

## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Mong the frightening things said by Christian leaders in the USA following the bombing of the World Trade Centre was that 'God turned away from America because we have turned away from God' and that 'God sent these acts as a wake-up call for us to live righteous lives and return to Him.' One went as far as to confidently assert that, 'September 11 tells us we are living in end times.'

We all have different reactions to shock and grief. Everyone asks, 'Why is this happening to us?' when tragedy strikes on any scale. Christian ministers, who should know better, must never resort to bad theology to further their own social and political agendas. They give us all a bad name.

For as long as I can remember there have been people predicting the end of the world.

Whenever there is a tidal wave, cyclone, hurricane, earthquake or other natural disasters, someone declares that 'the end is nigh'. Just recall the Year 2000. Never mind that the dating of our calendar is out and so that the 2000th year occurred in 1996. The truth rarely gets in the road of the doomsday story. Sadly for us they usually invoke today's Gospel to support their case. The good news for us is that we are still waiting for the end of time. The good news for doomsday prophets is that one day they're going to be right!

We know from a variety of documents around the time of Jesus that the people of Palestine thought the world was soon coming to an end. Given they were being persecuted under an occupying Roman army and that their nation was in tatters, they seemed to have a better cause for this view than we do. In today's Gospel Jesus speaks to a demoralised people who thought, and maybe hoped, that it would all be over soon. In such a context people are liable to follow the loudest voice to what appears like the safest place and so Jesus offers us the hope of God's fidelity whatever suffering we may endure. We are challenged to counter despair, not place our trust in things or institutions which we can see but to not be afraid and stand up for faith and hope.

When bad things happen to good people, when they happen to us, we have choices. We can give into desolation, depression and despair. Some of us make a life-long career out of it. This is understandable and tragic. Or we can choose to hope. Christian hope is not about 'pie in the sky when we die'.

/Cont'd P4

### - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year C - Nov 13, 2016)

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

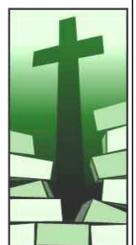
#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 1st Reading: 2Sam 5:1-3 2nd Reading: Col 1:12-20 Gospel: Lk 23:35-43



#### 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.

# <u>The Pastoral 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 1st Sat. Reconciliation after Saturday Mass Grace McKellar Centre: 10.15am - 1st Tuesday 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 Holy Family Community Centre 10.00am Meditation Group Holy Family Community Centre Tues... 5.30pm Wed... Prayer of the Church Before 9am Mass 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:

**Nov 14:** Lynch family, 13 Criton Ave; **Nov 15-28:** Johnson family, 63 Ruhama 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:** Andrew Parker

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Madge King and 1 month since death of Sam Genova

**BAPTISMS:** Violet Taylor, Noah Nelson, Archie Braddock, Zed Broom, Sadie Dudley, Charlie Fisk, Aayda & Archer Planken

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Anita Capicchiano, Robert Hayes, Helen Lacy, Theo DaCosta, Geraldine Fay, Maria Peralta, June Smith, Rudi Vanjek (Jnr), Cheryl Lambert, Leo Ryan, John McMahon

Please note: After approx five weeks names will be deleted from the sick list . Please phone the office on 5278 1343.

### - ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, NOV 20, 2016 -

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

#### HOLY FAMILY

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

#### **8.00 AM** K Saunders B Rainbow A Vanjek, P Ruggeri, R Culo L Allum, P Ruggeri, R Culo R Allum

#### <u>:</u>

6.00PM

M Carson J McKenzie G Wright, C Laffy I Cleary, L Coles, S Norris, T Stefek P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

#### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist <u>5.00PM</u> L Middleton K Maddalena, A Beachell K Maddalena T McNair D Whelan

#### 9.30AM

A Scaddan H Verdnik, T McMahon C&J Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj, T Herath E Dalton C Resciniti

#### 11.00AM

G Brown, M Kroger L Fossey, L Stalio, L Sells L Fossey D Brown (even months)

### **RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:**

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.

