



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

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18th February 2018

First Sunday of Lent Year B

Busy laziness

Once again the season of Lent has arrived early and has rudely gate crashed into our late summer. For us in the southern hemisphere the timing is all wrong. We are not entering a coming spring, but are weary with the long dry and heat and if anything, long for some greening, softening autumn rain. Also this is a time of late harvest and long summer days, more conducive to festivity and recreation than penance and abstinence.



To be honest, every year I have substantial temptation to not take our liturgically imposed season of 'manufactured conversion' that seriously. It is a temptation I also resist to some extent every year. The obvious reason is Easter. Easter is the great victory of love over death, manifest in Jesus the Christ. Life, love and light are the last words of our God, spoken to us in Jesus. The pathway to this life, this light, this love, can only be made via a pathway of self-giving not self-aggrandizement. Hence Lent.

Also to be truthful, I am more than a little leery about muscular moralising re the issue of sin and temptation, especially in light of the scandal of institutional sex abuse, the cover ups and ongoing evasion of proper compensation for victims. The recent Age investigation into the legal and fiscal structures of the Church only adds to this reluctance. In particular the revelation of \$800,000 being spent by Church lawyers in the now notorious Ellis defence, to prevent Mr Ellis from claiming \$100,000 in damages for his abuse, reveals just how malign clericalism can be. This is even more so when we discover that church lawyers attempted to pass on all the legal costs to Mr Ellis. Outrageous! Certainly the investigation by Fairfax media lacks balance in places and at times seems hell bent not on reform to Church, but rather the wholesale removal of our Church as a significant presence in society. The Church in its own way can be good at making enemies and some of them will not be satisfied until the buildings are removed and salt is sown in the earth. Yet we must acknowledge the constant and urgent need for conversion. Hence Lent.

One of our biggest temptations is to leave our lives completely unexamined. We do this best by cultivating a kind of busy laziness. To paraphrase Shakespeare, we can be good at sound and fury but fail to see how much it 'signifies nothing'. Lent is asking us to examine our reality, when a great deal of our temptation is all about denying it. Of course as the saying goes, we can deny reality until the cows come home, but reality will not spare us its consequences.

In Mark's gospel the temptations of Jesus are not enumerated, as they are in Matthew and Luke (i.e. power, control, ego-centricity). What is clear is it is the Holy Spirit who puts Jesus in this place of confronting evil. It is after this trial that he is empowered to call us to our best humanity, to love, compassion and justice. Our direct temptation is that we do not refuse his call to repentance. Hence Lent is a season that we must re visit again and again.

In this we must not be tempted to abandon all efforts because of failure. In Mark's gospel the disciples are always failing. The biggest failure is to do nothing.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

We remember those who have died :

Simon Panther **Barry Dunell**

We pray for those who are unwell :

Vincent Daniels **John Orders**
John Condon **Tulli Seabert** (6 yr old)

We welcome for baptism :

Maxwell Scally

Xavier Kiss

Milah Allen

Oliver Laybourne

God's blessing on these families.



Special prayers for :

Mohammad Rahmani still awaiting the decision of Minister Peter Dutton, whether he can remain in Australia.

Noura Kka, former parishioner, now in Iraq and in danger.

May God hold them all in the palm of his hand.

Meetings this week

Widowed and Social Group

Monday 19th February at 10.30am

Fitzpatrick Room. Guest Speaker.

Bring lunch to share. New members most welcome. Enquiries Mary 5243 2673.



Congratulations to
Frank and Margaret Whyte
who celebrated their *50th*
wedding anniversary on 17th Feb!

Blessed and Broken

'Pray, Share and Live the Gospel :
a small group Lenten Program'.
Please contact St Mary's Parish Office
5222 1977 for more information.

Book Nook News

Discovering Prayer: a 30 day prayer journey
of encountering God, and love. **\$4**

Beads from Mannya :

Necklaces \$10 **Bracelets \$5**

Purchase will directly support
the Mannya community.



Rosary beads found at Highton cemetery.
Please contact Parish Office.

Lenten regulations from the Vicar
General are on the notice board.

Archbishop's **Pastoral Lenten message**
"Repent and believe the good news!".
(see noticeboard)

The Coffee Processing Plant will benefit many generations of people at Mannya.

Direct bank transfer :

BSB 063 504

acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : 'Coffee &
your surname'.

Cheques : 'St Bernard's
Church Mannya acc'.

