



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

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29th April 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B

Being Good Shepherds

Modern industrial scale agriculture is often a brutal and ruthless business. Take the live sheep export business for example. In our wide brown land there is little sentimental regard for the welfare of sheep. They are seen as commodities to be exploited and consumed, although the recent images of live sheep suffering horrendously has aroused some concern for animal welfare.

Nonetheless, none of us is in a hurry to be likened to a flock of sheep, no matter how many cute and cuddly pictures we saw of Jesus carrying lambs when we were children. Indeed, many militant atheists have nothing but hard contempt for such pastoral images, likening Christians to sheep and their clergy as shepherds. They see it as infantilising and disempowering, setting up authoritarian structures to keep the laity supine, meek and controlled by clerical middlemen. They have a point. Too often in church history this has occurred.

Yet resorting to rugged individualism may not get us too far. Take this direction far enough and we move from being predated on, to being the predator. One is reminded of the roman saying 'man is a wolf to man'. What happens to all those not rugged enough? The wolf has a ready answer that goes something like 'the weak are meat and the strong do eat.'

We are in need of many good shepherds, to stand up prophetically and courageously to the wolves around us. I am reminded of the North American Indian story of the two wolves. One is white and one is black. The white defends the powerless, nurtures life and upholds the good. The black, predated, destroys, abuses and seeks only it's own ends. According to the story, we have both the black and the white within us. The question is then asked, which one is greater. The confronting answer: the one we choose to feed.

To choose not to feed the cruel wolf, is in effect to also choose to be a good shepherd. To stand with Jesus is to stand with all those who are cruelly predated upon. In other words, the call to live justly is non-negotiable for those who would follow Jesus. We can't stand by passively and reject and ignore those who are exploited, those who suffer injustice, those who are made scape goats and those reduced to meat for the strong to eat.

We cannot ever do this alone. Alone we may be ultra-individual and rugged, although truth be told we are more often vulnerable and dependent. But together, as the body of Christ, we truly can be good shepherds or life givers for a broken world. But as in the story of white and black wolf, it depends on what we nourish ourselves on.

As St Augustine once prayed, may we become the mystery we receive and celebrate.
Christ's body given for a hungry and needy world.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP



We remember those who have died :
(Margaret) Mary Sexton

We pray for those who are unwell :
Noelene Goonan Vincent Daniels
John Orders John Condon
Tulli Seabert (6 yr old)

We welcome for baptism :
Isla Marsh Lexi Bauer
Seb Larmour



Special prayers for :

Mohammad Rahmani, that our request to Minister Peter Dutton to provide a visa, or at least work rights, will receive a favourable response.

Noura Kka, former parishioner, who returned to Iraq & encountered persecution for her christian beliefs and is now battling ill-health.

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

Welcome Jesuit **Fr Bart Beckers** to the Geelong Deanery.
He has come from Amsterdam to lead the **First Spiritual exercises retreat** at Drysdale over the *next 2 weeks*.

Meetings

St Vincent de Paul

Mon 23rd April 7.30pm.

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

Widowed & Social Group

Book now for June outing

Tues 19th June Morning Melodies

at Fyansford Hotel. Bus & lunch \$20.

please ph Mary 52 432 673.

Bus leaves St Bernard's at 9.30 & returns 2.15

First Communion Gifts :

Call in to **Wing and a Prayer**,
116 Moorabool St, to see our
wide range of gifts suitable for
First Eucharist.



Have you heard of
Eileen O'Connor?
Australia's next saint.

In April 1913, Eileen co-founded
the religious order of
Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor

The order, known as the **Brown Nurses**
because of their distinctive brown cloaks and
bonnets, was dedicated to caring for the sick
and dying poor in their homes and they
continue this work today.

Today is the **World Day of Vocations**.

Pope Francis tells us:

We will never discover the special, personal
calling that God has in mind for us if we remain
enclosed in ourselves, in our usual way of doing
things... We could lose the chance to dream big
and to play our part in the unique and original
story that God wants to write with us.

God calls young people from our local
communities to serve as priests and consecrated
religious. We all have a role to play in helping
young people to 'dream big' and hear this call.



Gracious and loving God,
As we mark this ANZAC Day, we remember
all who lost their lives through Australia's
involvement in wars, conflicts and
peacekeeping operations.

On ANZAC Day, we especially remember the
courageous actions undertaken by the
Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
during the First World War.

On this national day of commemoration,
we pray for the airmen, sailors and soldiers
who died in battle, sacrificing their lives
while on duty.

We commemorate their bravery and pray
for the families who lost loved ones.

As we strive for peace in our country and
world, help us to become instruments
of your peace.

*We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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.

(Final pick ups Fri 20th May).

(no magazines, textbooks or encyclopaedia).

Thank you.

Mon 30th April 1.30pm

Drop of a Hat Productions, in conjunction with
Belmont Seniors Centre, proudly presents

Shirley Power & Colin Mockett.

52 Thomson St. Belmont.

'Fine singing & devilish wit'.

\$5, incl tea & coffee. (see noticeboard)



'Gaudete et Exsultate'

'Rejoice and be glad!' is what Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount. It's also the title of Pope Francis' new apostolic exhortation on holiness in everyday life.