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... 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 Pioneer Room, St Mary's. Dinner/Guest Speaker - ph 0431 959 584

Catholic Diners' Club... 2nd Tues of each month, 6.15pm at Pioneer Room, St Mary's. Dinner/Guest Speaker - ph 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

# Cluster News:

**B**EREAVEMENT MASSES: This weekend at the 11am Mass at Ss Peter & Paul's the focus of our Mass will be Remembering and Praying for our Deceased Loved Ones. As part of the Bereavement Mass there are notelets entitled "In Loving Memory Of" which will be placed at the foot of the Cross. These leaflets are now available if you would like to take one and fill it out in preparation for the November Masses. At the Remembrance Masses please do not put the notelets at the foot of the Cross until directed by the Priest.

### HE ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND SENIOR PARISHIONERS LUNCHEON:

A warm invitation is extended to all Senior Parishioners to attend the Mass and Luncheon on **Saturday December 3rd**, commencing with Mass at 11am and Luncheon at 12noon. If you wish to attend please place your name on the signup board (White Form) in the Narthex.



Catering for the Function - Please place your name on the sign up board (Pink Form) in the Narthex if you can assist with the catering. Your assistance is welcomed and your support valued.

- **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** There is a letter/set of envelopes for all contributors (including credit card etc) in the foyer today. They are in order, alphabetically by **STREET**. Please take a pink sheet if you would like to start giving. If pledge information on your receipt needs to be updated, please contact Bernadette at the Parish Office, or email: <u>cluster@cam.org.au</u> Thankyou all for your continuing regular support.
- FR GERARD AWAY ON RETREAT: I will be away for just over a week from Friday Nov 18 until Sunday Nov 27. The first part of the leave is attending a Seminar on Christian Meditation and Ageing followed by a week long Silent Retreat with the focus on Christian Meditation.
- LECTORS PLEASE NOTE: Your copy of the new Break Open the Word is now in the Sacristy where you are rostered. Please collect it as soon as you can. Many thanks for your continued support.
- THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will have their annual Christmas Appeal Collection on the weekend of December 3/4. This appeal will assist all those people in our community who will be going through difficult times during the forthcoming holy season of Christmas.
- ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS: Packets of 8 at \$7 will be available from the Piety Stall at Holy Spirit Church...
- COLUMBAN CALENDARS: \$9 available for purchase from the Piety Stall in all three Churches until December 18.
- FR MICK'S RAFFLE BOOKS: Just a reminder that raffle books need to be returned by November 20. With thanks David Lunn.
- KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS: On Sunday Nov 20 after the 11am Mass at Holy Spirit there will be a dinner held for the presentation of the Annual Awards for the Knights of the Southern Cross, held at Holy Spirit Hall. Widows are most welcome to attend.
- ROSARY: The Rosary will be recited at 8.45am prior to the 9.15am Mass, Tuesday and Thursday, at Holy Family Church. All welcome!
- SILVER JUBILEE OF ORDINATION BOOKMARKS: At the back of each of the Churches there are Fr Gerard's Silver Jubilee of Ordination Bookmarks. You are most welcome to take them.
- HOLY FAMILY WOMEN'S GROUP DECEMBER MEETING: Christmas Dinner at the Sphinx Monday December 5th. Please let Peggy know if attending.
- AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS Mercy in the Big Tent Church: How can we as Catholics better embody the mercy of God in the way we live out our faith in the world? In this edition there is an article around questions arising from the marriage equality debate as well as other worthwhile and interesting reading. Australian Catholics are available for free this weekend.
- 'SEEKING MARY': The Lacy family received a lovely letter from 'Mary' who knew Michael Lacy when he was a young man and they are seeking the contact details to thank her for the letter. Mary, if you read this letter, please contact the Pastoral Cluster Office and we will forward the details on.

# Kristmas for Kuya:



Once again, the combined efforts of the parishes and the schools achieved a great fundraising result for Kristmas for Kuya. The Raffle raised \$3,891; the Lucky Envelopes \$1,267; the Wish List \$8,975; the Mass Collection on October 9th \$5,137; and the profit from the Luncheon Tickets \$1,925. Also during Lent we had our Combined Churches Raffle which raised \$2,995. A GRAND TOTAL OF \$21,195! Sr Kate and her team are most appreciative of your generous support and wish to convey that this amount of money will make an extraordinary contribution to the welfare of so many.

### ELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON - FR MICK'S MATES:

Many thanks to the following businesses who generously donated to the Melbourne Cup Luncheon:

Moorabool Valley Chocolates; Parker's Steak House; Sawyers Arms Tavern; Petrel Hotel; Wool Exchange Hotel; St George Hotel; Sir Charles Hotham Hotel; Great Western Hotel; Milanas Lingerie; IGA Supermarket; Sphinx Hotel; Dan Murphy Liquor Store; Coles Supermarket; Gateway Hotel; Tattslotto Agency Bellpark; Jumping Jelly Beans (Jumping Castle). Please support these businesses for their generosity.

# Community News:

Nov 13... ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASS: The Annual mass for deceased students, staff and benefactors of St Joseph's College Geelong will be held at 2pm in the College Chapel. All are welcome!

- Nov 15... A NEW DAY DAWNS: Based upon the call by St John Paul II for an 'ecological conversion', the official Respondent will be Mrs Jacqui Remond, Director Catholic Earthcare Australia. Free Oration 7.30pm with light refreshments from 7pm in the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St East Melbourne (cnr Albert & Lansdowne Sts). Enquiries/RSVP justice@cam.org.au or phone 9926 5727. All welcome!
- Nov 26... TIME OUT FOR TLC: Pastoral Healthcare Network invites you to a relaxing afternoon of pampering and pastoral healthcare at Geelong Natural Therapies, 36 Shannon Ave. Come along and choose from a range of pampering activities incl hand or foot massage, Myotherapy, Bowen therapy, blood pressure testing and a'noon tea. From 1-3.30pm, cost \$10. Enquiries Sr Carmel O'Dwyer 5229 7954.

#### WING AND A PRAYER:

The Wing and a Prayer Book and Gift shop is now situated at 116 Moorabool St (just near 'Flight Centre' and the cnr of Moorabool & Lt Malop Sts). Open weekdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm. In preparation for Christmas you may wish to see their large range of Christmas Card packs, Nativity scenes, as well as a wide range of books - including 2nd hand ones.

#### FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS AT ST MARY OF THE ANGELS BASILICA:

Music for reflection on the season of Advent will be presented with other classical works to lift your spirits in readiness for Christmas.

- 1. Mon Nov 28... 12.30-1.15pm Mel Waters, formerly from St John's Anglican Church, Toorak
- 2. Mon Dec 5... 12.30-1.15pm Rhys Boak from St Michael's Uniting Church, Melbourne
- 3. Mon Dec 12... 12.30-1,15pm Ken George from All Saints Anglican Church, Geelong
- 4. Mon Dec 19... 12.30-1.15pm Frank DeRosso from St Mary of the Angels Basilica, Geelong.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 16TH DECEMBER - WINDFIRE CHAMBER CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE: Mozart Mass in C Major K220 "Sparrow" and Music for Christmas. Conductor Rick Prakhoff with Lee Abrahmsen, soprano; Belinda Prakhoff, mezzo, Michael Petrucelli, tenor and Nicholas Dinopoulos, bass baritone.

CHILD MIGRANTS, THE VULNERABLE AND THE VOICELESS:

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you,

so that you might imitate us. (2Thess 3:9)

This is the focus of the Holy Father's message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees which will be celebrated worldwide on January 15, 2017. If you would like to see the document please visit the following webpage: www.pcmigrants.org

Most people who live a grateful and generous lifestyle don't go around bragging about it. But through their actions and words, others do take notice. They notice because of the joy and peace that results and other people desire this in their own life. Know that the way you live your life may be the only interaction others have with the Catholic faith.

/From P1...

It is not about 'putting on a happy face, come what may'. St Augustine tells us hope is based on the justice God wants in this world, and will see done in the next. Interestingly, one of the signs Jesus speaks about in today's Gospel is famine. We have known for thirty years that if we all lived justly and shared from our abundance, we could have seen an end to starvation. We choose otherwise and sometimes blame God.

St Thomas Aquinas teaches us that hope, along with faith and love, is one of the prongs in the anchor of Christian belief. No matter how stormy are the waters, how much we are tossed and buffeted by life's winds, this anchor keeps us rooted in God until calmer seas return. Hope is about holding on, come

#### what may.

Today's Gospel is not interested in a timetable for disaster. It's about encouraging us to drop the anchor of hope overboard when the times get tough.

May this Eucharist help us to keep choosing to hope until the end of time.