Please contact the Office for
further information.

Thank you



Sunday 25th February after 11.00am Mass

Farewell Fr Maurice Barry in the
Hibernian Hall. All welcome. Please RSVP
St Mary's 5222 1977. Please 'bring a plate'.

Friday 2nd March at 11.00am

World Day of Prayer

"All God's Creation is Very Good "

Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St
All welcome

Wednesday 7th March, 12noon

Sisters of the Holy Angels Luncheon

Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights.
Cost \$10 - all welcome!

Fri 23 (4.30pm reg) - Sun 25 March (lunch).

Australian Christian Meditation Community
Lenten Silent Retreat.

Theme: *The Still Point of the Turning World.*

Lead by : Dr Deborah Guess.

www.christianmeditationaustralia.org

email-chrmedvic@gmail.com or

call 0418 584 970

Samaritan House Geelong and
Lazarus Community Centre are now both
co-ordinated by the *Salvation Army*.

They need volunteers to *sleep overnight* at
Samaritan House on a 7 days per week,
monthly roster basis.

5.30 pm to 7.30 am in a
comfortable, safe room.



Lazarus Centre requires
daytime volunteers on a roster basis at
202 Myers St, next to the Old Goal.
9am-4.30pm, 9am-1pm or 12pm-4.30pm.
Tasks may include cooking, cleaning or
assisting visitors to access the facilities such
as laundry and meals etc.

Please contact Aubrey Anderson :

email : aubrey.anderson@salvationarmy.org
or ph : 52 239 200

Lent—the heart of it all.

The last time Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day collided was in 1945. It's tempting to dismiss St Valentine's Day as a purely commercial venture, but I suspect anything that prompts people to act a little more lovingly and kindly toward each other, works to shave away some of the sharp edges of meanness from our world.

I wonder if this is a little bit of the role Lent can play in our lives – a retreat time that can soften some of our sharp edges: the edges we all have and that sometimes seem to take on a life of their own—the cross words, the thoughtless acts, the weary spirit.

We are offered an invitation to *actively re-orientate* ourselves to God. The rich stories of our ancestors are available to us and the tradition of the Lenten practice of being *prayerful*, of *living more simply* and *living more generously*.

So many things have happened since the last Lent! In addition to our personal struggles and the times when a smallness of spirit has entered our lives, we have been walking the cross of the Royal Commission. This is part of what we place on our Lenten cross this year, but we also know that the God of Israel and the Jesus who died on a cross is bearing this sorrow with us.

So let us take into our Lenten hearts a desire to understand more deeply and to enter more fully, into the cycle of the paschal mystery.

Hearts that look for the *meaning* behind the truth. Hearts that allow themselves to *broken*, invite God in and seek *healing*. Hearts that are *not distracted* by too much. Hearts that *hear*. Hearts that are ready to *come back* to God, where our restless spirits can once again come home.

excerpt, Cathy Jenkins Director,
Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation Melbourne

Gospel Meditation

When Jesus says the Kingdom of God is at hand he is assuring me that a new age has dawned. I ask for the grace:

- To begin anew with the Lord;
- To discover again my dignity as a child of God;
- To realise the many ways I am capable of generosity, love and compassion;
- To find a new peace in an awareness of God's presence;
- To see how I am made new by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Jesuit Communications Australia

Temptations in the wilderness

It's important to remember in our own particular deserts, that temptation is not sin. To be tempted by something is not the same as doing it.

Temptations are the allures that make destructive choices look good



They can come when we are feeling most deserted and vulnerable and they normally strike us at the most susceptible points in our character. It helps if we are aware of the danger signs in our lives that can weaken our defences. Tiredness, boredom, anger, alcohol and drug use, lack of good communication and a poor self-esteem are common realities that can leave us more exposed than usual.

This Lent, as we venture with Christ into our figurative deserts, let's do anything that helps our self-esteem, deal with our anger, attend to why we might work or drink too much and ensure that we are less stressed. Contrary to what we might think, these activities could be the most helpful ways we can make sure we emerge from our desert the better for having been there.

excerpt Richard Leonard SJ

Pope's February prayer intention:

Say 'no' to corruption

In announcing his Prayer Intention for February, Pope Francis has highlighted corruption and abuse of power as gravely immoral, and asked us to pray that those tempted to corruption may be 'delivered from illicit enticements.'

