



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

Office 74 Fryers Rd Belmont PO Box 6291 Highton 3216

T : 03 5243 2739

belmont@cam.org.au

F : 03 5241 2304

www.stbernards.org.au

Parish team Fr Vincent Jewell
Helen Brislane
Len Monk
Muriel Powell

(Parish Priest)
(Parish Manager)
(Pastoral Associate)
(Monday School)

Clairvaux Catholic School
T : 03 5243 7102
Basil Flynn

45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216
www.ccsbelmont.com.au
bflynn@ccsbelmont.com.au

25th February 2018

Second Sunday of Lent Year B

The light inside the dark

Whilst it is true that there is no arriving at the joy of Easter Sunday that bypasses Good Friday, it is also true that the light and life of the Risen One often shines out and emerges precisely in some of our most difficult and darkest moments. We see this in today's account of the transfiguration, wherein the disciples get a glimpse of the divine glory, even as they are on a journey to Jerusalem and the predicted passion and death of their master. No sooner does the vision imprint itself on them, than they find themselves back in the ruck and mill of the daily struggle for faith and survival. The only way off the mountain is down, or as Zen Buddhists like to say, 'after the ecstasy, the laundry'.



My sense is we can talk about the transfiguration as some kind of elevated peak experience or illuminating epiphany, but we can also speak about it as some kind of glimpsed radiance and presence, shyly and insistently emerging in times of difficulty.

Some years ago in another parish, I visited a woman who had advancing multiple sclerosis. This illness had come upon her just after she had broken out of a long cycle of abusive relationship and dangerously wild living. We were sitting on her deck in late winter light, just after a passing shower had fallen. We were deep in our furrowed brow worries, when suddenly she interrupted me to point out how the morning light was quite spectacularly refracting through all the myriad drops of rain, slowly rolling off her camellia plant. It was true, the humble camellia was transfigured and dancing with light.

"There it is" she said, "That's the light that will never leave me." We did not say much after that, as if in shared silence we were both allowing ourselves to have some sense of this strange and mysterious light, that could reveal itself even inside the dark. It is a sense that only faith can grasp, or perhaps those with poetic imagination. As the English poet and mystic William Blake once observed, about seeing beauty in a tree: *The tree which moves some to tears of joy, is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way. Some see in nature all ridicule and deformity and some scarce see at all. But to the eyes of imagination nature is imagination itself.*

Taken on a deeper level, this 'seeing' is about seeing that the whole world is "charged with the grandeur of God" to quote the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manly Hopkins. This is the light of Easter rising in us.

However the road to Easter is through the forty days and forty nights of Lent.

This reminds us there can be no premature happy clapping or cheap mouthing of victory slogans. The biblical motif of 'forty days' is sort of code for an indefinite period. In other words we will each have to walk and live our own pilgrimage of faith. It can be at times a most painstaking journey, but the good news of the transfiguration is we are bound for a glory, a glory we can begin to have intimations of even now.

Jesus has gone before us ahead of time, loving us, forgiving us, revealing the Good News of a love so gracious and grand it can get inside the deepest darkness with its radiant light.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

We remember those who have died : **Helen Furey**

We pray for those who are unwell :

Noelene Goonan Vincent Daniels

John Orders John Condon

Tulli Seabert (6 yr old)

Special prayers for :

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



Blessings on your birthday (28th Feb) **Mohammad.**

We continue to hold you and your family in our prayers.



Meetings this week

St Vincent de Paul

Monday 26th February at 7.30pm.

Prospective volunteers welcome to call Anne :
0458 294 526 prior to the meeting.

This Sunday 25th Feb after 11.00am Mass
Farewell **Fr Maurice Barry** in the Hibernian Hall. All welcome. 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. Enquiries Sue 0429 784 331

Wednesday 7th March, 12noon

Sisters of the Holy Angels Luncheon

Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights.

Cost \$10 – all welcome!

Thursday 8 March 2018

2018 Circle of Mercy Expressions of Faith

Maeve Heaney *Merging Music and Theology*

7.00pm start Celies Dining Room

Sacred Heart College

Necklaces \$10 Bracelets \$5

Purchase at the Book Nook,
to directly support the Mannya community.



'The gospel reading this week is the Transfiguration. Transfiguration is about our eyes, ears and hearts being enlightened and opened to see, hear and feel the glory of God. The light of the candle is symbolic of the presence of Christ reflected and illuminated in ourselves, others and all of creation.'

Blessed & Broken

St Bernard's Playgroup

Each week St Bernard's play group meets on Tuesday morning in the Big Space from

9am to 10.30am.

Playgroup is a great time for your preschool child to interact with others, play games, read stories, engage in creative play and meet new friends. Mums, dads or grandparents can sit back, relax and enjoy the company of other adults, while sharing some morning tea.



Email : ariordan@ccsbelmont.com.au
OR ph 0429 312 851



Mercy Works is recruiting *volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers* in the Melbourne Archdiocese.

(half a day per week each term).

Experience working in an educational setting is preferred.

Contact Sr Mary Lewis for

application form and enquiries
Email: somml@bigpond.com

Website: www.mercyworks.org.au

Ph : 9326 1895



Chanel College 60th Anniversary Reunion

on 28th April, for students of

The Marist Fathers Era [1958-1970].

For details -

email : chanel.geelong@gmail.com

OR send postal details to :

PO Box 3069 Geelong West 3218

Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools

Support through membership :

Adult \$20, Students \$5:

Direct Debit: Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account 132923756 Reference:

'Membership' or Cheque: Geelong

Viqueque Friendship Schools, Treasurer,

Michael Wright 45 Itkeston St Herne Hill 3218



Australian Catholics autumn ed out now.

