

# St Bernard's Parish Belmont



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20th May 2018

Pentecost Sunday Year B

## The Holy Spirit a verb not a noun

Theology has been described as an exercise in faith seeking understanding. The word theology literally means the study of God, which sounds more than a tad presumptuous. The Jesuit, the late Karl Rahner, who is often regarded as the most pre-eminent catholic theologian of the twentieth century, reportedly said towards the end of his life, that we should give up using the word God altogether for the next fifty years. His concern was not just with all the baggage and projection associated with that huge three letter word. More to the point, he was at pains to remind his fellow theologians and their students "when we use the word 'God', none of us really knows what we are speaking about."



This does not mean that Rahner was suggesting we abandon baby and bathwater and surrender all discourse to flat earth atheists, or any old carpet bagger selling spiritual certainties. Rahner's preferred interim term was holy mystery. Perhaps he was at pains to point out that God is no object like any other object, or that God is really not a noun, but can only begin to be understood as a verb.

This is a good entry point for us as, we celebrate yet another Easter season coming to an end with the feast of Pentecost. The Spirit is about movement, flow, breath, fire, bestowed gift; all of which goes to correct too static and unmoving an understanding of Holy Mystery. Despite our best efforts, the Spirit will not allow us to corral the mystery of Christ into unmoving definition and immutable dogma. The descending fire of the Spirit is too wild for such theological domestication. Pope Francis is on to this when he warns us priests to resist the urge to make our ministry one of being 'word police' or 'museum curators'. The institutional church may have all sorts of crisis to contend with (particularly in our secular land), but people are still hungry for transcendence and tangible transformation.

Rather than trying to speak about what words cannot convey, we are all in need of that living peace and forgiveness we see Jesus bestow in today's gospel. Peace as he promises, is not merely a bit of quiet or an absence of conflict. Rather it is a direct emanation of God, a fullness and a strength poured out abundantly. In other words, it is part of the flow of the Holy Spirit poured upon us. Our way into this peace is always about letting go and surrender. One thing we need to let go of is our difficulty in forgiving ourselves. This is one of life's slow lessons. We say it every time we recite the Lord's Prayer. That is, to forgive as we have been forgiven. That forgiveness begins with us receiving the undeserved gift of God's indwelling presence. St Hildegard of Bingen describes this well in her hymn of praise to the Holy Spirit, where she says:

"She is restorative stillness...her power makes all withered souls green again,  
with the juice of life."

That juicing power is the verb power of God in action, healing, absolving, gathering, strengthening and leaving us with a peace beyond understanding.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

We remember those who have died :  
**Edna Surkitt Heidi Clark Marlene Odlum**

We pray for those who are unwell :  
**Peter Harbison Noelene Goonan**  
**Vincent Daniels John Orders**  
**Tim Coakley Tulli Seabert**

We welcome for Baptism :

**Allegra Burgio**  
**Macy & Charlotte Smith**



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.*

**Meetings this week :**

**St Vincent de Paul**

Monday 21st May at 7.30pm.

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

**Widowed and Social Group**

Monday 21st May at 10.30am. Fitzpatrick Room.

Guest Speaker. Bring lunch to share.

**Payment of \$20.00 for Morning Melodies** at Fyansford Hotel on Tuesday 19th June, to be paid at this meeting.

**Wing and a Prayer**  
**Closing Down Sale**  
**FINAL WEEK.**

116 Moorabool St, Geelong.  
Open Mon to Fri 10am-4pm.

**CLOSING  
SALE  
DOWN**

Thurs 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

**Australian Catholics**

Winter Edition is out now.

Collect a copy after mass today!

**Australian  
CATHOLICS**  
*faith and life*

Annual mass count for the Archdiocese continues for the next 2 weeks in May.

**St Bernard's Book Fair -**  
**THIS Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Clairvaux School Hall**  
**8am to 3.00pm**



Thurs May 24. **'Freedom Stories'** Movie and Dinner Fundraiser for **Legal support for people seeking asylum.** Dinner 5.30pm. Movie 6.45pm Plaza Cinema, St Marys Parish Centre, 150 Yarra St, Geelong. Cost \$35 (email dietary requirements to : combinedrefugeeactiongroup@gmail.com) Bookings : <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/freedom-stories-movie-and-dinner-tickets-45575464441>

Sat 23rd June 6pm until late!

**Carnival Gala Night**  
**Michael Carmody Foundation.**

Venue : St Joseph's College. Profits go to help students at Nazareth Primary, St Joseph's & Simonds College (assisting refugee boys) Host : Nick Maxwell. Auctions, raffles, live music. Tickets \$75 for 2 course meal. Tables of 10 ph : 0438 983 566 or [trybooking.com/book/event?eid=377962](http://trybooking.com/book/event?eid=377962)



**Child Safety at St Bernard's**

There are seven Vic Government Child Safe Standards.



St Bernard's must have:

- Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety.
- A child safe statement of commitment
- A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Screening, supervision & training practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.
- Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.
- Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.
- Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.
- Regular checks to identify unsafe environments & situations.

*We are all legally responsible to recognise & minimise harm*

## Plenary Council 2020 – Listen to what the Spirit is saying.



Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia 2020–21. *It is a significant moment for the Church to make decisions about the future.*

To prepare the agenda we are invited to reflect on the question:

**“What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”** Find out more at : [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

### Catch This Spirit

The Holy Spirit is alive in our Church. It *directs* us when we seek guidance. It *calms* us when we face crisis. It *strengthens* us to be *peace* amid the world's pain.



