



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

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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

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church.

He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philipians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love

given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God. */Cont'd P4*

- 3rd Sunday of Advent -

(Year C - December 13, 2015.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and
Holy One of Israel.

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 - Year C

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4
2nd Reading: Heb 10:5-10
Gospel: Lk 1:39-44

**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:

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: Kathleen Vallence, Anna Stoop, Jean Sudale and Peter Papreckas

ANNIVERSARIES: Jose Medeiros, Jose Mairos, Judite DaRosa, Carlos Mairos, Giovanni, Silvana & Gabriella Rony, Tony & Lou Past, Sofia Selthafner, Domenico Versace, Manuel Silvestre, Jose Ferreira, Vitorina DeJesus & Augusta DeJesus Pinto, Vito Emanuele

BAPTISMS: Evie Aitken, Ted Chiles, Eve Garvey and Nora Phillips

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Ernie Cawthray, Anna Beachell, Elerita DiCristoforo

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 20, 2015

((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

M Carson

J McKenzie, Sr J McGonigal

G Wright, C Laffy

P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

11.00AM

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, A Beachel

K Maddalena

T McNair

RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:

<p>Pastoral Cluster Luncheon... Holy Family Luncheon.. Holy Family Women's Group... St Vincent de Paul...</p>	<p>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 casserole & 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</p>
<p>Legion of Mary... Baptism Preps Holy Family Choir Practice... Manifold CWL... Italian Mass... Catholic Diners' Club...</p>	<p>Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre 4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre 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</p>

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.pastoralclusterqeelong.org



Liturgy News:

BLESSING OF THE PLAQUES - Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

The extensive renovations of Ss Peter & Paul's has now been completed. Part of the fundraising to pay for the renovations was the sponsorship of a pew. On **Sunday 13th December** at **Ss Peter & Paul's** at the **11am Mass** there will be a **Blessing of the Plaques**.



Christmas Celebrations

2nd Rite Reconciliation	Wednesday Dec 16	5pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
	Thursday Dec 17	7.30pm	Holy Spirit
	Monday Dec 21	7.30pm	Holy Family
Christmas Eve Masses	Thursday Dec 24	5pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
		5.30pm	Holy Family (focus on children)
		7pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
		8pm	Holy Spirit
		Midnight	Holy Family (Carols from 11.30pm)
Christmas Day Masses	Friday Dec 25	9am	Holy Spirit
		9.30am	Holy Family

*A roster will be drawn up and in next week's bulletin if there are still vacancies
 I will be seeking your support.*

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY:



Pope Francis has declared the next 12 months the **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, a time to really focus on God's call to be agents of healing, forgiveness and compassion in the world. This Advent's 2nd Rite Reconciliation service will focus on **Mercy**. As part of the ceremony we will listen and reflect on some quotes from the Holy Father about Mercy, as well as scripture. Then there will be the opportunity to receive God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Cluster News:

- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES CHRISTMAS STALL:** This week the stall will be held at Ss Peter & Paul's Church for the 5pm Saturday evening Mass and 11am Sunday Mass. This is a chance to buy some delicious home-made produce and handmade products. All proceeds go to support our Fr Mick's Mates Relay for Life Team.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL JESSE TREE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Today we ask you to take a ticket out of our Basket Hand Out and we are looking for festive type foods to make Christmas Hampers (approx 75) for the less fortunate in the community of Holy Family and Ashby parishes.
- ◆ **APPOINTMENT OF HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** I am delighted to announce that **Rachel Holdsworth**, formerly Deputy Principal at St Mary's Primary School, has been appointed Principal. The selection panel had the difficult task of choosing between four very good candidates. We welcome Rachel and wish her every blessing in her leadership role in our school.
- ◆ **FR MICK'S MATES RAFFLE BOOKS:** **Final week to return books. 12 books remain outstanding.**
- ◆ **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.*
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS** (Pkts of 8 at \$7) available from the Piety Stall at Holy Spirit Church.
- ◆ **COLUMBAN CALENDARS** (\$9) will be available for purchase from the Piety Stall in the Holy Spirit Church, and at Ss Peter & Paul's and Holy Family Churches until Dec 20.
- ◆ **PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:** 5.30pm Monday Dec 14 at the Pastoral Cluster Office.

Community News:

Dec 16-24... ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS: This is a celebration of nine Advent Masses, 5.30am in the morning, open to everyone to attend. Its an 11th year tradition in Geelong where the Mass is held at St Francis Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. **You are invited to attend any or all of the Masses.** After the Mass, fellowship follows with the food.

DO YOU HAVE A CAR which you rarely or spasmodically use and are prepared to loan to a client of Lifeboat Geelong for a short period? If so and would like to have further details please contact Fr Kevin Dillon 0421 777 360.

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATE VACANCY: At Mercy Place Rice Village Geelong. For job description please visit careers.mercy.com.au. Applications close 20 December 2015.

A VOCATION VIEW - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Have you ever asked: "What ought I do?"
Simply, tell the good news to people. Nothing else matters.

Kristmas for Kuya

Many thanks to all those who generously supported the financial element of our Partnership. There were a number of fundraising endeavours - a raffle through the schools, Lucky Envelopes, profit from the Lunch, support of the Wish List both from parishioners and school families, as well as other donations.

The total amount raised was \$24,594.35

The three parish Primary Schools will also be presenting cheques to the Cluster to forward onto the Columbans and Kuya Center.

If you still wish to support the Wish List, please contact Trish at the Office on 5278 1343.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Dec 13

3rd Sun of Advent

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God"
(Phil 4:6-7)

St Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.



/From P1...

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and

correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.