Collect after mass. **Free!**



'Jesus is transfigured, seen in a new light and the journey becomes clear. This Sunday is for courage, blessing, encouragement and a moment of prayer.'

Megan McKenna

Gospel Meditation

Jesus climbs a mountaintop with his friends Peter, James and John. At those heights they are away from the distractions of ordinary life.



It can be a challenge to notice God's presence in the ordinary moments of our day. Be reassured that Jesus is present at all times, on mountaintops and in valleys, in exaltation and in despair.

*Lord, give me eyes to see your presence
in all people.*

Lord, open my ears to listen to you.

*Lord, enliven me with hope
so that I don't fall into despair.*

*Lord, send me peace
so that I may be your instrument.*

*Lord, help me become aware of your love
so that I may carry your compassion.*

*Lord, kindle my faith so that I may
experience the fullness of joy
in your presence.*

Ultimately, Lord, make me come alive!

Seek out moments for the 'more' this week :
dawns and sunsets, a smile, laughter, some
unexpected window into the beauty of God's
creation. Listen attentively to the natural
sounds in your day : birds, children talking,
flowing water, a breeze rustling leaves.
Give thanks to God for these blessings of
creation, that surround and brighten your day.

Blessed & Broken

Project Compassion 'For a Just Future'

Rattanak in Cambodia contracted polio as a child and also became deaf. The Deaf Development Program, supported by Caritas Australia, helped him become a barber and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.



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

Direct bank transfer : BSB 063 504

acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : 'Coffee & your surname'.

Cheques : 'St Bernard's Church Manny acc'.
Contact the Office for further information.

Thank you

The changing landscape of Catholic social work

Social service organisations are a key element of the Church in action.

The structure of these services within the Catholic Church in Australia is diverse.

CatholicCare and *CentaCare* operate in most Australian Dioceses and the *St Vincent de Paul Society* operates within most parishes. There are bodies such as *Jesuit Social Services* and *Good Shepherd* Australian New Zealand that build on the work of religious congregations. Services run by the *Maronite*, *Melkite* and other churches and parish-based organisations add to the collective endeavour. All of these social service organisations are working to *support vulnerable people* in need and to build a more *just society*.

Some agencies are also providing *chaplains* services for those in prison, in youth justice or immigration detention, in hospital and beyond, as well as providing assistance to *Indigenous Australians* and *recently arrived* communities. The list of services offered is as diverse as the list of needs is long. But there is no room for complacency. Catholic social service agencies are facing many challenges.

The sexual abuse and catastrophic failure of leadership laid bare by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex abuse has had a profound impact, not only for victims and survivors, but for all parts of the Church. Nothing can erase the damage that has been done, but an inadequate response now would rub salt into the wounds of victims and of all stakeholders.

Relatedly, the Church's diminished standing in civil society — for example, calls for dismantling of tax concessions for the Church, are heard more frequently as the *community becomes more distant from the Church, and undervalues what the Church provides to society*.

Radical changes in government policies and funding mechanisms, with emphases on client choice and market mechanisms to govern the provision of services present another challenge. (eg NDIS)

These issues are too complex for each organisation to address alone. The network of shared endeavour and the culture of collaboration that exist across the Catholic social service sector are among its strongest assets.

Denis Fitzgerald

Full article, visit : <https://eurekastreet.com.au/> 15.2.18

*Catholic Social Services National conference, **Hearing, Healing, Hope** was held 21-23 February. Members of St Bernard's Justice Group attended.*

Each Wednesday - 21st Feb—21st March:

Music at the Basilica 'Reflections' 12.30—1pm.
28th Feb Helen Seymour, poetry, Tom Healy, organ

Mon 26th Feb 1.30pm **Ron Sudden on Stage**
Belmont Seniors 52 Thomson St. Entry \$4.00.

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.

Seeking Employment—Experienced administrator / manager in housing, welfare and other government projects.
Excellent references. Enquiries Fr Kevin Dillon frkd@lifeboatgeelong.com.au, or 0421 777 360

Prayer Intention Book

At the back of the church is a book in which you can write any prayer intentions. This book placed on the altar during 6pm mass each week.

Catholic Secondary School Open Days

Clonard College Friday 16th March.
Information session, followed by tours 1 & 4.30pm.
Enrolments close on Friday 18 May 2018. Pre-register online www.clonard.catholic.edu.au

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 – 6.30pm
Please RSVP www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au
Enrolments close Friday 18 May 2018.

St Joseph's College
Visit : www.sjc.vic.edu.au to book a College Tour.

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 1: 3/4 March

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

Lenten regulations

& Archbishop's
Pastoral Lenten message
"Repent & believe the good news" (noticeboard)

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	B & C Bogacki
	9.00am	B & AM Sherwell
	10.30am	M Powell M Inei
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	B Shannon V Bogacki D Turnbull A Parnell L Russell
	9.00 am	G Mugavin B & AM Sherwell J & R Gollan
	10.30am	L Dowling S Dowling L Rastas T Watts
Readers	6.00pm	J Loveday J Parry
	9.00 am	G Mugavin M Calderwood
	10.30am	M Inei M Powell
PowerPointers	6.00pm	K Bogacki
	9.00 am	B Arnup
	10.30am	De Grandi Family
Musicians	6.00pm	Sally
	9.00am	Mens Choir
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	C Emond
Coffee Shop	Mary S Margaret S Rita P	
Cleaners : 13	L Lee K McDonald F McCoy K Agudelo	
Flowers	Lent	
Bread Roster: red	B Hollander S Kent P Kavanagh P & M Dias P Raimondo F McFarlane	
Communion at home	D Turnbull—co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	



This week:

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

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

Next Week:

Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
1 Cor 1: 22-25

Ps 18: 8-11
Jn 2: 13-25