In this week's Gospel, Jesus gives that Spirit to his first followers. Christian *community* is still where we find it, when we get together with others to talk and pray about our joys and fears. The Spirit continually seeks to bring us together to *guide* us, *strengthen* us and *send* us.

You have encountered this Spirit. Take time this week to think about when and where.

GPBSeNews

### Caritas criticises cuts to foreign aid

Further cuts to Australia's foreign aid (recent Budget) could diminish Australia's international influence.



The chief of Caritas Australia said Australia's aid program was part of an international effort to *end extreme poverty*, promote *prosperity* and ensure that the *rights* of people are respected. It has achieved *improvements in public health*, access to *clean drinking water* and increased the number of *children going to school*.

He urged a renewed bipartisan commitment to aid that “would re-instate Australia as a global leader in helping end poverty, tackle climate change and promote justice for all”.  
excerpt CathNews 10 May 2018

### The Coffee Processing Plant

Direct bank transfer :

BSB : 063 504

acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : 'Coffee & surname'

Cheques :

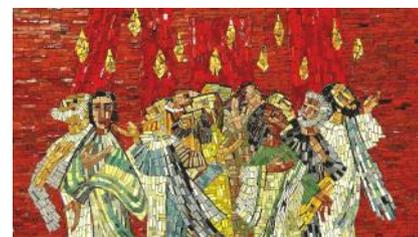
'St Bernard's Church Manny acc'.

Contact the Office for further information.

Thank you

## Pentecost

Like the finale of a symphony that weaves together motifs and melodies from the whole work, the



Feast of Pentecost recapitulates all we have been celebrating throughout the Easter season.

For fifty days it has been the first day of the week, the day the Lord has made, the day of joy and gladness. Love has conquered death, now and forever. Come evening, the Easter candle will be extinguished, but only to let the light of Christ burn on brightly in our hearts.

*We pray today for a new church, a new world, a new creation, aflame with the wisdom of God.*

In May 2015, on the feast of Pentecost, Pope Francis unmasked his extraordinary encyclical on ecology and climate :

**Laudato Si** – Our common home – a blueprint for a change of hearts and minds.

Pope Francis wrote: “But we should be particularly indignant at the enormous inequalities in our midst, . . . We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, . . .” (no. 90).

As we celebrate Pentecost this coming Sunday, let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance on how to live a life that embodies the teaching of Jesus, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Damien Nolan, Director, Jesuit Communications

### Don't forget, Mary was a lay person: Pope

Amid growing calls from Pope Francis to pay more attention to the *voice of the laity*, the Pontiff reminds us that ‘The first disciple of Jesus, his mother, was a member of the laity. This is a great inspiration.’



The pontiff also said that a ‘nice exercise’ when facing moments of tribulation is to think, “What would Mary do (in this situation)?”

CathNews 11 May 2018

Pope Francis prayer intention :

**That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.**

Sat 26th May 1pm-3.30pm **Pamper Day** (Pastoral Healthcare Network)

Geelong Natural Therapies, 36 Shannon Ave Geelong West.

\$10. Enquiries Carmel 52 297 954. 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\\_for\\_liturgy/short\\_courses](http://www.acu.edu.au/ntr_for_liturgy/short_courses)

**Team Vinnies** invites you to join our Larapinta Trek. Join us on 13 September as we embark on an inspiring journey to raise funds for Vinnies programs such as KEEP (Kids Engaged in Education Program) and SPARK. Enquiries Andrea at 02 9568 0211 or via email [andrea.andres@vinnies.org.au](mailto:andrea.andres@vinnies.org.au)

**Achieving Pregnancy Naturally** The Billings Ovulation Method® can assist you in having the baby of your dreams. If you have been trying to have a baby without success, our teachers can provide essential information, which will give you the best chance to achieve your pregnancy naturally.

Please call Billings LIFE on 1800 335 860 or check out our website and shop.

Website: [www.billings.life](http://www.billings.life) Shop: <https://billings.ecwid.com/>



**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 4: 26/27 May**

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	C & C Raj
	9.00am	M & B O'Brien
	10.30am	J Earle D Gielen
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	M Dias E Kent C Kenworthy C Raj
	9.00 am	D Butler B Gleeson A Morris S Gillett C Wilkin
	10.30am	D Martin L Rimmer K Bainbridge J Earle
Readers	6.00pm	P Lewis C Raj
	9.00 am	M King L Pomeroy
	10.30am	F Khan A Bainbridge
PowerPointers	6.00pm	D & N Kavanagh
	9.00 am	J & J Burgess
	10.30am	M & G Burns
Musicians	6.00pm	Kevin E
	9.00am	Marg, Tess C and Anna
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Edna B Mary M Pauline L	
Cleaners : 9	L Jaques N Carr M Wedding F & A Meesen	
Flowers	Shirley Eileen and Mary	
Bread Roster: red	B Hollander S Kent P Kavanagh P & M Dias P Raimondo F McFarlane	
Communion at home	D Turnbull—co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	

**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.



**This week:**

Acts 2: 1-11 Ps 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34

Gal 5: 16-25 Jn 15: 26-27; 16:12-15

**Next Week:**

Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40

Rom 8:14-17

Ps 32:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22

Mt 28: 16-20