



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 - Peter Brunt	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
Holy Spirit - Rachel Holdsworth	Minerva Rd Manifold Hts	Phone 5229 8298
St Patrick's - John Grant	Petrel St, Geelong West	Phone 5229 4412

Reflection by Richard Leonard

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago.

At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right

time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday.

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Welcome to the Preps and staffs of St Patrick's School

**- 2nd Sunday of Lent -**

(Year C - February 21, 2016)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**3rd Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Ex 3:1-8,13-15
2nd Reading: 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

**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:

Nancy Ryan, Antonio Bagnato, Derek Hudson, Dane Jovic, Giuseppe Rao (Italy), and Celeste Serrao (Portugal)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Domenico Mileto, Fred Tuddenham Snr, Salvatore Giacomazzo, Robert Neeld, Gorgonia Esperanza, 1 year anniversary of Ivan Vanjek and one month/Gaetano Boccassini

BAPTISMS:

Oscar Johnson, Annabel Newton, Oliver Arnel, Edward Gaylard, Max Lynch and Harriet Smith

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Anita Capicchiano, Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Anna Beachell, Elaine, Aaron & Jennifer Lyall, Lou Resciniti, Ellen Lacy

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, February 28, 2016

(4th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

F O'Neill

L Kelly

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

L&E Kelly

R Allum

9.30AM

M Lukesic

M Baird, P Gizycki

D Lunn, P McBride, C Simpson, V Resciniti

A Sare, A/I Dugandzic

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

G Harrison

C McShanag, R Stanley, D Yeatman

M Brown

T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

A Henderson

G Tolan

A Henderson, G Tolan,

J Cowell

B Middleton

11.00AM

J Fraatz, L Eastman

M Broekman, D Dougherty, J Gailius

M Broekman, D Dougherty, D Lipinski

R Zarb

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

Cluster News:

LENT 2016: The Lenten season has a two-fold character, namely it recalls Baptism or prepares for it and it stresses a penitential spirit. The Law of Common Practice of Penance can be performed in a number of ways such as:

- Prayer** - eg Mass attendance, family prayer, a visit to a Church or Chapel, reading the Bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary, or in other ways.
- Self-Denial** - eg not eating meat, not eating sweets or dessert, giving up entertainment to spend time with the family, limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere, or in other ways. **Project Compassion** is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.
- Helping Others** - eg special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over-burdened, or in other ways.

In the Pastoral Cluster the invitation is to share in the Lenten Spirit through Lenten Programs, support for Fr Mick's Relay for Life (our fundraising for Cancer Research), Project Compassion and, of course, sharing with the community in the Sunday Eucharist.

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". There are **THREE** groups meeting during Lent -

Group 1 - 10.00am Mondays

Group 2 - 10.00 Wednesdays

Group 3 - 7.00pm Thursdays

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

The sessions will be held on **Wednesday afternoons 1-3pm** or **Wednesday evenings 7-9pm** commencing **17th February** at the Pastoral Cluster Centre.



FR MICK'S MATES - RELAY FOR LIFE

Registration for 2016 commences this week. **The event is on Sat/Sun March 19th and 20th.**

Registration is now \$25 .

Location - **Grinter Reserve, Coppards Rd Newcomb** (Next to Splashdown)

Forms available at entry to Church or Parish Office. Registration includes Sun saver top and Insurance.

FILM NIGHT THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

Two sessions 4pm or 7pm. Includes finger food and refreshments between the sessions.

Movie: **THE INTERN** starring Robert DeNiro and Anne Hathaway

\$20 per ticket from:

Noreen Haberman 5229 9352

David Lunn

0408 378 982

Desma Dougherty 5244 5459

Pastoral Cluster Office

5278 1343



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: This week the Summer Edition of Australian Catholics will be available for free. This edition the focus is on **Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church**. Articles include *Year of Mercy In Depth, Opening God's Mercy to all Children, Short History of Reconciliation, Shining a Light on Mental Illness, etc.*

PASTORAL CLUSTER CENSUS INFORMATION: We are looking to update our census information. If you are a new parishioner or if your contact details have changed in the last few of years, Fr Mick and I would appreciate you filling in the Pastoral Cluster Census Information form. These forms will be available at the back of each Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION - WEEK 2:

With limited support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos, Duangmala feared that her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, would never reach his full potential because he has Down Syndrome. However, Hum Noy now has the chance to learn and thrive at a school for children with intellectual disabilities, supported by Caritas Australia. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos learn, grow and reach their full potential.**





