



## 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

8th April 2018

Second Sunday of Easter Year B

### Touching mercy

The story of doubting Thomas, that our tradition always unfolds in the second week after Easter is a cautionary tale, for all those too ready to wrap up Easter in dogmatic formulas. Simple faith is not really that simple. Faith indeed emerges out of doubt. In fact you could say faith and doubt are integral to each other. There is a hard and immense mystery at the heart of Easter, that really has nothing to do with pastel sunrises and sentimental platitudes. We see this in doubting Thomas being invited to touch the wounds of the risen Christ. We don't just come to faith in this saving mystery in our heads, we come to it with our own wounds and on our knees.



Put another way, we all hunger for direct experience of great love and not just for some far away rumour of it. Yet there is no denying that to the strictly rational and empirical mind, the whole Easter story as we Christians traditionally proclaim, it is nothing short of preposterous. However some humility about the extent of what either an unbeliever or a believer can know is in order. Mere argumentation will weary us. At best we might arrive at some truths, but not the Truth. We all see 'through a glass darkly'. Rather than hammering our dogmas and flourishing bibles, we might be better advised to allow the transforming power of faith, make us tangible signs of a great saving compassionate mercy. In other words, live the beatitudes, not just speak them.

In recent years the second Sunday of Easter has been subsumed under the moniker, 'The Divine Mercy devotion'. There is no doubt this devotion has great iconic power and resonance, although the older devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus does better justice to the gospel. The former operates on a model of transactional grace. In other words quid quo pro, jump the right hoops and you will be forgiven. Don't jump and all bets are off. Thus to those mostly sternly pious, the argument goes, refuse mercy and you will be punished eternally by their God. This is a consciously chosen punishment by the deity, amounting to eternal torment. No alleviation, no further chance of redemption, only utter horror and agony willed by God. This stuff makes an atheist out of me to be sure. There is no way of denying such a punishment is utterly and completely disproportionate to even the worst injustice we may commit. It is amazing that so many good Christians cheerfully believe this sort of stuff.

But what if some of the heretics are right and the severely orthodox are wrong. For instance, the early church father Origen dared to suggest even Satan would be saved in the end and of course he was condemned for his hopefulness.

But surely such an ocean of mercy, made visible in Christ, is the stuff of our deepest longings. Such true divine mercy immediately demands we become merciful.

Thus the spirit of God transforms us to alleviate pain, create justice, make peace, bring order out chaos, revivify the good, constrain and resist evil and allow love to take flesh in us.

That is something you can believe in.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

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.



Special birthday greetings to  
**Nell Harrison**,  
celebrating 108 years on 13th April &  
**Helene Davis**, 90 on the 15th April.

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

### Meetings

#### **St Vincent de Paul**

Monday 9th April at 7.30pm.

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

#### **Knights of the Southern Cross.**

Wed 11th April 7.30pm

Clairvaux Meeting Room. Please bring a plate.

### TODAY 8th April Divine Mercy Sunday

Holy Spirit Church Manifold Heights.

1.30pm Confession,

2pm Exposition, Rosary,

Chaplet, prayers, Benediction.

3pm Holy Mass and Veneration  
of the Image.

Enquiries Chris 0407 522 022



### **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

**Melbourne Catholic** April edition out now.  
Visit [melbournecatholic.org.au](http://melbournecatholic.org.au) to subscribe

**THANK YOU!**

We are blessed to have so many gifted people, willing to participate in our liturgies.

Thank you to the readers & musicians who led our Easter liturgies so prayerfully.

Special thanks also to the many who helped 'behind the scenes', to make it all happen — the Buttigieg family brought palms, green thumbs tidied the garden & paths, Ann set up beautiful flowers, many volunteered on rosters, Felicity & the O'Neill family prepared morning tea at the Stations, Aaron & Michelle helped bring us light at the Vigil, KSC organised parking & many others helped shift & carry at the different ceremonies.

### Note the date : **St Bernard's Book Fair Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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



Good Friday in Mannya

'Hope you had a great Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and wishing you the best Easter celebration.

Mannya has joyfully celebrated these holy days and we are looking forward to having a blessed Easter.

I wish you the best and great blessings from the risen lord. Mannya community sends greetings to you and greatly appreciates your love and support'.  
Fr Nestus



### Resurrection Thinking :

Recently a friend had a bruising experience of professional life. An unwritten line in the sand had been crossed and, after much thought, he decided to say something. It didn't go well: at the meeting of the senior team the colleague who had supported speaking up was suddenly not so supportive. And afterwards the boss gave him one of those 'the problem with you' talks – the problem being that my friend, in the boss's view, just expected too much of people. Another friend has been journeying with an asylum seeker for many months. This week she found out that the request for re-settlement had been denied. 'I don't understand how my country can do this', she laments.

