



Pastoral Cluster

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

PARISH PRIEST:	Fr Gerard Keith (email: gerard.keith@cam.org.au) Fr Rolyn Vics			Web Page Address: www.pastoralclustergeelong.org
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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 Fr Michael Tate

It is fitting that on New Year's Day we celebrate *the* calendar-shattering event in human history: the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race.

In the Western Church, the young woman is titled 'Mother of God'. This signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship. We know that it

encompassed a mother's horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross.

Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of *God*.

How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? In the Book of Genesis, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void.

When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word', the human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began, the fulcrum of history from which our calendar begins.

We could pause for a moment to pray that at the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, we may share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.

*We wish everyone in the Pastoral Cluster
a Happy, Holy and Safe New Year - Fr Gerard & Fr Rolyn*

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Year A/1 - Jan 1, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Hail, Holy Mother,
who gave birth to the King,
who rules heaven and earth forever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

May God bless us in his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
In the past God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6
2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12



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:

Jan 7: Montalto family, 2 Graylea Ave; **Jan 8-21:** 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: Augusta DeJesus, Josip Verzak, Thomas Carroll, Silvana Bruschi, Rossmore Hanlon, Joan Dempsey and Marijan Benic

ANNIVERSARIES: Rosa Valentina, Antoinetta, Maria & Rosa DeAngelis, Almor Marius, Jose Ferreira

BAPTISMS: -

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, January 8, 2017

(2nd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

M Howard

F O'Neill

R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio

C Marcantonio,

R Allum

9.30AM

C Simpson

D Lunn, A Negro

H Verdnik, M Baird, J Sheahan, M Perera,

V Resciniti, E Glynn

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

J Ryan

R O'Neill, E Ryan, L Vannata

J Lynch

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

M Bohan

P Power

P McGlinchey

D Dougherty

B Middleton

11.00AM

E Strzelecki

M Martin

E Strzelecki, L Fossey,

L Fossey

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

Cluster News:

- ◆ **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** This week the office will operate on restricted hours. Please leave a message on the phone if the office is unattended. Normal office hours will resume from Monday January 9th, 2017.
- ◆ There will be **NO** 9.15am Mass on Tuesday Jan 2nd at Holy Family or 9am Mass on Wednesday Jan 3rd at Holy Spirit. Also **NO** 9am Saturday morning Mass at Holy Spirit.



HEARTFELT THANKS:

To all those who played a particular role in our Christmas Liturgies - our musicians and choirs, lectors, commentators, special ministers, collectors. Thankyou very kindly for a job well done! Your efforts enable the whole community to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas - God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son.



AMALGAMATION OF THE THREE PARISHES OF THE PASTORAL CLUSTER INTO ONE PARISH WITH THREE CHURCHES:

You may recall on the weekend of October 29/30 2016, I spoke about the amalgamation of the three parishes of the Pastoral Cluster into one parish. With the support of the Finance and Parish Leadership Team, the Amalgamation was proposed to change the Canonical (Church Law) status to more accurately reflect the long shared history of the three parishes of the Pastoral Cluster.

The proposal for Amalgamation was forwarded to the Archbishop and his consultants for their consideration. The Archbishop has accepted the request for Amalgamation. The Archbishop's extensive note on this matter is on the noticeboard at the back of each Church.

As part of the process the Archbishop required that there had to be a designated locality of the new parish and a new Patron. Each of the three Churches and Schools retain their names but the new parish would be named after this Patron.

Our new Patron is St Michael the Archangel and our locality is Bell Park. Hence the Amalgamated Parish is known as St Michael's, Bell Park.

The Archbishop has asked that I speak about the Amalgamation on the weekend of 21/22 January 2017. If there are any questions or concerns please let me know so that they are incorporated into the presentation. (*Fr Gerard*)



WINNERS OF RELAY FOR LIFE RAFFLE:

- 1st...** Jeanette Sheahan
- 2nd...** David Lunn
- 3rd...** Pauline Courtney
- 4th...** Lane Kelly
- 5th...** Amy O'Brien

ST VINCENT DE PAUL:

Holy Spirit Conference would like to thank parishioners for raising **\$741.40** to help them purchase items for Christmas hampers.

A special thankyou to the CWL for their donation of **\$250**



VOTE OF THANKS FROM FR MICK'S FAMILY:

Fr Mick's family would like to thank Fr Gerard and the parishioners of the Cluster Parishes for the many kindnesses shown to them by you since Fr Mick's death in June.

They are deeply grateful that you have included them on so many occasions by inviting Genevieve and Paulina to represent us when you were honouring him in special ways.

In return, we assure you of a grateful remembrance in our prayers.

May God bless you all with true peace and deep joy during this Christmas Season.



LETTER FROM SISTERS CLAUDIA AND KATE, RNDMs: (December 22, 2016)

Greetings of joy as Christmas nears!

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your tremendous support of our work among the urban poor of Metro Manila. Your extraordinary efforts to reach out to the marginalized and disadvantaged in assistance and support over many years, speak of your sincere compassion and care for the poor of this land. As we continue our outreach among them, we are deeply encouraged by our partnership with you.

We continue to accompany the members of our livelihood and training program as they work to sustain and strengthen their current businesses or begin new initiatives. They demonstrate such courage and resilience in the face of daily struggles, and the joy of small successes is wonderful to see. It is heartening to know that they have increased resources to care better for their families and to educate their children. In the new year we plan to expand our program outreach to one or two new areas where we are aware of need.

Our memories of your visit to Manila remain in our hearts, and our members, too, frequently ask after you. They are so amazed when we share stories of your fundraising efforts on their behalf and encouraged by your remembrance of and care for them.

Thank you so very much for once again offering proceeds from your "Christmas for Kuya" event this year for the benefit of those in need. Words cannot express our deep gratitude for your generosity and support.

As we celebrate Christmas, we pray that the wonder of Christ-among-us, the One who came to be with us, to seek out the lost and the little ones, gift you with much hope, joy and peace.

And may you and your families know abundant blessing through 2017.

Gratefully, Sisters Claudia and Kate RNDMs.



Community News:

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.

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.