



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:

Bernadette Bilogrevic - Phone 5278 1343 (email: cluster@cam.org.au)

THANKSGIVING CO-ORD:

Helen Brislane - Phone 5278 1343 (email: helen.brislane@cam.org.au)

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family -	Paul McBride/Trish Moloney	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
Holy Spirit -	Rohan Cann	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
St Patrick's -	John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story!'

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from

other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only

the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution.

The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. /Cont'd P4

- 1st Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - November 29 2015.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C**

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
2nd Reading: Phil 1:4-6,8-11
Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

**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

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

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 Friday;

Vincentian Village:

3.00pm 1st & 3rd Monday, (2nd & 4th Communion Service)

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:

Nov 30/Dec 7: 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: Johanna VandenBerg, Michael Burton Nancy (Peg) Lyons and Mons Caffrey

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Livingstone, Milan Stante, Giuseppa Mileto, Francesca Genua, Joze Matjasic, Mary Sells, Kevin Bohan, Gino, Carmella, Max & Antonio Bisinella, Patricia Mullen and 1 month since death of Maria Tigani

BAPTISMS: Mila Jones, Hunter Kelly, Erika Ramirez-Iglesias and Roman Wiese

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Gerradine Barry, Tamara Harkness, Sara Hoe, Ted Conole, Eileen Cotter, Cheryl Lambert, Theo DaCosta, Barbara Mason, Anita Capicchiano, Andrew Murray, Rose Galea, Joe Vanjek, Mark Chrimes, Robert Hayes, Ernie Cawthray, Anna Beachell, Elerita DiCristofaro

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, December 6, 2015

(1st Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

8.00AM

R Allum
V Pavlovic
J Bartolo, B McFarlane, I Baulch
K McArthur
R Allum

9.30AM

J Siketa
C&J Taylor
P Carmody, B Kline, L Greco
M&E Hoffman
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

J O'Neill
C Laffy, M Abbott, D Torpy

11.00AM

C Neilson
B Middleton, M Wright
R Pugh
I Cleary, C Kelynack
L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

5.00PM

C O'Brien
Sr J McGonigal
N Neeld, P McGlinchey
B Pleasance

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 casserole & 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
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



ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND SENIOR PARISHIONERS LUNCHEON:

A warm invitation is extended to all senior parishioners to attend the Mass and Luncheon on Saturday Dec 12th commencing with Mass at 10.30am and Luncheon at 12noon. If you wish to attend please place your name on the sign up board (white form) in the Narthex and indicate if you require transport on the day. Catering for the Function: Please place your name on the sign up board (pink form) in the Narthex if you can assist with the catering. Your assistance is welcomed and your support valued.



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 - Frs Gerard and Mick

KRISTMAS FOR KUYA:

Tet sent a lovely email saying that she has arrived safely back in Manila and has been most appreciative of the generosity and warmth that she has received from the parishioners, including the school children and school staff.

Your generosity will go on to make an extraordinary difference and the amount raised from the variety of fundraising aspects of the Kristmas for Kuya Luncheon will be in next week's bulletin.

Again, many thanks to all those who have another successful Philippines Partnership Program.

If you wish to support our major Partnership Fundraiser, you can do so through the Wish List.

WISH LIST

- | | |
|---|-------|
| ◆ One uniform for Primary Student | \$10 |
| ◆ One month's supply of water | \$25 |
| ◆ One year's tuition | \$50 |
| ◆ Medical supplies for Clinic | \$75 |
| ◆ Feeding 100 street children for one day | \$100 |



✂.....

NAME _____ (Please Print)

AMOUNT \$ _____ Cash Cheque (made payable to the Pastoral Cluster)

Mastercard or Visa (please circle)

Card Number: _____

Name exactly as it appears on the card:

First

Initial (if any)

Surname

Mr / Mrs / Miss _____

Card Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Contribution Amount: \$ _____

Cluster News:

- ◆ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTOR 133:** Could the contributor for No 133 please contact the Parish Office?
Thankyou - *Helen*
- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES RAFFLE BOOKS:** Only three weeks to go until Raffle Books for Fr Mick's Mates need to be returned. Thankyou to the 100 already returned - *David Lunn*
- ◆ **LECTORS PLEASE NOTE:** Your copy of the new **Break Open the Word** is now in the Sacristy where you are rostered. Please collect it as soon as you can. Many thanks for your continued support.
- ◆ **MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL - DEC 12/13:** Since its foundation in 1969, parishioners have supported this mission fund to help developing nations. This has marked our Archdiocese for its exceptional generosity. Currently the major beneficiaries are people in Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Gambia, Ghana, Pakistan, Botswana, Nigeria and Peru. Archbishop Denis Hart commends the fund to your continuing support. *Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.*
- ◆ **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** On **Sunday Nov 29** after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit there will be a dinner held for the presentation of the Annual Awards for the Knights of the Southern Cross, held at Holy Spirit Hall.
- ◆ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL** will be having their **Christmas Breakup Lunch** at Hamlyn Park Bistro, Calvert St, 12noon on **Tuesday Dec 1st**. Please bring along a wrapped gift to share for Kris Kringle. Value around \$5. To book or require transport contact Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 or Tricia Joyce 0431 512 354.
- ◆ **HOLY SPIRIT ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WILL HAVE THEIR ANNUAL 'CHRISTMAS APPEAL' COLLECTION** on the weekend of **Dec 5/6**. This appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming holy season of Christmas.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS** (Pkts of 8 at \$7) will be available in the Holy Spirit Church.
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS** (\$9) will be available for purchase from the Piety Stall in the Holy Spirit Church until Dec 20.
- ◆ **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS:** Magazine is available at the back of all Churches this weekend. Features include: ***Icing on the Christmas Cake? Helping the poor - baking for others; Wining and dining with Jesus - a culinary tour of the Bible; Cooking for Community - an invitation into Julie Goodwin's kitchen; Feeding the World - Caritas working for food security, plus much more.***

Community News:

- Dec 5...** **LOURDES DAY MASS:** 10.30am in St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne. Principal Celebrant Most Rev Denis Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. A blessing of the sick will follow the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes.
- Dec 6...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** proudly presents ***A Concert in the Chapel.*** A celebration of beautiful music featuring some of our most talented Sacred Heart alumni. **4pm in SHC Chapel, tickets \$25.** All proceeds support the SHC Scholarship Fund. Book online at sacredheartalumni.com.au or at College reception.
- Dec 11...** **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:** Christmas BBQ Breakup 7pm at the home of Louise and Alan Fossey. Cost only \$5 per head. Open invitation to members, ladies and family. BBQ meat and drinks supplied, just bring a salad or a sweet. Phone Joe Lambert 5229 8442 to confirm numbers attending, etc.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Nov 29

1st Sun of Advent

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Lk 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, his first coming, as we await his second coming.

In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.



THE GEELONG DINERS' CLUB: Come join us for our special Christmas 3-course evening meal, musical entertainment, Christmas Raffle and the opportunity to meet new friends, all for \$35. The date to remember is **Tuesday Dec 8 at Berkeley Lodge on Pakington St**. For more information and reservations, please ph Terry on 5221 7339 by **December 4th**.

/From P1...

If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive,

share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every

hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.