



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

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile. Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God. Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow!

We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family. Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered

by the occupying Roman Army.

The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that once she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans. By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelink, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death.

You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own. Most families are about being generous, loving,

stable and faithful. They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before.

Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society. For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today. So what's the secret?

Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key. This flies in the face of the film *Love Story's* outrageous motto, 'Love means not having to say you're sorry'. As Christians, precisely the opposite is the case. Love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive.

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Best Wishes for a holy, safe and prosperous New Year!



- Feast of the Holy Family -

(Year C - December 27, 2015.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

How happy they who dwell in your
house, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Feast of the Epiphany - Year C

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6
2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

**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: Fr Des Cameron and Margaret Lane

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria Pino, Victoria & Giuseppe Ruggeri, Peter Bahl, Gerda Baum, Salvatore RotiRoti, Zlatko Velcek

BAPTISMS: Will and Lily Freeman

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Anita Capicchiano, Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Ernie Cawthray, Anna Beachell, Elain, Aaron & Jennifer Lyall

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, January 3, 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, D&M Horoba

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

WEEKDAY MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS TIDE



**NO Tuesday morning Mass (9.15am) at Holy Family
on December 29th**

**Mass as normal on Wednesday (9am) at Holy Spirit on December 30th
and Thursday (9.15am) at Holy Family on December 31st.**

**There will be ONE Mass on New Year's Day at 11am at Holy Family
and it will be a combined Croatian and English Mass**

Cluster News:

- ♦ **TRISH'S LONG SERVICE LEAVE:** After 12 years of service for the Pastoral Cluster, Trish Stickland - the Parish manager, is taking Long Service Leave and will return in May. Any queries can be directed to the Cluster Office. We wish Trish an enjoyable and relaxing time during this extended period of leave.
- ♦ **HEARTFELT THANKS:** To all those who played a particular role in our Christmas liturgies - our musicians and choirs, lectors, commentators, special ministers, collectors. Thankyou very kindly for a job well done! Your efforts enable the whole community to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas - God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son.
- ♦ **FR MICK WILL HAVE A SHORT BREAK AFTER CHRISTMAS AND RETURN ON JANUARY 1ST.**
- ♦ **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE NO 415:** Could you please contact the Parish Office? Thankyou.
- ♦ **PLEASE NOTE:** The Pastoral Cluster Office will be operating on restricted hours during Christmas-tide. Please leave a message on the phone if the office is unattended.
- ♦ **PASTORAL CLUSTER PARISH GROUP RECONCILIATION:** From January 11th, bookings will be taken for those Catholic children in the non-Catholic schools for parents who wish their child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please contact the Office on 5278 1343. The program entails a Commitment Mass, a one-off Parent/child information session with Paul Spence on Monday February 29th and a couple of Sunday morning classes. The Reconciliation service takes place in Holy Week.

Community News:

Jan 8... ELVIS SPECIAL FILM NIGHT: 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre, Plaza Theatre.



Christmas is a time of gift-giving and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the generosity of spirit of so many in a number of our recent pastoral and social justice outreach.

I wish to thank the parishioners for the following -

- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree Annual Christmas Appeal - This year's Appeal enabled us to give 83 Christmas Hampers to the less fortunate in the community of Holy Family and Geelong West parishes.
- ◆ The \$787.45 raised for Holy Spirit St Vincent de Paul Conference for them to purchase items for Christmas hampers.
- ◆ Melbourne Overseas Missions - this year's Christmas Appeal raised \$2,119.45.
- ◆ The organisers and helpers who set up, catered and cleaned up for the Anointing of the Sick and Seniors Luncheon at Holy Family on Dec 12th. This year again it was an enjoyable, friendly and hospitable occasion for all. A great outreach, especially for those who are housebound.
- ◆ The "Pastoral Cluster Posties" who delivered the Christmas Invitations to their neighbours
- ◆ Margaret Brown, Betty Rice, Noreen Haberman and members of Fr Mick's Mates Committee for this year's Christmas Market Stalls held at the three parishes - amount raised was \$3354. An extraordinary amount of work goes into the preparation of the home-made produce and hand-made crafts.
- ◆ Supporters of the Philippines Partnership. This year we have raised \$58,000 of which \$20,000 was forwarded to Sr Kate O'Neil and her Order in the Philippines; \$19,000 each to the Malate Parish in Manila administered by the Columbans and \$19,000 to the Kuya Centre for homeless boys. This extraordinary amount of fundraising was achieved because of your support of the Mothers Day High Tea, Kristmas for Kuya Luncheon, Wish Lists, Raffles, and significant contributions from the schools.

2016 Dates for your Diary

Jan 1...	Combined Croatian and English Mass at Holy Family
Mar 3...	Fr Mick's Mates - Movie Night at St Mary's
Mar 4...	PD Day all Schools - Laudate Si
Mar 6...	Volunteer Afternoon Tea at Holy Spirit Hall
Mar 19...	Irish Folk Festival
Mar 19/20...	Relay for Life
Apr 26-May 21...	Jesuit Tertian - Spiritual Exercises
July 30...	150th Anniversary of Ss Peter & Paul's Church
Aug 28...	Kristmas for Kuya and Fr Gerard's 25th Silver Jubilee
Nov 1...	Melbourne Cup Luncheon



/From P1...

But if my experience is anything to go by, 'I'm sorry' is second only to 'I love you' as the hardest statement to say and hear, in family life.

When I was 16 I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell who wrote, 'We should never leave this world not having told the people that we love that we love them.' Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge. I wrote to my sister, who was then working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and to my brother who was working interstate, telling them that I loved them.

That left my mother. I stayed home one

Saturday night and with my heart pumping and my tummy churning I approached my mother after tea while she was watching the news. 'Mum, I have something important to tell you', I began. My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes, what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before.' And now I could tell there was a duet of hearts pumping and tummies churning.

I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.' And such was her relief that my mother replied 'I hope so' and promptly turned back to the TV. My brother and sister wrote to Mum asking what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase

I was going through.

In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words. True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

May this feast of the Holy Family, then, give our families the 'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference'.