



# 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

Some of us remember the provocative and frightening 1991 film *Silence of the Lambs*.

The image in the title refers to a childhood memory of CIA agent, Clarice Starling. In her interviews with the psychopath Dr Lecter, he gets her to talk about how she still wakes at night hearing the cry of the lambs as they were led to slaughter on her uncle's farm. This is a pivotal moment in Thomas Harris' book and the film. It is the leverage Dr Lecter needs to unsettle and unravel Clarice's well-formed defences. Clarice is revealed as vulnerable, because of the grief she carries from the violent deaths she has seen.

I remember empathising with Clarice's memory of the lambs. When I was a child I saw many sheep slaughtered on my family's properties. I can still see my uncle selecting

one of them, holding it in the pen before its execution and then watching him do the deed. The scene should have been enough to turn me into a vegetarian! Alas, I got over my pity for the animal and enjoyed roast lamb a few nights later.

John's use of the metaphor of the sacrificial lamb in reference to Jesus in today's Gospel is meant to engender a similar empathy to that of the childhood memories of Clarice Starling. While there are many jokes about the stupidity of sheep, lambs still claim a spot in the hardest heart. They are pure, white, fluffy and defenceless. They demand nurture. And like their parents they don't seem able to smell danger very easily. They follow where they're led, even to execution.

For the agrarian Jews of Jesus' time the sacrifice of a lamb demonstrated how serious they were about atoning for their sins. Jewish law dictated that a lamb had to be killed at least once a year, at Passover.

Such a sacrifice cost the shepherd big time. Lambs were currency. This was tithing writ large.

Saying Jesus is the Lamb of God is a shorthand way of telling us two things. The first is that Jesus is God's most precious gift; God's own self, given to the world that we might know how serious God is about us. God can give us nothing more than Jesus.

As a result of Jesus' innocent suffering and death there is no need for any lambs to be religiously slaughtered ever again. We need to keep hearing this message because some Christians get caught into glorifying Jesus' suffering so much they get trapped in their own world of pain and go looking for more.

Jesus never sought out suffering. He bore what came his way. And the same must be true for us. /Cont'd P2

## - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - Jan 15, 2017)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. **Alleluia!**

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 8:23-9:3  
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:10-13,17  
Gospel: Mt 4:12-23



### 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.

## AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

<b>RECENT DEATHS:</b>	Vito Cammaroti and Ana DeSousa Santos (in Portugal)
<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b>	Stefania Gwizdek, Max King, Lawrence Monaghan, Assunta Fazio, Salvatore Rotiroti
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Hugh Corbett, Esme Scaddan and Jordan Zangari
<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK:</b>	Anita Capicchiano, Robert Hayes, Helen Lacy, Theo DaCosta, Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa

## Cluster News:

**OFFICE HOURS:** Please note that the Pastoral Cluster Office hours are now back to normal.

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

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*)

### **THANKYOU:**

St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank those generous parishioners from Holy Family and Ss Peter & Paul's for their gifts to the Jessie Tree Appeal. We distributed over 70 hampers to the people in need for Christmas.

### **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 9.30am to 11.30pm. Tutoring takes place at East Geelong Primary School. No experience necessary - training provided. Please contact Meaghan Francis on 0407 963 731 or email [eastgeelong.tutor@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:eastgeelong.tutor@svdp-vic.org.au)

Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. Most of us don't need to look for more suffering in our lives because we share in the Lamb of God's sacrifice in the ordinary downs of our lives.

Secondly, John would have known that 'talya', the Aramaic word for sheep, is the

same word used for servant. The first hearers of this Gospel would have known it too. Jesus, then, is the servant who brings us the truth we need for life, who answers our deepest desires to know that our existence has meaning and purpose and he opens up for us the life beyond this one, where there

will be no more weeping or sadness.

Jesus shows us that when we are baptised into his death and enter his service we also share in his resurrection and glory because he bears, and bears away, the sins of the world.

## Roster for Next Sunday, January 22, 2017

(4th Sunday of the Month)

### **HOLY FAMILY**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### **8.00AM**

F O'Neill

L Kelly

L Sells, E Kelly, B McFarlane

L&E Kelly

R Allum

### **9.30AM**

M Lukesic

M Baird, P Gizycki

D Lunn, P McBride, C Simpson, V Resciniti

A Sare, A/I Dugandzic

C Resciniti

### **HOLY SPIRIT:**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### **6.00PM**

M Carson

Sr J McGonigal

C McShanag, R Stanley, D Yeatman

M Brown

T McShanag

### **Ss PETER & PAUL'S:**

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

### **5.00PM**

A Henderson

G Tolan

A Henderson, G Tolan

J Cowell

B Middleton

### **11.00AM**

M Burn

J Fraatz, L Eastman

D Dougherty

D Dougherty

R Zarb