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Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

oday's second reading is considered to be the oldest baptismal formulae we have in the New Testament. The reference to baptism is one indication of this, as is the invocation of the robe by which we were all clothed in Christ, but even more so is what follows. St Paul goes on to give the community at Galatia a definition of what these external signs should mean in the life of the community: 'there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'

We need to own that our Catholic community has not been worthy of this charge for a good part of its history, and we often still fail to live up to this ideal. Frail and sinful human beings that we are, we allowed multiple distinctions to appear among us in a very short period of time. And some of them are

still with us today.

For example, we have accepted into our church order social customs and other religious traditions that actively exclude women from participation in ritual and decision-making, declaring them at various times in our history to be unclean, a source of temptation, and misbegotten men. This worked itself out into terrible crimes against women's dignity, and even meant that some women were put to death in the name of God.

Tragically, the same can be said of the Jews, where a false reading of the Passion stories legitimated waves of Jewish persecution over the centuries, and gave rise to anti-Semitism. And when we turn to slaves and free people, we have to own that at one stage the church taught that slavery was a divine institution and so was very slow to stand with the emancipation

cause

So why concentrate on this bad news today? Because, as our Jewish brothers and sisters tell us, if we forget where we have come from, we are likely to commit the same sins again, and we need to take that momentum into our future as we become the inclusive community Jesus lived out, and St Paul taught we should be.

But all of this has a cost, which is what Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, 'If you want to be a follower of mine, renounce vourself and take up your cross every day and follow me.' All too often we can hear this line as either a once and for all moment, or as only applying to the big actions in our lives. I think, however, that it has as much to do with how we think and what our attitudes are, as much as it's concerned with what we do. /Cont'd P4

- 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - June 19, 2016)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: 2nd Reading: Gospel:

1Kg 19:16,19-21 Gal 5:1,13-18 Lk 9:51-62



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 <u>Cluster at Prayer</u>

WEEKEND MASSES: Holy Family, Bell Park: Holy Spirit, Manifold Hts: Ss Peter & Paul's, Geelong West: English... 8am and 9.30am Sunday Croatian... 11am Sunday 6.00pm Saturday 5.00pm Saturday 11am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 11am 2nd & 4th Sundays Slovenian.. 12.15pm every 2nd Sunday of the month WEEKDAY MASSES: Holy Family: 9.15am Tues, 9.15am Thurs Holy Spirit: 9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am Sat. Reconciliation after Saturday Mass 11am 1st & 3rd Friday Grace McKellar Centre: 10.15am - 1st, 3rd, 5th Tues; Maryville Nursing Home: 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 Holy Family Community Centre 10.00am Meditation Group Holy Family Community Centre Tues... 5.30pm Wed... Before 9am Mass Prayer of the Church Holy Spirit Church Holy Family Women's Prayer Group 10.00am Holy Family Community Centre Wed... St Patrick's Chapel Thurs... Italian Prayer Group 10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Spirit Church Fri... After 11am Mass Fri... Divine Mercv 3.00pm Holv Spirit Church Sat... Rosary After 9am Mass Holy Spirit Church **OUR LADY'S STATUE:** June 20: Hennessy family, 4 Hennessy Ave 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:** Jimmy Gleeson and Dorothy West **ANNIVERSARIES:** Matthew Barr, Zlatko & Vjekoslav (Stan) Lehpamer, Marinko Skazoic, Carmelo Coppolino, Daniel Brady, Vytas Klova **BAPTISMS:** Evie & Flynn Bray, Lenny Robertson, Hazel Sinclair and Amby Logory **PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Anita Capicchiano, Joe Vanjek, Robert Hayes, Elaine, Aaron & Jennifer Lyall, Helen Lacy, Michael Lacy, Theo DaCosta, Geraldine Fay, Ken Fusea 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, JUNE 26, 2016 -(4th Sunday of the Month) HOLY FAMILY 8.00AM 9.30AM Commentators F O'Neill M Lukesic M Baird, P Gizycki Lectors L Kelly D Lunn, P McBride, C Simpson, V Resciniti L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane **Special Ministers** Welcomers A Sare, A/I Dugandzic L&E Kelly R Allum C Resciniti Projectionist HOLY SPIRIT: 6.00PM Commentators M Carson

Lectors **Special Ministers** Welcomers Projectionist

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

Sr J McGonigal C McShanag, R Stanley, D Yeatman M Brown T McShanag

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

<u>5.00PM</u> A Henderson G Tolan A Henderson, G Tolan J Cowell **B** Middleton

11.00AM

M Burn J Fraatz, L Eastman M Broekman, D Dougherty M Broekman, D Dougherty R Zarb

Recurring Activities in the Cluster:

Pastoral Cluster Luncheon... Holy Family Luncheon.. Holy Family Women's Group... St Vincent de Paul...

Legion of Mary... Baptism Preps Holy Family Choir Practice... Manifold CWL... Italian Mass... Catholic Diners' Club... 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 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 2nd Tues of each month, 6.15pm at Berkeley Lodge. Dinner/Guest Speaker - ph Michael 0431 959 584

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

Liturgy in the Cluster:

June 25/26...

.. Mass of Anointing - Ss Peter & Paul's: If I am able to get a supply to assist with the weekend Masses of June 25/26, there will be an opportunity for anointing at both of these Masses. If not then the Sacrament will be offered on another weekend.



