



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

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13th May 2018

The Ascension of the Lord Year B

Discovering the Christ within

A Benedictine monk and gifted teacher of Christian meditation, once tellingly remarked about the difference between Christian and Hindu children. When asked the question, where do you find God?, christian children invariably pointed to the sky. Hindu children, when asked the same question, most often pointed to their hearts.

It is not our children who are to blame for this lame skywards glance. So much of our tradition and history has too often reinforced images of a distant, disconnected sky deity, implacably concerned with punishment and sin, over and above us, rather than beside and within. Western religion has often been about damnation avoidance, reinforced by ossified prescripts, rigid pieties and rigorous law keeping. A more mystical and contemplative imagination has often been pushed to the sidelines, left to religious elites or to other worldly dreamers.

We easily lose sight of the God St Paul describes as 'One God...overall, through all, and within all'. Here we have Paul's take on the event we call the Ascension. Instead of a diminishing absence that leaves us earth bound and sky gazing, this is about a more extensive manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. The Incarnation goes from Jesus to us all. This is a cosmic Christ to be seen, discovered, revealed and found present in Word, in sacrament, in people, in creation and in all the ways the Holy Spirit moves us to love one another.

The Ascension then is about greater connection, not less. We are invited into the contemplative mind that sees God within all and sees the Spirit at work weaving the connectedness of all things. This is surely a much-needed corrective to our mechanistic and exploitative approach to creation, which is all about subjugating and dominating nature. The results of having such a God outside and above us have been disastrous. Everywhere now we see signs of environmental and social stress, due to rapacious exploitation. If our God is merely an outsider, punishing and subjugating us, then we have licence to pass the punishment downwards. But if we grasp the unfolding mystery of Christ, as a God who makes his home in us, who lives and breathes in us, then a more nurturing and co-operative sense of relationship will take priority over the competitive and exploitive.

Not only that, the mystery of the Ascension reminds us that revelation of Christ is not as tightly defined and done and dusted as some in the church too readily assert. This mystery is unfolding around us still and our grasp of it is partial at best.

Rather we are invited into greater wonder and appreciation, into a poetic, mystical imagination, that as the poet William Blake put it, can 'see all the world in a single grain of sand'.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP



We remember those who have died :
Margaret 'June' McDonald John Condon

We pray for those who are unwell :

Peter Harbison Noelene Goonan
Vincent Daniels John Orders
Tim Coakley Tulli Seabert



We welcome for Baptism :

Jhi Bromley

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.

Thursday May 10 to Friday May 18

'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Join the *Global Wave of Prayer* at Wing and a Prayer, 116 Moorabool St, Geelong.

Prayer Service at 11.00 am each day, or *call in any time* during the day to pray. All Welcome. Concludes with a Combined Churches worship service at 7pm on Pentecost Sunday.

(An initiative of the Anglican Church.)

enquiries : www.thykingdomcome.global.

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.

RSVP by *Fri 11 May* : Rita 52 220 467

rsvp@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Tues 19th June Widowed & Social Group

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

Thursday 21st June 7.30pm

'People Come First'

The Geelong Deanery presents :

Bro Mark O'Connor reflecting on the

Pastoral Theology of Pope Francis.

Here at St Bernard's Church.

Brother Mark will speak on the *pastoral revolution of Pope Francis during his five years in office and his emphasis on "the first and living rule is the person of Jesus Christ, his humility, his gentleness, his joy and his love"*. All welcome.

Enquiries Catherine Moon : 0409 007 913

Annual mass count for the Archdiocese continues for the next 3 weeks in May.

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



How can you help?

- **Spread the word.** Take a poster to put up at your workplace, or smaller flyers for **letter box delivery**
- Tell your friends & neighbours
- Advertise on *Facebook* or your favourite social media
- **Bake** a cake or slice and deliver to the Clairvaux Hall (Reynolds Rd) next Sunday morning
- Thanks to so many generous donations, we have a bigger selection & variety of books than ever before.
- **Come along & browse the huge selection on the day.**

Where will the money go?

Money from the 2017 & 2018 Book Fairs, will help pay for extensive renewal of the landscaping across the front & sides of the church.



Pouring the exposed aggregate surface

Every Friday morning, a number of people gather, then take communion to those who are sick at home, or in Nursing Homes.

