



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

Recently I was shocked by a Catholic woman who told me she didn't care very much for her local Bishop. She enumerated the many faults and failings of her diocese and its leader and then highly praised Pope John Paul II.

It's hard to argue with her admiration of the Pope, but unknowingly, she was falling into the same trap to which the community at Corinth was prey. Unfortunately, my acquaintance thought that her Catholic identity primarily came from her communion with the Bishop of Rome. She felt she could bypass her local bishop, 'because he's too trendy', and 'deal direct' with the Pope. She told me she saw the Pope as her bishop. The problem with her position is that it is not Catholic!

All of us in the Church are called to pray for, support and follow the lead of the Holy Father. But our Catholic identity comes from our

communion with our local church, in and through its bishop, who is in turn, in communion with the Bishop of Rome. This is what the five-yearly ad limina visits are all about: a brother bishop sharing with the Pope the graces and challenges in his local Church and reaffirming the Catholic faith that unites all of us as members of the same universal Church.

Soon after Jesus called the apostles, disputes broke out among them. We know from the whole of the New Testament that there were serious disagreements between the earliest leaders in the Church. Their different temperaments and missions led to several misunderstandings. What St Paul found in Corinth, however, was a fractured Church, pleading allegiances to different leaders over and against Jesus. He teaches the Corinthians a critical lesson in being Church: we are all one under Jesus' leadership. Christ is the head of the Church.

Within ancient and clear limits the Church has

a wonderful diversity, a plurality of expression, emphasis and culture. It's always been like this. It means the Church is taking seriously its role of finding Christ in every place and every community in the world. The moment we pit one local Church against the other ('I prefer the Pope to my bishop') we lose the Catholic communion in Christ Jesus which holds us together.

Paul tells us preaching the Cross of Jesus is the mission of the Church. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel that teaching, preaching and healing are the hallmarks of his ministry. And the same should hold for us.

No matter how differently any local church might develop, the Bishop of Rome confirms in the faith Bishops who continue to preach Christ crucified, teach in Christ's name, heal the sick and reconcile the estranged.

/Cont'd P2

- 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - Jan 22, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

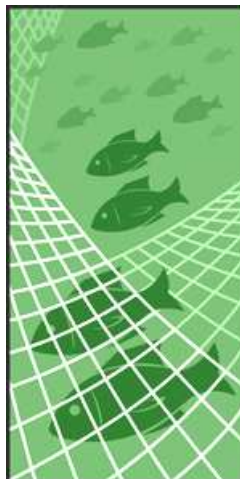
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Zeph 2:3,3:12-13
2nd Reading: 1Cor 1:26-31
Gospel: Mt 5:1-12



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.

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Patricia (Pat) Bourke, and Nicola Sabiano, Domenico Diluca and Daniella Tino (Italy)
ANNIVERSARIES:	Nicholas DeStefano, Antonio Tino, Josip Brajkovic, Alison DaCosta, Jack Picone, Assunta Nadile, Josephine Kennedy, Silvana Bruschi (1 month), Ernie Cawthray (1 year).
BAPTISMS:	-
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Anita Capicchiano, Robert Hayes, Helen Lacy, Theo DaCosta, Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Ivanka Juran
OUR LADY'S STATUE:	Jan 23-Feb 5: DeLuca family, 44 Fairy St.

Cluster News:

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)*

INSURANCE RISK ASSESSMENT: The Pastoral Cluster has been invited by the Catholic Insurance to be one of a few parishes to pilot an Insurance Risk Assessment project. The purpose of the project is to develop strategies to reduce the risk of accidents and incidences in the parishes. This project will benefit our community and insights will in turn be of some assistance to other parishes in the Archdiocese. I am meeting with the Catholic Insurance representative this Monday and if there are any areas of concern or observations that you have, please let me know over the coming weeks so that they can be incorporated into their report and appropriate action taken. *(Fr Gerard)*

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

ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL MASS: Beginning on Thursday Feb 2, Mass will be celebrated 11.30am every Thursday in the Chapel at St John of God Hospital, 80 Myers St (between Moorabool & Gheringhap Sts). Everyone is welcome. The Chapel is located on the Ground Floor, near Reception and Cafe Costa.

That's what makes us Catholic and why today we need to listen again and very carefully, to Paul's admonition, 'I beg you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions

among you, but that you be united in the same mind and purpose.'

To the degree to which we live this out in our communion with our local successor to the Apostles, the more chance all members of the

Church have to use the energy and gifts given at baptism to do what Christ wants of the Church: to change the world for good and be a beacon of the saving Christ's gifts - faith, hope and charity.

Roster for Next Sunday, January 29, 2017

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

8.00AM
Commentators M Howard
Lectors F O'Neill
Special Ministers R Allum, J Genova, C Marcantonio
Welcomers C Marcantonio,
Projectionist 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:

6.00PM
Commentators
Lectors J Ryan
Special Ministers R O'Neill, E Ryan, L Vannata
Welcomers
Projectionist J Lynch

11AM

G Brown, M Kroger
L Fossey, L Stalio, L Sells
L Fossey
D Brown

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

5.00PM
Commentators M Bohan
Lectors P Power
Special Ministers P McGlinchey
Welcomers D Dougherty
Projectionist B Middleton