



Pastoral Cluster

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

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OFFICE HOURS:	Mon-Wed, Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9-2pm.			
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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:	Holy Family	Peter Brunt	Separation St, Bell Park	Phone 5278 4634
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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*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Year A/1 - Dec 18, 2016)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
A Virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel:
God-is-with-us. **Alleluia!**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

The Nativity of the Lord

1st Reading: Is 52:7-10
2nd Reading: Heb 1:1-6
Gospel: Jn 1:1-18



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:

Craig Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mary Monaco, Jim Vivian, Giovanni, Sylvana & Gabriella Rondi, Tony & Lou Past, Catherine Gibson, Leslie Cranbourne, Zlatko Velcek, Ray Gurrie, Boris, Eva & Andrew Uroda, John Walsh, Maria Pino and 1 year anniversary of Elerito DiCrostoforo

BAPTISMS:

Grace Lamela, Hugo McGuane, Claire Pocock and Milla Sharkey

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Anita Capicchiano, Robert Hayes, Helen Lacy, Theo DaCosta, Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa



- Christmas Rosters -



HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Projectionist

Sat 5.30pm

(Not needed)

L Kelly

E Kelly, L Sells, B McFarlane,
P Ruggeri, J Genova, D Horoba
P McBride

Sun 9.30am

P Gizycki

C Taylor/T McMahan

C Taylor, D Lunn, V Resciniti, M Horoba,
D Horoba
C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Projectionist

Sat 8.00pm

T McShanag

J McKenzie

D Dougherty, C McShanag,
V Trinder, M Kroger
D Brown

Sun 9.00am

F Kearney

J O'Neill

J Sheah, R O'Neill, ***

L Coles

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Projectionist

Sat 5.00pm

A Henderson

M Gifford

M Gifford, P McGlinchey,
A Henderson, C O'Brien, N Neeld
B Middleton

Sat 7.00pm

G Tolan

Sr J McGonigal

J McCarthy, C Maddalena, G Tolan

J Lynch

*** Denotes need for assistance. If you can help phone the parish office on 5278 1343.




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:

- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE:** Next week there will **NO PARISH BULLETIN NEXT WEEK**. If you wish for an Anniversary to be remembered at our Masses, please phone the Office and the name of the deceased will be incorporated into the Prayers of the Faithful for our Christmas Masses and in the following week's bulletin.
- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** This week the Office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday as normal, however the office will be closed on Thursday. The week following Christmas Day the office will operate on restricted hours. Please leave a message on the phone if the office is unattended.
- ◆ **DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS:** Many thanks to all the 'Pastoral Cluster Posties' for hand delivering the Christmas greetings and invitations to all known Catholics in our region.
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL:** Home produce will be on sale after the following Masses: **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.
- ◆ **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**.
- ◆ **THANKYOU:** Joe, Catherine and the Taylor family would like to thank most sincerely the loving community of Holy Family Parish for the prayers, floral tributes and beautiful cards and food they received on the untimely death of Monique, and to the women at Holy Spirit for the wonderful catering after Mass. We would like to thank Fr Gerard for his compassion at this time and for the beautiful Requiem Mass celebrated by him and Fr Rolyn. We feel so fortunate to belong to such a caring community.



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...	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.pastoralclusterqeelong.org

WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF 26TH DECEMBER THROUGH TO 31ST DECEMBER

Monday	Dec 26...	No Mass
Tuesday	Dec 27...	9.15am at Holy Family
Wednesday	Dec 28...	9am Holy Spirit
Thursday	Dec 29...	9.15am Holy Family
Friday	Dec 30...	11am Holy Spirit
Saturday	Dec 31...	No morning Mass
Sunday	Dec 31/Jan 1...	Masses as normal

Community News:

- Dec 16-24...** **ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS (SIMBANG GABI):** 5.30am every morning at St Francis Xavier Church, 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. All welcome!
- Dec 19...** **FREE LUNCHTIME ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS AT ST MARY OF THE ANGELS BASILICA:** 12.30-1.15pm Frank DeRossa.

MARYVILLE has a rare vacant double room for married couples if there were any married couples who have been assessed for aged care but did not want to be separated. Ph Cheryl Conder 5221 5299 for more details.

NAZARETH CATHOLIC PARISH: Holiday travellers to the Surfcoast (Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea) - you may be visiting us over the Christmas/New Year break and beyond, so come and have a look at our brand new website: cam.org.au/grovedale. It has all our Mass times and Bulletins on it as well as lots of other interesting material. Please get to know us a little before you arrive, and we will look forward to saying hello when we meet you at any of our Masses.

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE: Currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students and asylum seekers in the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approx half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Interview process will be in late January followed by a Training Day early 2017. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Email: somml@bigpond.com.

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

Emanuel...

God is with us. Next Sunday is our annual reminder that God did not leave us alone. He sent his Son Jesus to be with us to give us joy and hope and peace. This week, how can I tell people about my excitement for the real meaning of Christmas?

Please pray for more vocations to the priesthood; that more young men will bring us Jesus through their ministry.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 4th Sunday of Advent

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord has commanded him and took his wife into his home. (Mt 1:24)

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow him wherever he may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of Our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

/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.