



# Pastoral Cluster

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

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## Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins!

I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word.

We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching.

In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is

the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. */Cont'd P4*

## Third Sunday of Advent

(Year A/1 - Dec 11, 2016)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, come and save us.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News  
to the poor.

**Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Is 7:10-14  
2nd Reading: Rom 1:1-7  
Gospel: Mt 1:18-24



### 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 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

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:

**Dec 5-18:** Moore family, 30 Willana Ave;

**Dec 19-Jan 7:** Montalto family, 2 Graylea Ave;

**Jan 8-21:** Johnson family, 63 Ruhama Ave;

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

**RECENT DEATHS:** Roger Hardwick

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Gerard Gillett, Frank Marafioti, Sofia Selthafner and 1 month since death of Anna Menchise

**BAPTISMS:** Benjamin Arico, Lukas Colak, Matilda Vodopic and Arianna Planken

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Anita Capicchiano, Robert Hayes, Helen Lacy, Theo DaCosta, Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa

**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, DEC 18, 2016 -

(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

G Wright,

I Cleary, L Coles, S Norris, T Stefek

P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

### 11.00AM

G Brown, M Kroger

L Fossey, L Stalio, L Sells

L Fossey

D Brown (even months)

### Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### 5.00PM

L Middleton

K Maddalena, A Beachell

K Maddalena

T McNair

D Whelan



# Christmas Celebrations



## 2nd Rite Reconciliation:

Tuesday	Dec 20	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
Wednesday	Dec 21	5.00pm	Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Dec 21	7.30pm	Holy Family

## Christmas Eve Masses:

Saturday	Dec 24	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
		5.30pm	Holy Family (focus on children)
		7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's
		8.00pm	Holy Spirit



## Christmas Day Masses:

Sunday	Dec 25	9.00am	Holy Spirit
		9.30am	Holy Family

### Please Note:

**THERE WILL BE NO MIDNIGHT MASS CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOLY FAMILY.**

## Cluster News:

- ◆ **DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS:** We require your assistance once again to deliver the Christmas invitations that have been left over in the Churches. Please collect from the Parish Office, 147 Separation St Bell Park. We need them delivered this week. Many thanks - Frs Gerard and Rolyn
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL:** Home produce will be on sale after the following Masses: **Ss Peter & Paul's 5pm Sat 10th Dec and 11am Sun 11th Dec, and Holy Family 8am and 9.30am Sun 18th Dec.** All proceeds to Fr Mick's Relay for Life. Thankyou for all involved in this effort.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** To the organisers and helpers who set up, catered and cleaned up for the Anointing of the Sick and Seniors Luncheon at Holy Family on Dec 3rd. This year again it was an enjoyable, friendly and hospitable occasion for all. A great outreach, especially for those who are housebound.
- ◆ **ST VINCENT DE PAUL JESSE TREE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Today we ask you to take a ticket out of our Basket Hand Out as we are looking for festive type foods to make Christmas Hampers (approx 75) for the less fortunate in the community of Holy Family and Ashby parishes.
- ◆ **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** are available from the Piety Stall in all three Churches until **Dec 18.**
- ◆ **LEAVING COLLECTION DEC 10/11:** Please note that the Catholic Missions will hold their Annual Appeal this weekend. The focus of this year's appeal is **Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace** and the focus is to assist people in Papua New Guinea.

## RECURRING ACTIVITIES IN THE CLUSTER:

<b>Pastoral Cluster Luncheon...</b>	First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share.
<b>Holy Family Luncheon..</b>	Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. <b>BYO casserole &amp; drink to share.</b>
<b>Holy Family Women's Group...</b>	First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.00pm
<b>St Vincent de Paul...</b>	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
<b>Legion of Mary...</b>	Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre
<b>Baptism Preps</b>	4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre
<b>Holy Family Choir Practice...</b>	Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm
<b>Manifold CWL...</b>	Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month
<b>Italian Mass...</b>	First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel
<b>Catholic Diners' Club...</b>	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](http://www.pastoralclustergeelong.org)**

*The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Cancer Council Victoria re -*

### **FR MICK'S MATES RESEARCH AWARD 2016**

We're delighted to announce that the Research Award has been established in recognition of the outstanding fundraising efforts of Fr Mick's Mates.

The Fr Mick's Mates Research Award will help fund the Cancer Council Victoria-Research Grant supporting the work of Dr Andrew Deans and Dr Alessandro Costa from St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research towards research into the treatment and causes of breast cancer and leukaemia in all age groups.

Enclosed is a Certificate of Appreciation to show our gratitude for your support. A further acknowledgement will be included in our 2016 Annual Review to be published digitally in 2017.

Thankyou once again for your generous support -

Andrew Buchanan

Head of Division - Fundraising and Communications

## **Community News:**

### **EAST GEELONG HOMEWORK TUTORING PROGRAM:**

This program is a St Vincent de Paul initiative. We are currently looking for volunteer tutors to tutor Mathematics or English to primary school aged students. Volunteers need to be available each Saturday from 9.30-11.30am. Tutoring takes place at East Geelong Primary Schools. No experience necessary - training provided. If you can help please contact Meaghan Francis on 0407 963 731 or email [eastgeelong.tutor@sudp-vic.org.au](mailto:eastgeelong.tutor@sudp-vic.org.au)

### **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 Dec 12...** 12.30-1.15pm **Ken George** from All Saints Anglican Church, Geelong
2. **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.



### **CATHOLIC VOCATIONS**

#### **Glory...**

The coming of the Lord gives us a glimpse of glory in this world, and helps us on our pilgrimage to the next world. Where do I find these moments of 'glory' in my daily life?

*Please pray for more priests and religious who will help us to see the glory of the Lord in the Sacraments and in ministering to each other.*

### **STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

*Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. (Mt 3:10)*

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

*/From P1...*

Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is

meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly

good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.