



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

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29th April 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

Living inside a big belonging

To be a disciple of Jesus is to live inside a great belonging, to live inside a very spacious and large sense of self. This world view fully affirms our unique individuality and our being grounded in the great mystical union that St Paul describes as 'one body, one spirit' (Eph 4:1) Thus we are one and different, gathered into unity and diversity, but never just atomised, cut off, expected to be entirely self-made individuals, but rather inside the mystery of 'one lord, one faith, one baptism and one God' (Eph 4:5-6). So we see Jesus in our gospel today, telling us we are the branches and he is the vine.

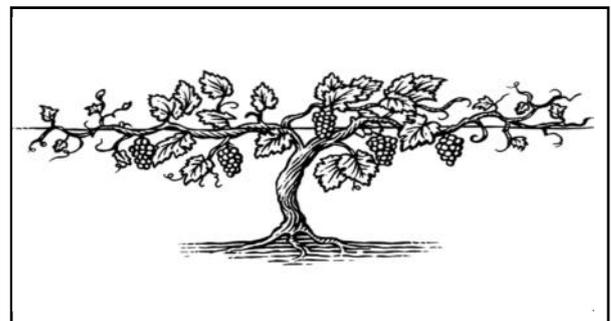
This is counter intuitive to the sense of self our market dominated world mandates. The market driven society of late capitalism abrogates and relegates all values down to the financial bottom line. Inside this world view we are only individuals, only isolated units of consumption, herded and conditioned to pursue self-interest, lionize meritocracy and carve out personal advantage, with scant or no regard for responsibility or obligation to another. One wonders how far we as a nation and culture will go with this dominant ideology. Take for instance Australia's waste crisis, now that China will not take our garbage. What is needed is strong and clear community leadership and action. Taxes and levies indeed might have to be raised rather than lowered, if we are to turn this problem into a good story. Don't expect the market to fix this amongst a multitude of other problems.

To be fair, a heightened sense of the place of the individual is what has given western culture/civilization its prominence. Much of this can be attributed to the better influences of Judaeo Christianity, which has helped to evolve a very strong sense of the rights and dignity of every human person. Thus the human rights and freedoms so beloved by secular humanists have much of their origins in the gospel call, to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Also to be fair, western Christianity in particular has itself often placed a distorted and disconnecting sense of individuality at the centre of its proclamation. This becomes fire insurance and brownie point Christianity. Everything then becomes about being saved, being spared retribution and wrath and so salvation becomes a tortured solo enterprise and hunt to avoid perdition and the devil take those unable to join such a haunted, lonely expedition.

This is a very long way from the primary relational sense of God, as Jesus reveals to us. The invitation to 'make your home in me as I make mine in you', is about coming alive through mutual care and love of each other. This is where Jesus' image of pruning the branch comes in. Yes indeed in relationship there has to be renunciation and detachment, but also give and take. There is always the letting go of individual agendas, in order to find the common good. So often in life, less is very definitely more. The following ancient Celtic prayer says it all:

*I rise up clothed in the strength of Christ.
I shall not be imprisoned,
I shall not be harmed;
I shall not be left alone,
I shall not be down trodden,
I shall not be overwhelmed.
I go clothed in Christ's white garments;
I go freed to weave Christ's patterns;
I go loved to serve Christ's weak ones;
I go armed to rout out Christ's foes.*



Ancient Celtic prayer from the community of Aidan and Hilda.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

We remember those who have died :

Les Fields

We pray for those who are unwell :

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

We welcome for baptism :

Louie Holmes

Max, Jemima & Amelie Thomas



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.



Last weekend and this, we welcome the **children who will be receiving First Eucharist** next weekend.

Sat 5th May 4pm 'special' first eucharist mass

Sun 6th May 9.00am and **10.30am** masses

(**no First Eucharist at 6.00pm Sat 5th May**)



Extra helper needed in Fr Peter's Café after the 9am mass. Contact Doris 52 430 276 if you can assist.

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

Annual mass count for the Archdiocese starts next week, for 4 weeks in May.

Sun 20th May 12 noon KSC Casserole Lunch

Belmont Seniors Centre, 52 Thomson St.

\$10 per head. Bring a casserole or sweet.

RSVP Joe 5229 8442.

Proceeds to local and overseas charity.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

1-3 June, 17-19 August, and 9-11

Nov 7pm Friday - 5pm Sunday.

information: ph : 0411 225 992.

email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

website: www.wwme.org.au



Wednesday 2 May 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Vinnies Young Adult Conference

141 Fyans St, South Geelong.

Vinnies Conferences are a chance for young people aged 16-40 to come together for Social Events, Prayer and Reflection and Social Outreach.



If you have been wanting to meet likeminded young people and even make a difference in your community, then you should come join this new amazing team!

As a part of the St Vincent de Paul Society, our gatherings are based on Catholic values.

However, we encourage people to join us from all and no faith backgrounds.

Come and find out more at our pizza evening and info session!

Enquiries Jacob on: 0488 048 659 or

email youth@svdp-vic.org.au

Facebook at www.facebook.com/vinniesyouthvic

RSVP not necessary but appreciated, via email.

