

### Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

D octors and dietitians would have some difficulty with the first part of today's Gospel. Jesus does not seem to know that salt is bad for hypertension and cholesterol! Just as health professionals are encouraging us to be careful in using salt, Jesus is telling us to keep it up. Salt in Jesus' day, and for centuries before and after, was the primary preserving agent for food. That day-to-day usage gives us a clue as to the challenge being laid before us.

We are told that if salt has lost its taste it's good for nothing. So the challenge is to keep it fresh so it can keep doing its job. Jesus suggests that, in the same way, we have to be on guard to make sure that our faith remains fresh so it's able to do its job as well.

John Grant

The fifth and sixth chapters of Matthew's Gospel are devoted to describing the elements of Christian faith. At the start of the fifth chapter we have the Beatitudes that tell us that the presence of God can be discovered in all of life's situations. It reminds us that as Christians we can find God wherever we want to. The rest of these two chapters go on to give us specific directions about the dangers and aides to faith.

Jesus tells us that a hollow attachment to the letter of the law, unbridled anger, an inability to forgive, being unfaithful in marriage, seeking revenge on our enemies, not being true to our word and being enslaved by money are all examples of bad faith. Think for a moment of people you know who are trapped by any of these vicious forces. It's sad to see the energy it takes them to remain angry, greedy, legalistic, fraudulent and unforgiving.

Phone 5229 4412

More positively Jesus tells us in these chapters that prayer, being generous to the poor, being discerning about whom we spend time with and what we see and hear, and going without things we often consider essential are helpful to living a faith-filled life. Think for a moment of people you know who live lives like this. Their detachment, sense of generosity and ease with others stands out in our stress-ridden world. */Cont'd P4...* 

### - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

St Patrick's

(Year A/1 - Feb 5, 2017)

### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. **Alleluia!** 

Mt 5:17-37

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Sirach 15:15-20 2nd Reading: 1Cor 2:6-10

Gospel:



### PARISH PRAYER:

Petrel St, Geelong West

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.

# <u>The Pastoral Cluster at Prayer</u>

WEEKEND MASSES: <u>Holy Family, Bell Park:</u> English 8am and 9.30 Croatian 11am Sunday Slovenian 12.15pm even	am Sunday 6.00pm v 11am 1s	<b>irit, Manifold Hts:</b> Saturday at, 3rd & 5th Sundays ath	<u>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's, Geelong West:</u> 5.00pm Saturday 11am 2nd & 4th Sundays
WEEKDAY MASSES: Holy Family:9.15am Tues, 9.15am ThursHoly Spirit:9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat.Bolog9.00am Wed, 11am Fri and 9am 1st Sat.Grace McKellar Centre:10.15am - 1st TuesdayMulticultural 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			Ith Sundays 12noon at Ss P&P,
TuesMeditation Gro.WedPrayer of the CWedHoly Family WeThursItalian Prayer C	hurch buren's Prayer Group	10.00am 5.30pm Before 9am Mass 10.00am 10.00am After 11am Mass 3.00pm After 9am Mass	Holy Family Community Centre Holy Family Community Centre Holy Spirit Church Holy Family Community Centre St Patrick's Chapel Holy Spirit Church Holy Spirit Church Holy Spirit Church

### OUR LADY'S STATUE:

**Feb 6-26:** O'Neil family, 11 Derby Rd. 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:Ivanka Juran and Pasquasle Pitaro (Italy)ANNIVERSARIES:Maria Vannata, Vince Fazio, Antonio Cicero and 1 year anniv of<br/>Antonio BagnatoBAPTISMS:Ruby Hudich and Charlotte PainterPRAY FOR THE SICK:Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Johann<br/>Angerbaure

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, February 12, 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

### HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

J Ryan R O'Neill, E Ryan, L Vannata J Lynch

### <u>Ss PETER & PAUL'S:</u>

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist <u>5.00PM</u>

6.00PM

M Bohan P Power P McGlinchey D Dougherty B Middleton

### <u>9.30AM</u>

C Simpson D Lunn, A Negro H Verdnik, M Baird, J Sheahan, M Perera, V Resciniti, E Glynn C Resciniti

### <u>11.00AM</u>

E Strzelecki M Martin E Strzelecki, L Fossey, L Fossey

### **Recurring Activities in the Cluster:**

Pastoral Cluster Luncheon... Holy Family Luncheon.. Holy Family Women's Group... St Vincent de Paul...