Why should we 'rejoice and be glad'?

Because God, as Francis reminds us, calls us all to be saints.

But how can we respond to that call?

1. Holiness means being yourself

Pope Francis offers many examples of holy lives throughout this document:

St Thérèse of Lisieux, the French Carmelite who found holiness in *doing small tasks*;

St Ignatius of Loyola, the Jesuit founder who sought to *find God* in all things;

St Philip Neri, the founder of the Oratorians who was renowned for his *sense of humour*.

The saints pray for us and give us examples of how to live, but we are not meant to be cookie-cutter versions of them. We are meant to be ourselves, and each believer is meant to 'discern his or her own path' and 'bring out the very best of themselves.'

As Thomas Merton said,

'For me to be a saint means to be myself.'

2. Everyday life can lead to holiness

You do not need to be a bishop, a priest or a member of a religious order to be holy.

Everyone is called to be a saint, as the Second Vatican Council reminded us— a mother or a father, a student or an attorney, a teacher or a janitor.

'Saints next door,' Francis calls them.

All we need to do is to 'live our lives in love' and 'bear witness' to God in all we do.

That also doesn't have to mean big, dramatic actions. Francis offers examples of everyday sanctity, like a loving parent raising a child; as well as 'small gestures' and sacrifices that one can make, like deciding not to pass on gossip.

If you can see your own life as a 'mission,' then you soon realize that you can simply be loving and kind to move towards holiness.

You also do not have to be 'swooning in mystic rapture' to be a saint, or walking around with 'lowered eyes.'

Nor do you have to withdraw from other people. On the other hand, you do not want to be caught up in the 'rat race' of rushing from one thing to another.

A balance between action and contemplation is essential. (more next week)

The coffee house building is going well :



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

Aussie Camino pilgrims step out with St Mary MacKillop

The Aussie Camino is a homegrown pilgrimage trail (Camino Australia)

Having walked the 800km Camino de Santiago, Australians Bill and Pina Dunne are now walking in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop along the Aussie Camino trail.

Just like the European pilgrims of old, the Dunes are undertaking a long camino — a pilgrim's journey — walking 197km over eight days, along the coast, beaches, backroads and farm lanes of southern Australia, imbued with deep spiritual and religious significance.

The Dunes are part of a group of 12 pilgrims undertaking the novel Aussie Camino trail between Portland and Penola in South Australia, walking in the footsteps of Australia's first homegrown saint, Mary MacKillop.

"A camino is very much like life. *There are easy parts, hard parts, and bits where (you) don't think you can get to the end.* It's about the pilgrimage, the journey, not so much reaching the end; treading the path step-by-step and reconnecting with what you think is important in life — your essence, faith, beliefs — and being part of something that is bigger than you."

CathNews 16.4.18



Thurs 26th April 6.30-7.45pm **Ozanam conversation** : 'What it means to be a Catholic welfare organisation in a post Royal Commission world'. Bishop Vincent Long with Geraldine Doogue. Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne. RSVP 9895 5935 (see noticeboard)

Wed 2nd May 12 noon. **Sisters of the Holy Angels luncheon** \$10
Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave. *All welcome*

4th to 13th MAY MUSIC AT THE BASILICA PRESENTS
"WINDFIRE" FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC IN
GEELONG'S CHURCHES.

TICKETS AT DOOR OR FROM TRYBOOKING.COM
SAVE ON A GOLD OR SILVER PASS FROM
TRYBOOKING.COM. No charge for children.

Full details at www.musicatthebasilica.org.au Phone 0407 095 408

Saturday 5th May
11.00 am
St Mary's Basilica
Pioneer Room.
150 Yarra St
Tickets \$10.
Take the lift.

**ICONS DISPLAY AND
DEMONSTRATION
WITH *MARIJKE INEI***

At the back of the church is a book in which you can write any **prayer intentions.**

Prayer Shawls & Pocket Hearts from the Pastoral Healthcare Network. Ideal comfort for the sick, bereaved, or those needing hope. PHNA Office, 100 Yarra St Geelong (Thurs) or ph 5249 5799 for delivery.

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 5 : 28/29 April

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	H Brislane
	9.00am	M & B O'Brien
	10.30am	P & J Horan
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	M Dias H Brislane M Purcell Sr J Eudey
	9.00 am	D Butler B Gleeson
	10.30am	P Horan
Readers	6.00pm	J Hagan
	9.00 am	H Jordan D Barker
	10.30am	M Inei S Thomas
PowerPointers	6.00pm	H Brislane
	9.00 am	D Turnbull B Arnup
	10.30am	G & C Caruana
Musicians	6.00pm	Men's choir
	9.00am	Instrumental music
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	D Irwin N Newton	
Cleaners :	Karen	
Flowers	Janine	
Bread Roster: gold	F McFarlane P Raimondo P & M Dias P Kavanagh S Kent B Hollander	
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: 8-12 Ps 117: 1,8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29
1 Jn 3 : 1-2 Jn 10 : 11-18

Next Week:

Acts 9: 26-31
1 Jn 3 : 18-24

Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32
Jn 15 : 1- 8