



# Pastoral Cluster

Incorporating the Parishes of Holy Family Bell Park, Ss Peter & Paul's Geelong West & Holy Spirit Manifold Hts.

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**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**

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and

physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practise of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'.

This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not simply baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty.

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## - The Baptism of the Lord -

*(Year C - January 10, 2016)*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

O bless the Lord, my soul!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Alleluia!**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5  
2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:4-11  
Gospel: Jn 2:1-11

**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

### WEEKDAY MASSES DURING JANUARY WILL RETURN TO THE NORMAL TIMETABLE.

Holy Family:	9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs		
Holy Spirit:	9am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat	<b>Reconciliation after Saturday Mass</b>	
Grace McKellar Centre:	10.15am - 1st,3rd,5th Tues	<b>Maryville Nursing Home:</b>	11am 1st & 3rd Friday
Multicultural Centre:	1.30pm - 1st Friday	<b>Vincentian Village:</b>	3pm 1st&3rd Monday (2nd&4th Communion)

### AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

<b>RECENT DEATHS:</b>	Damian Boyle, Johanna Kolotelo, Mladen Pusnjak and Ivan Madunic
<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b>	Stefania Gwizdek, Silvana Devito, Domenico Lombardo, Francesco Mirabile, Lawrie Monaghan and 1 year anniversary of Tony Langerano
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Penny Planken
<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK:</b>	Anita Capicchiano, Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Ernie Cawthray, Anna Beachell, Elaine, Aaron & Jennifer Lyall

### News:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ACKOCA LUNCHEON:** Old and not-so-old ex-students of ACK and friends are invited to our Annual "South of the Bay" Luncheon at Queenscliff Bowling Club on Wednesday 3rd Feb, 12noon. RSVP to 5258 2480 by January 31 if you are coming.
- ◆ **MARIAN PILGRIMAGE:** Few seats remaining for this 16 night Fatima-Lourdes-Paris-Medjugorje Pilgrimage which begins in Perth. \$6890 includes all flights to and from Perth, full land tour, breakfast and dinner, tips, etc. Ph Edman Anthony (pilgrimage coordinator) 0424 437 251 or email [emausmigr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:emausmigr@optusnet.com.au) or Ms Bada Payne (travel agent) at 08 9276 5577 to book your seat.
- ◆ **SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE IN 2016:** Our Lady Queen of Peace 18 day Pilgrimage to Assisi-Medjugorje-Rome departing April 14 2016. \$7295, single supplement \$850. Enquiries ph John Brown, Clifton Springs on 0428 409 345 or 5251 1884.

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Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we

are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original

Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

## **Roster for Next Sunday, January 17, 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

### **5.00PM**

K Maddalena, A Beachel  
K Maddalena  
T McNair