Legion of Mary... Baptism Preps Holy Family Choir Practice... Manifold CWL... Italian Mass... Catholic Diners' Club... First Sunday of each month at the Holy Spirit Hall from 12noon. BYO food and drink to share. Third Sunday of each month at the Community Centre from 12noon. **BYO casserole & drink to share.** First Monday evening of each month at the Community Centre 7.00pm 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 Every Friday 9.30am in the Holy Family Community Centre 4th Mondays 7.30pm in the Community Centre Every Wednesday night at Holy Family Church 7pm Holy Spirit Hall, 1st Wednesdays in the month First Thursday of the month in St Patrick's Chapel 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

# Cluster News:

### BAPTISM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:

An invitation is being extended to families who have primary school aged children and who are not yet baptised. The program is that there will be a parent/child session **on Wednesday March 15, 7pm at the Pastoral Cluster Office**. The child thereafter will be welcomed into the parish community with the baptism taking place later, perhaps at Easter. Please contact Bernadette at the Office on 5278 1343 or email <u>cluster@cam.org.au</u>

### PARISH RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:

The program is as follows -

- Session 1: Sunday Feb 26, 9.30am at Holy Family Church Welcome & Commitment Mass and lesson for children
- Session 2: Wednesday March 1, 7pm at Holy Family Community Centre Family based presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation - parent/child in attendance
- Session 3: Sunday March 19, 9.30am at Holy Family Church Lesson for children during the first part of the Mass
- Session 4: Sunday March 26, 9.30am at Holy Family Church Lesson for children during the first part of the Mass.

Please Note: Attendance at all sessions is compulsory.

First Reconciliation is Tuesday, March 28, 7.30pm at Holy Family Church.

The cost of the program is \$70 per child. Please contact Bernadette at the Office on 5278 1343 or email <u>cluster@cam.org.au</u> for an enrolment form.

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### **R MICK'S MATES:**

- Movie Night Friday February 24 "HIDDEN FIGURES" Cost \$20 per person. Two sessions - 4pm and 7pm. Finger food supper with tea and coffee at 6pm.
- Registration for Relay for Life in February: Registration forms available at each Mass during the month. Cost of \$20 per person prior to March 1st, 2017, then \$25 per head. Event to be held on Saturday/Sunday April 1st and 2nd.



# Community News:

Feb 8...KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS:Monthly Branch Meeting 7.30pm Clairvaux Meeting<br/>Rooms, Belmont. Please make every effort to attend and bring a plate of supper to share.

### CATHOLIC DINERS' CLUB:

Come join us for a 2-course evening meal and the opportunity to meet new friends from 6.15pm on Tuesday Feb 14 for only \$33 per person. This month our guest speaker is author, journalist and playwright, Bernard Clancy. **Please note** - we have changed our venue to the **Capri Receptions on Separation St Bell Park.** For more information and reservations, please phone or text *Michael at 0431 959 584* by **Friday Feb 10**.

### 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.

### LOURDES DAY MASS:

The eighth "Lourdes Day Mass" will be celebrated at St Mary's Basilica on **Saturday February 11** (the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes) at 10am in association with the World Day of the Sick. It is a Mass of healing and hope for sick and infirm people, their carers and all interested parishioners from all parishes in the Geelong region. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be available, and there will be a blessing with Lourdes Water at the conclusion of the Mass. The usual Saturday 9am Mass will also be celebrated.

### **U3A CORIO BAY:**

U3A is commencing the 2017 year with enrolments at 'Cobradah' Pettit Park, 7-13 Beauford Ave Bell Post Hill, from 12noon to 3pm. Courses this year include Book Club, Bridge, Computers (various levels), Creative Writing, Discussion Group, Economics, German, Health and Wellbeing, Mahjong and Quilting. Women in Australian History will be conducted at Lara. The cost is \$25 which entitles members to participate in as many classes as they wish. There are no exams but an opportunity to socialise, to learn new things, to open our minds to new ideas and to build friendships. For more information email fmoloney@netspace.net.au

### CAMINO 2017:

In 2017, Catholic Vocations Melbourne is excited to offer the young Catholic men of Melbourne, the opportunity to walk the ancient pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago to the tomb of St James the Apostle. Aimed at young Melbourne men who are discerning particularly to the vocation of Priesthood, if you are interested in participating in this special pilgrimage, please refer to the Facebook event at: https://www.facebook.com/ events/1775627902649106/ or register your interest at: camino2017@cam.org.au



PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP: Raffle books to raise funds for our Philippines Partnership will be available at each Mass this week - Saturday/Sunday February 4th/5th. First three prizes New Cars, 11 prizes Coles/Myer Gift Cards. Please take a book of ten tickets and sell to friends and relatives at \$2 per ticket.

For each book you sell \$15 goes to the Partnership.

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER - 5th Sunday ordinary time

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Mt 5:16) The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you and don't put yourself above the people you have been called to help.

#### /From P1...

My professor of liturgy used to say 'Good liturgy enlivens faith and bad liturgy deadens it.' This is the same message Jesus gives us today about faith in general. It's crazy for us to keep spending time with people and doing things that deaden our faith. We know the impact of these people or activities by the bad taste they leave in our mouths. After an encounter with them or it we usually tell ourselves that we must not go back for more, but the bad spirit seduces us into repeating the entire episode with frightening frequency. St Ignatius Loyola tells us that in these situations we have to deal with the bad spirit quickly and consistently and learn a new pattern of behaviour that will lead us away from darkness into the light.

The job of faith is to enable us to live out and build Christ's reign of justice

and love in this world as a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. May this Eucharist enable us to seek out the people and places that will see the saltiness of our faith remain fresh and interesting so that we will have every chance of preserving our faith in the dryer times, and of our faith in Jesus preserving us in the face of the trials and tests that come our way.