



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 Fr Michael Tate



Truth-Telling:

I seem to remember some lines from a poem I learnt at school: 'Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to deceive.' To guard against deceptions, many societies and organisations, including the Church, require a person to swear an oath to bolster their assertion that they are telling 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'.

But, we have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ...instead let your "yes" mean yes and your "no" mean no. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

The early Church took this prohibition

extremely seriously. It was only when the Church and State became entwined three hundred years later that that policy changed. The Church preferred to avoid tension with the political authority which required oaths as a supposed guarantee of truthful speaking. The Church was weak, whereas Our Lord was strong. When He was challenged by the High Priest to swear by the Living God whether He was the Christ, Jesus simply replied: 'The words are yours', refusing to invoke the Living God. (Matt 26:63-64). Aren't we meant to imitate Jesus? 'Yes or No.' Our Lord tells us: '... anything more than this comes from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this? In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is the beginning of the prayer which is Jesus' gift to his community. It is our privilege and right as

adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. That is the way in which Our Lord wants us to use the name of God. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an *abuse*.

It is clear that Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two tiered way of speaking the truth. Anything more by way of pious veneer devalues plain speaking. Straightforward, unadorned language will do. Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person. We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. Such relationships are easily fractured or soured by lying. At the community level, a society will soon break down if the words of its members cannot be relied on. /Cont'd P4...

- 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A/1 - Feb 12, 2017)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Lev 19:1-2,17-18
2nd Reading: 1Cor 3:16-23
Gospel: Mt 5:38-48



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)

St John of God Hospital:

11.30am every Thursday in SJOG Chapel

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:

Feb 6-26: O'Neil family, 11 Derby Rd; **Feb 20-Mar 5:** Brown family, 23 Bostock 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:

Ivanka Juran, Ivan Hrvatin, Les Hutchinson

ANNIVERSARIES:

Angeline De Palma, Paola Puleio, Antonio & Maria Polimeni, Elsie Gillett, Bill Hogan, Bill Jess, Ripalda Sicuro, Tonino Santamaria, Antonio & Domenico Gatto, Fred & Marie Casey, Baden Featherstone, Bernard Tolan and 1 year anniv of Giuseppe Rao

BAPTISMS:

Gus McKee and Scarlett, Stella & Sophie Westerink

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Geraldine Fay, June Smith, Cheryl Lambert, Ana Siketa, Johann 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 19, 2017

(3rd Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

8.00AM

K Saunders

B Rainbow

A Vanjek, P Ruggeri, R Culo

L Allum, P Ruggeri, R Culo

R Allum

9.30AM

A Scaddan

H Verdnik, T McMahon

C&J Taylor, M Fiorillo, I Raj, T Herath

E Dalton

C Resciniti

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

6.00PM

M Carson

J McKenzie

G Wright,

I Cleary, L Coles, S Norris, T Stefek

P Eastman (even months) S Eland (odd)

11.00AM

G Brown, M Kroger

L Fossey, L Stalio, L Sells

L Fossey

D Brown (even months)

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators

Lectors

Special Ministers

Welcomers

Projectionist

5.00PM

L Middleton

K Maddalena, A Beachell

K Maddalena

T McNair

D Whelan

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:

Dear Parishioners of St Michael's Parish,

As you begin your work together as a united parish, I greet the generous and devoted people of Holy Family, Holy Spirit and Ss Peter and Paul who, together with your priests and parish workers, are rejoicing in the gift of each other in the newest parish in the Archdiocese.

I thank you for your goodness and very real faith, for the ways in which you have worked together so creatively so that our people, whether young or old, can be drawn more closely into love with Jesus Christ and our Mother Mary, and can spread this love into the community in the days ahead.

I want to assure you of my prayers and wishes and of my gratitude for all that you have done to bring this new community about. I thank Fr Gerard Keith, your Parish Priest, Fr Rolyn Vics CM and all who have contributed generously to this special work.

May the Lord give you many blessings as you commence your new journey as a parish family, united in Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

DENIS J HART, Archbishop of Melbourne



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 cluster@cam.org.au

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 cluster@cam.org.au for an enrolment form.

MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE... are seeking assistance from parishioners to assist with their Funeral Catering at the Holy Spirit Hall. This ministry is an important and much appreciated parish ministry and if you are able to assist please contact Tricia Joyce 0431 512 354 or Jeanette Sheahan 5278 2063 for further information.

FR MICK'S MATES:

- ◆ **Movie Night Friday February 24th - "HIDDEN FIGURES"**
Cost \$20 per person.
Two sessions - 4pm and 7pm.
Finger food supper with tea and coffee at 6pm.
Location - St Mary's Hibernian Theatre.
Bookings - David Lunn 0408 378 982;
Cluster Office 5278 1343; Amie O'Brien 0427 866 891
**Committee Meeting Wed 15th Feb in Cluster Office 2pm
to arrange catering etc for Movie Night.**



- ◆ **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.

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.

Community News:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse commences in Sydney on 6 February 2017. The hearing is expected to conclude at the end of February.

For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this evil occurred.

Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, 'it is a sin that shames us.'

Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Royal Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue, to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children and vulnerable persons and to respond effectively when allegations of abuse are made.

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to 'find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated.'

I join my commitment and that of the Archdiocese to that of Pope Francis to do all that is necessary in the Archdiocese to ensure that there is no repeat of these evil crimes.

Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure the survivors and all those affected by abuse in the Archdiocese and all Catholics of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope.

With every good wish, yours sincerely in Christ,

DENIS J HART - Archbishop of Melbourne

/From P1...

It is shocking, but true, to realise that in this respect, secular society is more in conformity with the Sermon on the Mount! At least it allows for observance of Our Lord's injunction. For example, Parliamentarians are offered the choice of an oath or an affirmation in taking up their duties in the Chamber. The Courts offer the same choice, and if the accused makes the affirmation, no adverse inference can be drawn by Judge or jury. And the Church? The Church needs to

listen to the epistle of St James. It was written within living memory of the Sermon on the Mount and is astonishing in recalling this passage almost verbatim, urging it on to a new generation of disciples.

St James, a relative of Our Lord and leader of the Church in Jerusalem, writes, 'Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no so that you may not fall under condemnation.' (James

5:12-13) The Church needs to put itself under the authority of the Sermon on the Mount, or rather under the authority of the Divine Teacher. Then perhaps it will find itself able to teach the rest of the Sermon with greater credibility, a greater chance of being heard.

The Church needs to hear for itself the final great imperative in this Gospel: 'Teach them to keep all that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)