Reconciliation after Saturday MassGrace McKellar Centre:10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues;Maryville Nursing Home:11am 1st & 3rd FridayMulticultural Centre:1.30pm - 1st FriVincentian Village:3.00pm Monday							
			days 12noon at Holy Spirit, 2nd & 4th Sundays 12noon at Ss P&P, om at Holy Family				
COMMUNAL PRAYER:							
Mon	Mon Holy Family Women's Prayer G		roup	ip 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 Gr		roup	10.00am		Holy Family Community Centre	
Thurs	Italian Prayer Group			10.00am		St Patrick's Chapel	
Fri	Adoration of the Blessed Sacran		ment	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:							

#### OUR LADY'S STATUE:

**Apr 11/Apr 18** - Wright family, 42 Logan 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:** Ruth Gollisch, Concetta Celi, Kit McNamara, Adriana Valodka, Milan Krizmanic

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria, John & Patricia Ambrosio, William & Gertrude Paul, Daniele Salvatori, Aileen Appleford, Maria-Grazia Leone, Clinton Price, Anne McHugh and one year anniversaries of Irmgard Gailius, John Kimber, Giuseppe Maselli and Malina Broska

BAPTISMS: Leo Fedke, Finn Hudson, Chloe Panozzo and Tobias Zuzic

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

<u>Please note</u>:

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, April 19, 2015

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

#### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

#### HOLY SPIRIT:

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

#### 6.00PM

J McCarthy J McKenzie, Sr J McGonigal G Wright, E Cotter, C Laffy

P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

#### <u>9.30AM</u>

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

#### <u>11.00AM</u>

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

Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist K Maddalena, A Beachel K Maddalena

T McNair

5.00PM

### **Recurring Activities in the Cluster:**

Pastoral Cluster Luncheon... Holy Family Luncheon.. Holy Family Women's Group... St Vincent de Paul...

Legion of Mary... Baptism Preps Children's Liturgy...

Holy Family Choir Practice... Manifold CWL... Italian Mass... Catholic Diners' Club... First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share. Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share. First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.00pm 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 4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9.30am Mass (during school term) Holy Family -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) Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel 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: <u>www.pastoralclustergeelong.org</u>



**THANKYOU! THANKYOU! THANKYOU!** There is a saying that it takes a whole village to raise a child. The same could certainly be said for conducting prayerful and meaningful Easter Ceremonies which we had in the Pastoral Cluster. Many thanks to those who contributed to the Liturgy through their roles as singers, musicians, sacristans, lectors, commentators, special ministers, collectors and those involved in the setup of the Churches. A job well done by all and very much appreciated. *(Frs Gerard & Mick)* 

#### PARISH FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM:

THANK

This program is for children from Catholic families who attend a non-Catholic Primary School. The children must have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The program begins on **SUNDAY 24TH MAY** and finishes on **SUNDAY 7TH JUNE**. The First Eucharist celebrations will be on the 14th and 21st June. **ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 15TH MAY**. For further details contact Bernadette at the Pastoral Cluster Office on 5278 1343 or email cluster@cam.org.au



# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY -

### 12 April 2015 at Holy Spirit Church

1pm...Confessions (also on Saturday after 9am Mass)2pm...Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayers3pm...Holy Mass and Veneration of St Faustina's 1st class relicCelebrant...Fr Brendan Lane, Rector of Corpus Christi Seminary, Melb

*"There is nothing that a person needs more than Divine Mercy"* - St John Paul II Enquiries, please contact Chris on 0407 522 055.

- HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP: Please note the change of date for our next meeting Monday 13th April at 7pm. As in past years, we will be conducting a Mother's Day Raffle with a variety of prizes. Tickets will be on sale after Masses on the three Sundays preceding Mother's Day, ie April 19th, 26th and May 3rd. Good luck to all!
- 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. A special recruitment Drive is being (held 18th-19th April at all Parish Masses. If you are interested in joining our group you are most welcome. We meet 9.30am on each Friday at the Holy Family Community Centre. Ph John 0409 042 393 or Cristita 5277 0979.

## Community News:

Apr 15/22/29... ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE - SEE THE COLLEGE AT WORK TOURS: 9.15am - for further details about enrolment ph 5251 1136 or email registrar@ignatius.vic.edu.au

#### Apr 22... SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON: 12noon in the Holy Spirit Hall Bostock Ave. Cost \$10 - all welcome!

- May 1-3... FLY AWAY PETER: Music at the Basilica presents a Festival of Music in Geelong's Churches commemorating the Centenary of WW1 and Anzac. Eight concerts in various Churches in Geelong. Tickets from GPAC 5225 1200. Gold pass \$95, Silver \$75, Red \$50 and Concerts \$16. Enquiries 5223 3554 or <u>musicatthebasilica.org.au</u>
- May 31... MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS: 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral registrations <u>cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily</u> or ph 9287 5587 or <u>Lmf@cam.org.au</u> registration closes Friday May 22.

LAUNCH OF 'LIFEBOAT': 'Lifeboat' is a Geelong-based group which seeks to provide pastoral care to established victims of churchrelated sexual abuse. It comprises both professionals, eg doctors, psychologists, social workers and other good people, who simply want to "make a difference" to the difficulties faced by victims. For 18 months, in a small but effective way, 'Lifeboat' has been helping victims/ survivors in areas such as employment, accommodation, support groups, financial assistance and advice, faith support and practical help. Response from those assisted has been extremely positive. 'Lifeboat' will be formally launched on **Wednesday April 22 at 'The Pier Receptions'** (where better to launch a 'Lifeboat' than at 'The Pier'!), Cunningham Pier, commencing at 7.30pm and concluding around 9.15pm. Speakers include Frank Costa AO, eminent Geelong psychologist Chris Mackey, David O'Brien (former member of the Vic Parliamentary Inquiry) and Fr Kevin Dillon, together with several victims/survivors briefly telling their story of the value of 'Lifeboat' for them. This will be an informative and practical evening, where everyone will have a chance to offer some effective help for a highly-deserving group of wounded people. Be there! Any enquiries ph Peter McCann 0427 350 416 or Terry O'Brien 5221 7339.

#### STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 2nd Sunday of Easter

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own" (Acts 4:32)

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your talents and abilities - these are all gifts from God. We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely 'stewards' of the gifts God has blessed us with.

#### /From P1...

One day, when I felt lowest about myself, the retreat director, adapting today's psalm, 117, said to me, 'you realise that the stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone'. By this he meant that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fears, doubts and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us, or among us, is the one which God wants to use as the cornerstone. When we see this happening, when we see God taking the part of us we consider most unlovable and using it for good, then we want to cry out with the psalmist, 'This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'