Many of us will have had an experience of betrayal – a time when we look at the person we thought we knew and we can't recognise them. When we lie awake at night wondering how they can be sleeping after what they have done, how they have acted or what they have said. The hurt of disappointment and betrayal can crush the spirit and leave a little, small cry of 'I just don't understand'. Our hearts can hold on to these 'little' death stories for a long time.

Over these past days we have been invited to once again enter into the two-thousand-year-old sacred story of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. I suspect it is easier for many of us to relate to the passion and death part: this is a story with which we are familiar from our own life experience.

We know only too well what it means to be bruised and beaten by life, to be let down by those around us and to experience loss and disappointment. This is the story of suffering, this is the story of life, we may think. This is the story of Good Friday as we move to venerate and recognise the cross with bowed heads, a touch, a kiss, sometimes a solemn nod.

We all have our sorrows to place on the bowed shoulders of the Christ figure.

We identify with the disciples – the surprise of being served by one who leads; losing our nerve when put to the test; the feeling of absolute loss in the face of the death of the beloved. And yet.

*This is a sacred story that ends with us moving on.* This is a story of an empty tomb, a story that tells us not to remain with the death and darkness but to *look toward life*. And so, on Easter night, we lit our candles from the Paschal candle and gradually filled our darkened church with light; where we had brought our lives to the cross, we now brought our lives to the font of blessed water and we moved back into life as Easter people.

And yes, it does seem incredible that someone can rise from the dead. It is indeed one of the great mysteries of our faith. But is it really? We know, also from our own lives, that just as great suffering is possible, so is great joy. That from the darkest of times in life there are glimpses of light that gradually become stronger. That the broken relationship can heal, perhaps not always in the way we had imagined. That the dream we thought was lost can be brought back to life in a new way. That the seed that in the dark earth was sown, can do its sacred work and bring forth life. That our cries of abandonment are answered when our eyes are open and our hearts are ready. This, too, is the lived experience upon which generations of Christians have based their lives. This is the world of resurrection thinking.

In April 2017, Pope Francis observed the following: "Yes, because each of us has a small tomb, some area that is a little bit dead inside the heart: a wound, an injury suffered or done (to us), a bitterness that does not let up, remorse that returns, a sin that you cannot overcome. ... We identify these today, our little tombs we have inside and invite Jesus there."

So perhaps this is something we can take into our hearts as we once again enter into this paschal mystery – that the stone is always rolled away – that our little tombs can be opened to enable us to *live in hope*. That Christian thinking is Resurrection thinking. It's about *rebirth, renewal, reawakening*, it's about a quiet confidence that even in the midst of the suffering times *God is with us* and that *hope will dawn*.

And that this is why we can proclaim, and at times just hold onto, the Good News that Jesus, who once was dead, is alive. Alleluia!

– Cathy Jenkins

Director, Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation Melbourne

**Fr James Puppady** is celebrating his Silver Jubilee of Sacerdotal Ordination with two celebrations.  
 21st April at 11.00am at St Thomas Church Drysdale and  
 22nd April at 5.00pm at Lumen Christ Church Leopold. See notice board for further details.

**Sat 5 May 10:30am Palms Information Session.** Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity.  
 Palms volunteers immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange.  
 If you have *teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills*, share them with our global family!  
[www.palms.org.au/volunteer](http://www.palms.org.au/volunteer) or Contact Palms on 02 9560 5333

**2018 Maria Forde Ireland Tour.** Dates are September 22nd - October 6th 2018.  
 Visit : [http:// www.mariaforde.com/2018-celtic-tour-](http://www.mariaforde.com/2018-celtic-tour-)

**Footsteps of St Paul—14 Pilgrimage to Greece** departing 28th May, 2018.  
 Enquiries call 0385 622 246 or email [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)

The ladies who knit warm rugs for various charities welcome **donations of 8 ply wool.**  
 Thankyou

**Hope Bereavement Care** : offers confidential, personal support & information to anyone affected by the sudden & unexpected death of a child. 4215 33 58 BH or 1300 308 307 AH



**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 : 14/15 April**

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 & G Caruana
PowerPointers	6.00pm	D Gulli
	9.00 am	O'Byrne family
	10.30am	L Brennan
Musicians	6.00pm	Cath & girls
	9.00am	John & Greg
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Felicity Maree Margaret W	
Cleaners : 5	H Jordan P Liddle L McMahon R Stotz M Purcell	
Flowers	Pat	
Bread Roster: green	I Harry T Gulli D Nolan K Harbison T Brislane C O'Connor	
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



**This week:**

Acts 4:32-35 Ps 117:2-4, 15-18, 22-24  
 1 Jn 5: 1-6 Jn 20:19-31

**Next Week:**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19  
 1 Jn 2 : 1-5

Ps 4: 2, 4, 7  
 Lk 24 ; 35-48