Cluster News:

- A MESSAGE FROM FR MICK FITZPATRICK: I am sorry that I have not been about lately, but during my holidays since Anzac Day I have become unwell with abdominal pains. A conclusive diagnosis has not been made yet. Tests are still being undertaken. I ask for your prayers that these tests will enable a conclusive diagnosis to be made. I don't need visitors, phone calls or food at this stage, but I am most appreciative of your prayers. God bless you all - Fr Mick.
- CLERGY CONFERENCE: On the week of Monday June 27th through until Thursday evening June 30th, the Annual Clergy Conference is being held. Fr Mick (God willing) and I will be in attendance. This means that there will be NO Masses on Tuesday 28th June 9.15am Holy Family, Wednesday 29th June 9am Holy Spirit and Thursday June 30th 9.15am Holy Family.
- ROSTERS: Rosters are available for the various liturgical ministries and can be picked up from the Sacristy. Many
 thanks to all those who have volunteered to be part of the liturgical ministries. Your efforts give a richness to our
 participation in the Mass.
- **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE NO 40:** Could the person with this envelope please leave name and phone number at the Office (5278 1343).
- NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY: Sunday October 9th is our Kristmas for Kuya Luncheon and Fr Gerard's 25th Anniversary of the Priesthood. The Luncheon will be held at Capri Receptions. More details later.
- AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS: This week the Winter Edition of Australian Catholics is available. The focus of the
 edition is 'Mercy in Social Justice Carrying a Message of Hope'. There are a number of articles around the issues of
 Social Justice and worthwhile reading too for our own formation on these issues, especially as we are soon coming into
 an election. The Australian Catholics is available to you for free.

A Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Australia on the Election

A VOTE FOR THE VOICELESS:



Enclosed in this week's Bulletin is the Statement by the Bishops about the Election. The challenge of the Bishops is that all political parties, and us as voters, listen to those who are often 'voiceless' in our society, including those who suffer family violence, those in the womb, the elderly, those suffering mental illness, etc.

This Statement is an opportunity for you to reflect and to form your conscience before casting your vote on July 2nd.

Community News:

- June 25... ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD: On Saturday 10am at St Patrick's Cathedral the Archbishop will ordain Rev Geoff McIlroy and Darien Sticklen to the priesthood for service in Melbourne. All are welcome to attend and pray for these men. Profiles of the new priests are in the June edition of 'Melbourne Catholic' and also on the Vocations Office Facebook Page: Vocations Melbourne.
 - **TIME OUT FOR TLC:** Pastoral Healthcare Network Geelong invites you to a relaxing afternoon of pampering and pastoral healthcare at Geelong Natural Therapies, 36 Shannon Ave Geelong West from 1pm until 3.30pm Cost \$10 including afternoon tea. Enquiries to Sr Carmel O'Dwyer, 5229 7954.

Are you getting married? Do you know someone who is? Have a look a LabOra Marriage for your wedding preparations - fantastic resource newly created, designed for couples who are preparing their wedding liturgy. This electronic resource contains all the readings and prayers from the new revised Order of Celebrating Matrimony, as well as music suggestions. Go to our website: <u>liturgybrisbane.net.au</u> and download your copy.

HY IS 'ICE' SUCH A CHALLENGE FOR OUR TOWN? There has been a significant increase in public concern regarding the use of crystal methamphetamine, also known as ICE.

W If a family member is affected by drug use or if you think a family member may be affected, or if you'd simply like to understand more about ICE and other drugs, you are invited on **Monday 20th June from 6.30-9.30pm at the Geelong Arena, 110 Victoria St North Geelong,** where there is the opportunity to ask questions, get answers directly from people working on the front line and those working behind it, offering help and support to families, friends and loved ones, struggling to cope with this terrible scourge in our local community. The guest speaker is **Michael Miller** from Family Drug Support Australia, and he will be joined from a panel of experts from a range of local services.

This event is being supported by the Geelong Council, the Geelong Advertiser, Family Drug Support and K-Rock.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S WINTER APPEAL:

In our local Catholic Church in general and in the Pastoral Cluster in particular, we are blessed by with an organisation such as St Vincent de Paul. As a group they do terrific work in outreach to those who are in the margin of society by providing support services such as crisis accommodation, domestic violence support, access to budget counselling, life skills courses, legal assistance, as well as the provision of food, clothing and blankets.



There is an opportunity to support the endeavours of Vinnies through a second collection at the Masses at:

- Holy Spirit this weekend of June 18/19 and
- Ss Peter & Paul's and Holy Family on the weekend of June 25/26

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Lk 9:23)

We are not very good at 'denying ourselves' in our society. Our current economic situation is evidence of what happens when people think they can have everything they want. Jesus calls us to set our own personal 'wants' aside so that we have the resources to follow him instead.

A VOCATION VIEW 12th Sunday of the Year

God forgives our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Only priests can offer the sacrament. Pray for them and that more may join them.

/From P1...

For example, choosing to let go of deepseated racist, sexist and bigoted prejudices might be the most telling way we could renounce our worldly selves, and take up the inclusive cross of Christ. And how do we know when we have achieved this? Friends are normally a good indication about our resolve in this regard. Who we have in our home says so much about what and whom we include in our lives. We can say we love people of colour all we like, but having them as our friends changes the way we see the world. We can maintain that we want women to be equal, but have we ever had a long conversation with someone who thinks seriously about gender issues in the Church and society? And while we might be very ecumenical in theory, actually having Lutheran, Jewish and atheist friends is more valuable to us than all the best wishes in the world. Let's pray in this Eucharist for the grace to lose our life in such a way that we find it again in Christ, in whom there is no such thing as a Jew or Greek, a slave or free person, a man or a woman. There is in Christ only one human family under God where everyone from pope to pauper is unconditionally loved and has equal dignity and status. That's the kingdom we're sent to build. May we be worthy of it.