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- ◆ **EASTER MAILOUT:** *Calling all Pastoral Cluster 'Posties'!* Your assistance is again required to help with the delivery of invitations to our Easter Ceremonies to all known Catholics within our Cluster. The envelopes are available at the back of each Church this weekend and are organized alphabetically by street. If you can take your own street as well as those close by, your efforts would be much appreciated and we ask that they be hand delivered over the next two weeks. *Special thanks to those who have helped prepare the invitations for mailout!*
- ◆ **EMERGENCY READERS, COMMENTATORS & SPECIAL MINISTERS:** One of the signs of the times is that for many people life is transient with fluid commitments of work, family, etc which in turn makes it difficult for them to make a regular commitment to a particular Mass. If you are one such person and would like to assist with being a Reader, Commentator and Special Minister, we are seeking people who would be prepared to act as an emergency in one of these roles. What is entailed is you being on an emergency contact list and if the designated Minister was unable to attend, he/she would contact you. If this interests you, please contact Fr Gerard on 5278 1343.
- ◆ **ALTAR CARE:** Holy Spirit Church is looking for ladies to assist with the flowers and care of the Altar. If you are able to assist or would like some further information, please contact the parish office on 5278 1343.

Liturgy in the Cluster in February:

- Feb 20...** 6.00pm Mass - Holy Spirit Church - Sacrament of First Reconciliation Commitment Mass
Feb 21... 11.00am Mass - Holy Spirit Church - Sacrament of First Reconciliation Commitment Mass
 " 11.00am Mass - Ss Peter & Paul's Church - Welcome to Preps and staff of St Patrick's School* (this is an additional Mass)
Feb 28... 9.30am Mass - Holy Family Church - Sacrament of First Reconciliation Commitment Mass
 " 5.30pm Mass - St Mary's Basilica - Geelong Commissioning Mass

Community News:

- Feb 25...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE CIRCLE OF MERCY COMMUNITY EVENING:** Rev Dr James McEvoy - *Experiencing the Mercy of God*, 7pm in the Celies Hospitality Centre, SHC. All welcome and supper provided. RSVP by **Feb 22** to Rita Chiavaroli by phone 5222 0467 or email rchiav@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au.
- Mar 4...** **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Service will be held 11am at Wesley Uniting Church with theme *Jesus said to them: Receive children, receive Me*. Written by the Christian women of Cuba, your support in prayer and attendance will be greatly appreciated. Guest speaker Mrs Julie Whelan, a teacher from Clonard College who has recently visited Cuba. All welcome and a light lunch will be served following the service. For information or transport ph Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063.
- Mar 16...** **MUSIC AT THE BASILICA - BACH'S MASS IN B MINOR:** 8pm at St Mary's Basilica - tickets \$35/30 at the door or online at www.trybooking.com/JOXX Information ph Jeannette 5223 3554.
- Mar 19...** **IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL:** St Patrick's School
 " **RENDINE CONSTRUCTIONS GEELONG ST PATRICK'S RACE MEETING:** Entry \$20 or \$12 conc, children u/17 free. Packages: Marquees, Dining & Umbrellas. Try the new Picnic Pack with picnic rug, table, chairs, entry for two, cooler bag with 2 bread rolls, dips and biscuits, bottle wine - \$65 (special price for parishioners). Ph Catherine on 0409 007 913 for special price or book through website countryracing.com.au/geelongstpats
 " **RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT** - This is a 24-hour event beginning 12noon through until noon the following day. The venue has been changed and will be held at Coppards Rd in Newcomb. More details will be made available in coming weeks.
- Mar 20...** **ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** The Open Day is to showcase the "vibrant, challenging and rewarding programs and facilities at the College". The Open Day begins at 11am and concludes 2pm. Information Sessions 11am and 12.15pm. Further information www.ignatius.vic.edu.au or ph Claire Hewitt 5251 1136.
- Mar 22...** **SACRED HEART COLLEGE OPEN DAY:** Sacred Heart is providing prospective students and their families an opportunity to visit the College. There are two tours - one at 4pm followed by an Information Session at 5.30pm and another tour at 5pm followed by an Information Session at 6.30pm. Register online at <http://www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au/> or ph Chrissie Johnson on 5222 0490.

/From P1...

We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us.

God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'

Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may

discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too.

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'