



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

11th March 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B

Choosing the light

The old English word gospel meaning 'good news' is used a great deal, but honestly many of us have a hard time believing it. "Yes, Yes," we might nod, our God in Jesus comes to save and not condemn. And yes, God is love and so on, but we are used to carrots and sticks making the world go round and putting bums on church seats. We have long practised the line, that to refuse the carrot of salvation is to deserve the biggest stick of them all, namely eternal damnation. Clear enough in the gospel we might say. Just look at Jesus today, assuring us that all who don't believe are condemned. 'Infidels' will get their just deserts.

From this position it is just a short hop skip and jump to help the Almighty punish all sundry sinners and miscreants. This is not only the cherished goal of Moslem extremists. The religion they advocate is cruel and punishing for sure, but we Christians invented the word infidel before they did. Many who are unlettered in church history, forget just how violent and punishing Christianity can be, with its inquisitions and crusades. These days such history is behind us, but far too many Christians still see the world through a pitiless lens of cold judgement, consigning all 'infidels' to an eternal scrap heap. They fail to see how their pitiless piety and cold sanctimony can only masquerade as orthodoxy.

But what if this 'good news' was really true. What if we are saved by grace and sheer gift and not through our ego's achievements? What if the final response of our God is not wrathful violence but unbounded benediction? Instead of the fist of retribution, the open hand of embrace and forgiveness? What if truly we are God's work of art? Even now, even whilst we are all a mixture of light and shadow? What if there were such a true God given part of us, 'so much loved,' as to never be destroyed, polluted or bound in shadow?

Fantasy! many an unbeliever may retort. But this sort of belief in 'good news' is not about contestable notions of dogma and doctrine per se. It is more about becoming a work of art.

It is about love as Jesus revealed it to us. Instead of proffering dreary religious arguments, gospel belief is more like standing a mirror in front of a brilliant and pervasive light. We might indeed be in the dark, like Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night. The light does not so much defeat the dark as befriend it, shining onto the mirror to reveal much that alienates, exiles, twists, fractures, wounds and withers. But the light of that mirror also reveals the original goodness in which we are created. It is the light of the One who is sheer grace. The light focused in the self-giving of Jesus.

Strangely, somehow the cross is the mirror point of this revealed love. The place of 'scandal' and 'madness', where the foolishness of God is the strongest thing known. The place of stark, unremitting love, shining where the darkness is deepest. Such too is the place of judgement. Love catches us naked in the mirror. Our choices and the consequences are revealed, held in light. So searching a light bids us to cleanse the mirror, to choose original goodness and live it. But other choices also remain enduring. Narcissistic priorities show a preference for meanness and excess ego, for brutality and wilful apathy.

Like Nicodemus we all have choices.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP



We remember those who have died :

Jean Skeet

We pray for those who are unwell :

Noelene Goonan Vincent Daniels

John Orders John Condon

Tulli Seabert (6 yr old)

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.

St Bernard's received this message from Noura.

"Thank you very much for the prayers.

I really needed. I appreciate everyone."

Regards, Noura kka

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

Meetings

St Vincent de Paul

Tuesday 13th March at 7.30pm.

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

Knights of the Southern Cross

Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm

Clairvaux Meeting Rooms. Please bring a plate.

Widowed and Social Group

Monday 19th March at 10.30am

Fitzpatrick Room.

Next Sat 17th March St Patrick's Day Races

Geelong Race Course.

Enquiries : 0409 007 913 or
book online at:

country.racing.com/geelong-stpats.

Brochures available in the foyer.



St Bernard's Book Fair Sunday 20th May



We welcome donations of books, DVD's, CD's, Games & Puzzles. Please deliver to the Parish office, or call Peter 0409 969 648 for pick up. (no magazines, textbooks or encyclopedia) *Thank you.*

Please Note : *Please do not allow children to play around or behind the **yellow curtain**.*

The big curtain and track have been damaged and will be difficult and expensive to repair. Thank you.

Melbourne Catholic magazine

March edition is out now.

Visit : melbournecatholic.org.au to subscribe

Easter at St Bernard's

Mon 26 Mar **7.30pm** Tenebrae (quiet prayer)

Wed 28 Mar **7.30pm** Service of Penance

Holy Thurs **7.30pm** mass, then
one hour at Altar of Repose

Good Friday **10.00am** Stations of
the Cross (**in** church)

Good Friday **3.00pm** The Passion

Easter Vigil **7.30pm** (welcoming one
new catholic)

Easter Sunday **9.00 & 10.30am** Mass



Men's group – are you interested?

We have received several enquiries about establishing a 'Men's Group' at St Bernard's.

Interested men are invited to morning tea on the **second Tuesday** of March – 13th March at 10am

- Retired men
- Meet in the church café at 10.00am for a 'cuppa' & chat
- Self-directed group

If you can't come on Tuesday 13th, but are *interested*, please contact the Parish Office.

Villa Maria Catholic Homes

Deciding to move into an aged care home is an emotional, life-changing decision.

We invite you to visit

Star of the Sea Aged Care Residence,

1290 Horseshoe Bend Rd, Torquay.

Ph Pip 0418 317 901 or www.vmch.com.au

Thanksgiving Program : *Thank you to all who contribute financially to support our parish. To pledge & contribute regularly, using direct bank transfer, credit card, or weekly/monthly envelopes, please fill in a pledge card (on the wall near door to powerpoint room)*

'Beyond bad, there is a good church'.

Copies of this article available in the foyer.

'Safe Harbour' SBS drama about refugees. Wednesdays 8.30pm or 'SBS on demand'

Jesus said to his disciples :

"Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate". What can I do, to orientate my heart & live out of a compassionate heart?

Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday

Justice for Refugees

- Public Rally 2.00pm
State Library
- Liturgy of Welcome
St Patricks
Cathedral 1-1.30pm.
- Following the Liturgy, walk as one
Faith Community (down Lonsdale St)
to join the larger Public Rally.



Pope Francis challenges us with his action plan for Asylum Seekers and Refugees :
**to Welcome, to Protect, to Promote
and to Integrate.** See notice board for details.

Project Compassion 'For a Just Future'

Evangeline in the Northern Territory, featured in Project Compassion in 2016.

She was employed by the Caritas Australia

supported **Djilpin Arts** and quickly rose to the role of Senior Arts worker. *Her career has flourished.* Her work at Djilpin Arts contributes to its success, whilst providing *training and opportunities* for other young people in the community.



We pray for **Fr Peter McGrath** who died recently. He was the founder of the Passionist Family Group movement. Currently there are **five Family Groups at St Bernard's.**

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join.

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 & surname'

Cheques :

'St Bernard's Church Mannya acc'.

Contact the Office for further information.

Thank you



Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow.

You have to trust God.

Pope Francis.

Gospel Meditation

The earth is beset by violence, corrupt uses of power, wars without end and the destruction of whole ecosystems.

Our own lives can be stressed, troubled and full of upheaval.



'It is better to light a candle than to curse in the darkness.'

How can my contributions begin important *conversations*, my *love* open new possibilities and my *actions* form a world where people will flourish?

I consider my choices:

*To love courageously,
or to withdraw into my shell;*

To act in hope,

or to wallow in desperation;

To give kindness to others,

or to turn away with bitterness;

To listen to others,

or to close off my heart;

To speak up for people,

or to stay quiet about injustice;

*To take up the responsibilities of service,
or retire to my comforts;*

To care for our planet,

or to make peace with destroying it;

To pray for insight or to rely on myself;

To share the burden,

or to keep my own counsel;

To notice the light or to despair of the dark.

My life is full of decisions which can light another candle.

Jesuit Communications Australia

Catholic Secondary School Open Days

Clonard College Friday 16th March.

Information session, followed by tours
1 & 4.30pm. Enrolments close Fri 18 May
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
RSVP www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au
Enrolments close Friday 18 May 2018.

St Joseph's College

To book on a College Tour visit :
www.sjc.vic.edu.au (see green noticeboard)

Each Wednesday - 21st Feb—21st March: Music at the Basilica 12.30—1pm. 14th March Julie Seal—clarinet.

Thursday 15th March 2-3.00pm **Let's Sing**, St John's Anglican Church, Highton. Enquiries 5243 3561

Sunday 18th March 2—5pm The Geelong Chorale presents **Opera Choruses** St Luke's Uniting Church Highton. Cost \$15. Bookings essential. Contact Anne : 0412 524 316 pandapilgrim@gmail.com Flyers in foyer.

Saturday 24th March 1pm - 3.30pm Pastoral Healthcare Network Geelong and Geelong Natural Therapies invites you to a relaxing afternoon of pampering and pastoral healthcare. Geelong Natural Therapies, 36 Shannon Ave, Geelong West. Cost \$10.00. Enquiries and RSVP by 21st March Carmel 52 297 954

Monday 26th March 1.30pm **Belmont Rhythmic Singers** at Belmont Seniors Theatre Hall. Cost \$4.00. Enquiries 5241 1776

Footsteps of St Paul—14 day Pilgrimage to Greece departing 28th May. Enquiries 0385 622 246 or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

HOUSE FOR FREE! (move from Rowville) Enquiries Fr Kevin Dillon 0421 777 360 or Brian Dalton 0419 349 382

Circle Dancing at Rice Village (not line dancing), 2-26 Marshalltown Rd, each Monday 4.30pm - 5.15pm. Anyone, any age welcome. No partner needed. Enquiries Fina 5245 8726

'I can only imagine' opens in cinemas 15th March. See noticeboard for details.

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

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

St Bernard's Playgroup

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

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

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

Charismatic Prayer

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

Week 3: 17/18 March

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	E & J O'Leary
	9.00am	E & M Zyppel
	10.30am	B Morris
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	Sr J Eudey V Bogacki K Taylor L McKay M Purcell
	9.00 am	Joanna P Tobias F Cook P O'Callaghan
	10.30am	M Lee P Boom B Morris M Cattanach J Bisinella
Readers	6.00pm	J Hagan L Dwyer
	9.00 am	A Corda K Marshall
	10.30am	F Caruana G Caruana
PowerPointers	6.00pm	D Gulli
	9.00 am	O'Byrne Family
	10.30am	L Brennan
Musicians	6.00pm	Cath and girls
	9.00am	John and Greg
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Felicity Maree O'B Margaret W	
Cleaners : 1	M & B O'Brien B Gleeson D & G Sikorski	
Flowers	Lent	
Bread Roster: green	T Brislane K Harbison C O'Connor D Nolan T Gulli I Harry	
Communion at home	D Turnbull—co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	

Christian Meditation

Wed 7.30pm
 in the church

Tai Chi : Fridays

9.30-10.30
 in the Church café

Clairvaux are collecting Coles Sports to School vouchers. Please leave in box in the foyer.

Volunteer with Palms Australia-

Contact Christine
 02 9560 5333 or
www.palms.org.au/volunteer/

This week:

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23
 Eph 2: 4-10

Ps 136
 Jn 3:14-21

Next Week:

Jer 31:31-34
 Heb 5:7-9

Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15
 Jn 12: 20-30