If you are interested in assisting with this very special ministry, please contact the Parish Office.



Chaplaincy Sunday Collection will be held at the end of June.

CatholicCare Family Week—14-20 May

Building Connections; Growing Together

As family we are for one another, we are love and trial, strength and trouble. Even when far apart, we belong to one another and in various ways we remember and pray for one another.



We give thanks for the bonds of love we share with these special people and for the many ways they have been the face, hands and voice of God in our lives.

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.

May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.

*And may the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts now and forever.
Amen*

'Tackling Loneliness'

McAuley Community Services for Women

Recently the UK government surprised many by appointing a *Minister for Loneliness*. Some laughed, others were cynical, and many were simply bemused. An insightful article by Australian Senators Louise Pratt and Andrew Leigh pointed out, that creating this unconventional portfolio makes sense. *Inequality is rising; the strength of community is waning, and loneliness is a problem we must tackle together.*



Their article struck a chord with me. It resonated with McAuley Community Services' approach, in working with women who have experienced family violence. We have long recognised that for women who've known this physical and emotional trauma to recover, their loneliness and isolation must also be addressed.

New social connections and relationships need to be forged; old ones must be rebuilt. Of all the pernicious effects of family violence, loneliness is one of the most under-acknowledged and damaging.

In 2016-2017, 186 women and 204 children needed McAuley's safe house and refuges, leaving behind homes, friends and families; schools and classmates; pets, toys, clothing and possessions. These are experiences that, in themselves, bring about an acute sense of aloneness, disconnection and disruption.

extract Melbourne Catholic 10.4.18

Happy Mother's Day

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers, who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.



The Mission of the Laity

'Lay people are on the front line of the life of the Church.'

We need their testimony regarding the truth of the Gospel and their *example of expressing their faith by practicing solidarity.*

Let us give thanks for lay people who *take risks*, who are *not afraid* and who offer reasons for *hope to the poorest, to the excluded, to the marginalized.*

Let us pray together this month that the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, the mission they received in Baptism, putting their creativity at the service of the challenges of today's world.'

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



The Coffee Processing Plant

Direct bank transfer :

BSB : 063 504

acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : 'Coffee & surname'

Cheques :

'St Bernard's Church Manny acc'.

Contact the Office for further information.

Thank you

Thurs 17th May 2pm-3pm **Let's Sing** St John's Church Highton Enquiries 5243 3561

Sat 19th 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.

Sun 20th May 3.30-5.30pm **20th Anniversary of Passionist Family Groups in Nazareth Parish.**
HIGH TEA at Lisieux Centre, St Therese Church, Torquay.
RSVP Jill & Bob 52 414 070 / 0427 414 070 for catering purposes. *All welcome.*

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.

Sat 26th May 1pm-3.30pm **Pamper Day** (Pastoral Healthcare Network)
Geelong Natural Therapies, 36 Shannon Ave Geelong West.
\$10. Enquiries Carmel 52297954. RSVP 23 May

Mon 28th May 1.30pm **Ron Ellis on Stage** Belmont Seniors Concert Hall. Entry \$4.00. Tea and coffee.

16 & 23 June 11am-3pm **From death to new life: preparing and celebrating Catholic funerals**
presented by ACU. St Mary's Pioneer Room. Cost \$60.00. RSVP 8th June. Enquiries 02 9701 4751.
Registration : www.acu.edu.au/ntr_e_for_liturgy/short_courses

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 3: 19/20 May

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.

Men's Group :

Second Tuesday of the month
10am
in Church café.
Come along for a *cuppa & chat*

Christian Meditation

Wed 7.30pm
in the church

Tai Chi : Fridays

9.30-10.30
in the Church café.

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	E & J O'Leary
	9.00am	E & M Zypfel
	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 Margaret W	
Cleaners : 8	A & K Bainbridge B Morris P & G Heenan T Lunny	
Flowers	Denise and Rosemary	
Bread Roster: gold	C Hurley K Kelly T Sezun B & V Arnup G Watt G Wilson	
Communion at home	D Turnbull-co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	

This week:

Acts 1: 1-11 Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9
Eph 1: 17-23 Mk 16: 15-20

Next Week:

Acts 2: 1-11 Ps 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34
Gal 5: 16-25 Jn 15: 26-27; 16:12-15