Tues 15 May Catholic Diners Club,

6.15pm Capri Receptions, 258 Pakington St, Geelong West.

Cost \$33.00.

Guest speaker : Ean Uldrich, self taught bee keeper.

RSVP Michael 0431 959 584

by 11/5



Thurs 17 May 7.00-8.30pm

Circle of Mercy Community Evening.

Sarah Afshar presenting 'Baha'i Faith'

Celies Hospitality Centre, Sacred Heart College.

Light refreshment afterwards.

All welcome.

RSVP by Fri 11 May : Rita 52 220 467

rsvp@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au or

Sat 19 May 10am-3.30pm

The Community Quiet Day

led by Stephen Holgate

'Constants, new beginnings, letting go'

Living Well Centre,

St George's Anglican Church,

296 Glenferrie Rd Malvern.

www.christianmeditationaustralia.org

email : chrmedvic@gmail.com

or call 0418 584 970.

Thurs 24 May 7-9am

'Catholic Man Breakfast Series'

featuring *Daniel Wells*, Collingwood Champion

CQ Club, 113 - 123 Queen St. Melbourne.

\$45/head.

Bookings: Michael 0439 172 465

'Gaudete et Exsultate'

'Rejoice and be glad!' is the title of Pope Francis' new apostolic exhortation. *Why should we 'rejoice and be glad'? How can we respond to that call?* (continued from last week)



3. Two tendencies to avoid: Gnosticism and Pelagianism

The first is Gnosticism, from the Greek word *gnosis*, to know. Gnosticism is the old heresy that says that what matters most is what you know. No need to be charitable or do good works, all you need is the correct intellectual approach. Today Gnosticism tempts people to think that they can make the faith 'entirely comprehensible' and leads them to want to force others to adopt their way of thinking. 'When somebody has an answer for every question,' says Francis, 'it's a sign that they are not on the right path.' In other words, *being a know-it-all is not going to save you.*

The second thing to avoid is Pelagianism, which says that we can take care of our salvation through our own efforts. Pelagians trust in their own powers, don't feel like they need God's grace and act superior to others because they observe certain rules.



Today's Pelagians often have 'an obsession with the law, an absorption with social and political advantages, punctilious concern for the church's liturgy, doctrine and prestige.'

It's a real danger to holiness because it *robs us of humility, sets us over others, and leaves little room for grace.*

4. Be kind

'Gaudete et Exsultate' is filled with Pope Francis' trademark practical advice for living a life of holiness.

For example, *don't gossip, stop judging and, most importantly, stop being cruel.*

That goes for online actions, too. Online 'defamation and slander can become commonplace... since things can be said there that would be unacceptable in public discourse, as people look to compensate for their own discontent by lashing out at others.

To be holy, be kind.

St Bernard's Book Fair - Sun 20th May Clairvaux Hall 8am to 3.00pm



How can you help?

- **Donate 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 11th May). (no magazines, textbooks or encyclopedia).
- **Spread the word. Pick up a poster** from the foyer **TODAY**, to put up at your workplace. (Smaller flyers for *letter box delivery* will be in the church to pick up over the next few weeks)
- **Bake a cake or slice** and deliver to the Clairvaux Hall on the morning of 20th May.
- **Come along on the day.**

5. The Beatitudes, a roadmap for holiness

As you might guess from the document's title, the Beatitudes, Jesus' list of 'blessed ones,' are central to this exhortation. The Beatitudes are not only what Jesus means by holiness, they are also a portrait of our Lord himself.

So we are called to be *poor in spirit, meek, peacemakers, to hunger and thirst for righteousness* and so on.

'*Blessed are the merciful.*' Pope Francis says mercy, one of the central themes of his papacy, has two aspects: *helping and serving others but also forgiving and understanding.*

Jesus does not say, 'Blessed are those who plot revenge!'

Pope Francis' overall summary of holiness is based on the Beatitudes:

'Seeing and acting with mercy'.

James Martin, S.J. America Magazine

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



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. \$5. See notice board.

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**

First Communion Gifts : Call in to **Wing and a Prayer**, 116 Moorabool St, to see our wide range of gifts.



Villa Maria Catholic Homes—brochures outlining services and programs are available in the foyer.

Heart Ministry for Women Conference 21–23 June at Ibis Melbourne. Heart: TheCatholicGuy.com.au

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 1: 5/6 May

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	B & C Bogacki
	9.00am	E & M Zypfel
	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 A & B Sherwell J & R Gollan
	10.30am	L Dowling S Dowling L Rastas T Watts
Readers	6.00pm	J Loveday J Parry
	9.00 am	First eucharist readers
	10.30am	First eucharist readers
PowerPointers	6.00pm	K Bogacki
	9.00 am	First eucharist teacher
	10.30am	First eucharist teacher
Musicians	6.00pm	Sally
	9.00am	First eucharist
	10.30am	First eucharist
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Mary S Margaret S Rita P	
Cleaners :	Karen	
Flowers	Janine	
Bread Roster: blue	L Dowling L & N Jaques C Raj G Mugavin J Harte R & J Gollan	
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 9: 26-31
 1 Jn 3 : 18-24

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

Next Week:

Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48
 Jn 4:7-10

Ps 97:1-4
 Jn 15:9-17