



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIESTS:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.

PARISH MANAGER:

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Holy Family - Peter Brunt	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
Holy Spirit - Rachel Holdsworth	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
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Reflection by Richard Leonard

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in his religion class at school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.' 'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked. 'Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

Given the ways the Scriptures have divided Christians over the centuries and because previous generations wanted to protect the truth of the Bible, we were often taught that the Holy Spirit dictated the text. In this schema, the real skill of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John seems to

have been their shorthand!

Today we begin reading through Luke's Gospel. And in the opening verses of this extraordinary document, Luke puts paid to the idea that he is simply listening to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in his ear. What we now call the Gospel of Luke was the first instalment of a two-part letter written to his friend and disciple, Theophilus. Epic letters like this one and the Acts of the Apostles, which is its sequel, where the writer praises the deeds of a great man and lists his achievements, were very common in the Hellenised world of Ancient Rome. Luke knew how to write it and, more importantly, Theophilus knew how to read it.

It is not a documentary on the life of Jesus, recording a series of facts. If it were, then it cannot be reconciled with the other Gospels for they disagree with each other about many important details. As Catholics we believe the Holy Spirit guided the writing and selection of the scriptural record so that it contains no errors regarding our salvation. Our life lived in

harmony with the scriptures is its own testament to our belief that the Bible is not a book of facts: it is a book of truth.

Luke knows that Theophilus has already been instructed in the way of salvation in Christ, and he makes it clear that the truth of this way is what he is attending to. In this Gospel he paints a vivid and intimate portrait of who Jesus is and why he has the message of salvation for all people everywhere.

These days we often hear people asking others to be 'up front' and to 'lay your cards on the table'.

Long before it was trendy, Luke does precisely this in the second part of today's Gospel. At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, Luke summarises the story he is about to tell Theophilus and his community in what is called 'the programme'.

In the tradition of the greatest of the prophets, we are told Jesus has come for those of us who are poor, captive, blind and oppressed.

/Cont'd P2

- 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - January 24, 2016)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News
to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

1st Reading: Jer 1:4-5,17-19
2nd Reading: 1Cor 12:31-13:13
Gospel: Lk 4:21-30

**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.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Fr John Woodcock, Alfred Warren and Ernest Cawthray
ANNIVERSARIES:	Alison DaCosta, Josip Brajkovic, Assunta Nadile, Damian Taylor, Maria Vannata, Allan McFarlane, Gerard McGrath, Alois Baum, Troy Guthridge, Kevin Lee, Brian Carr (1st year), Rosa Valentino, Antonietta, Benito and Maria DeAngelis
BAPTISMS:	Violet Ludowyk
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Anita Capicchiano, Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Anna Beachell, Elaine, Aaron & Jennifer Lyall

- ◆ **OFFICE CLOSURE:** Please note the Pastoral Cluster Office will be closed on Australia Day, Tuesday January 26th.
- ◆ **WHEN WE SING, WE PRAY TWICE (St Augustine):** Sr Carmel hopes to form a group of singers who will sing at Ss Peter & Paul's 5pm Mass commencing on Ash Wednesday and continue each week of Lent. Maximum practice would be once weekly. If you are interested please contact Sr Carmel on carmelh.odwyer@mercy.org.au or phone 5229 7954.
- ◆ **SISTERS OF THE HOLY ANGELS LUNCHEON:** Wed Feb 3rd noon in Holy Spirit Hall. Cost \$10 - all welcome!
- ◆ **MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL:** First meeting for 2016 will be held **1.30pm Wed Feb 3rd** in small meeting room at Holy Spirit Hall. We do encourage members to come along early and support the Holy Angel Sisters by attending their luncheon in the main hall from 12noon. Special year for our League in Victoria and Wagga Wagga, celebrating the Centenary 1916-2016 and Manifold Branch will celebrate 40 years. New members welcome. Information/transport ph Jeanette 5278 2063 or Tricia 0431 512 354.
- ◆ **DOG WALKER WANTED:** An elderly parishioner (92 year-old) needs a little help walking his well trained dog sometime on a Wednesday for 20-30 minutes. If you can help ph 0409 358 037.

LENTEN PROGRAM 2016 - MERCY:

Mercy is a weekly program, primarily for group use, based on the Sunday Scripture readings during Lent. The name and theme of the program is in response to Pope Francis' "Year of mercy". Since Lent this year starts on February 10th, please sign up by **Sunday Jan 31st**.

LENTEN PROGRAM 2016 - DREAMS... A WAY TO ENRICH OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE:

Sr Jean McGonigal RSM is offering a 6-week Lenten program based on reflections on Biblical and Personal Dreams with the opportunity to help you interpret your dreams. The sessions will be held on **Wednesday afternoons 1-3pm** or **Wednesday evenings 7-9pm** commencing **17th February** at the Pastoral Cluster Centre.

Sign-up boards for both programs are at the back of each Church.

/From P1...

But, unlike the former prophets, Jesus is not only a companion in our distress or an advocate on our behalf, he has also come to turn the world upside down and establish the definitive reign of God in our lives. In Jesus, all that Israel longed to see is fulfilled.

And so to us. As the spiritual children of

Jesus, Luke, Theophilus and his community, we are inheritors of a tradition that is upfront in what we are called to do. Our programme is explicit. We are called to be companions to the poor, to set prisoners free, to fight oppression, to enable others to confront what they would prefer to ignore and to boldly proclaim that there is no one beyond God's favour.

As tough as these demands are, they are not optional extras. They define who we are as Christians and how we are sent to change the world.

May this Eucharist give us courage for the task at hand.

Roster for Next Sunday, January 31, 2015

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

8.00AM

R Allum
F O'Neill
R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
C Marcantonio,
R Allum

9.30AM

C Simpson
D Lunn, A Negro
H Verdnik, M Baird, J Sheahan, M Perera,
V Resciniti, E Glynn
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators
Lectors
Special Ministers
Welcomers
Projectionist

6.00PM

D Ryan
J Ryan
R O'Neill, E Ryan, Sr Noelle
M Brown
J Lynch

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

A Hubbard
P Power, P Hubbard
P&A Hubbard, P McGlinchey