Project Compassion 'For a Just Future'

A Just Future starts with empowerment.

In Nepal, a Caritas supported program has helped Janaki turn around her life of poverty and disadvantage.



She was forced into marriage at 12 years old. Her husband died two years into their marriage. She is now running her own successful sewing business, training others and has become a role model in her community.

Each Wednesday - 21st Feb—21st March:

Music at the Basilica 'Reflections' 12.30—1pm.
21st Feb Shannon Ebeling, Saxophone. No cost.

Mon 26th Feb 1.30pm **Ron Sudden on Stage**
Belmont Seniors Theatre Hall, 52 Thomson St,
Belmont. Entry \$4.00. Tea and coffee to follow.

Saturday 17th March **Geelong St Pat's Cup**
Ph : 0409 007 913 or visit country.racing.com.au/geelong-stpats Collect a brochure after mass.

Marriage Encounter Weekend: 16-18 March,
1-3 June, 17-19 August, and 9-11 November 2018
Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday.
Accommodation and all meals provided.
Enquiries: Andre and Maria 0411 225 992
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au
Website: www.wwme.org.au

Bread 4 Today <http://www.cssr.org.au/bread4today/>
Daily prayers for reflection and meditation

Catholic Secondary School Open Days

Saint Ignatius College

18th March, 2018 11am-2pm
Information sessions: 11am and 12.15pm.
www.ignatius.vic.edu.au

Discovery Day at Sacred Heart College.

Tuesday 20th March, 4pm
Explore the College from 4.00pm.
Gates close at 6.30pm.
Please RSVP ww.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au
Enrolment applications for *Year 7 2019* close
Friday 18 May 2018.

Clonard College Friday 16th March.
Information session, followed by tour 1 & 4.30pm

Parish Office Hours

Mon : 10.00—3.00
Tues : 8.30—4.30
Wed : 8.30—4.30
Thurs : 8.30-1pm
Thurs pm—CLOSED
Friday : 8.30-4.30

Please Note: Church
car park gates are locked
at 1.00pm each Sunday

Week 4 : 24/25 Feb

St Bernard's Mass Times

Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 9.00 am and 10.30 am
5.30pm at *St Mary's*
Wednesday : 12 noon
Friday: 12 noon
Mass on the radio: 7.00am Light FM 89.9;
10.00am Pulse FM 94.7

If you need a priest urgently,
phone Fr Vincent
0417 837 565

St Bernard's Playgroup

Tuesdays during school term.
9.00-10.30am
in the Big Space,
entrance Fryers Rd.
All welcome

Charismatic Prayer

1st & 3rd Tuesday
10.00am
in the Church.

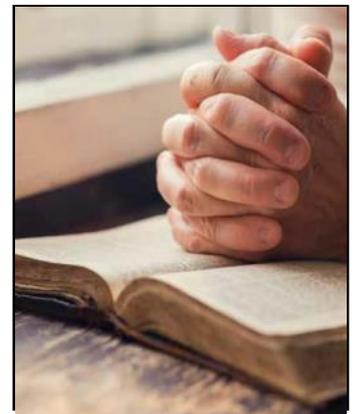
Christian Meditation

Wed 7.30pm
in the church

Tai Chi : Fridays

9.30-10.30
in the Church café

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	C Raj
	9.00am	M & B O'Brien
	10.30am	J Earle D Gielen
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	M Dias E Kent C Kenworthy C Raj
	9.00 am	D Butler B Gleeson A Morris S Gillett C Wilkin
	10.30am	D Martin L Rimmer K Bainbridge J Earle
Readers	6.00pm	P Lewis C Raj
	9.00 am	M King L Pomeroy
	10.30am	F Khan A Bainbridge
PowerPointers	6.00pm	D & N Kavanagh
	9.00 am	J & J Burgess
	10.30am	B & R Dillon
Musicians	6.00pm	Kevin E
	9.00am	Marg, Tess C and Anna
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Edna B Mary M Pauline L	
Cleaners : 12	A Long T Richmond A de Grandi J Norling J Kuskunovic	
Flowers	Lent	
Bread Roster: gold	C Hurley K Kelly T Sezun B & V Arnup G Watt G Wilson	
Communion at home	D Turnbull—co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	



This week:

Gen 9:8-15
1 Pet 3:18-22

Ps 24:4-9
Mk 1:12-15

Next Week:

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31-34

Ps 115:10, 15-19
Mk 9:2-10