

# St Bernard's Parish Belmont



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9th September 2018

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

## "Ephphatha"

It is worth asking the question how many of us would describe ourselves as good listeners? Some of us might be okay at it. I am not, and from experience have found that really listening carefully and generously to another can be very demanding and challenging. But when real soulful careful

listening occurs it can be very powerful and life changing. Carolyn Jones in her book *Search for meaning* describes how her return to catholic faith practice was greatly inspired by an old Jesuit priest she met at her local parish. For starters he was very warm and engaging which goes to show we don't just listen with our ears but with our whole self. Some body language can very directly indicate either an open or closed heart. In Jones's case she felt the old priest was listening to her as if she were "the only person in the world". The experience of being accepted and heard was greatly healing for her on a profound level.



Today's reading is all about listening to the divine voice or the divine initiative and also not being mute in terms of our response to that initiative. The Aramaic prayer of Jesus, Ephphatha, "be opened" is addressed to us both individually and collectively. The challenge on the personal level is not to allow the still small voice of God's Spirit within to be drowned out by the white noise of stress, self-absorption or distraction. There is also the challenge to the whole church to hear the divine voice and not be mute in response to that divine address. This directly also means to rise to the challenge to listen to the voice of the faithful, to listen to the signs of the times and to always be ready to called to account by the gospel.

Significantly we see in our story that once again an outsider "gets it" whilst the insiders for all their complacency and self-assurance, do not "get it". We could say to paraphrase St Augustine that there are many in the church "God does not have"- paraphrase- who do not listen. And then there are many outside the church "God does have"- paraphrase- who do listen.

Certainly the Catholic Church is summoned to do some serious listening. Many of course have very definitely stopped listening to it. Many never will. The church itself needs to show it is really listening to its critics, really taking on board the need to renew itself root and branch in the light of the major scandal of clerical sexual abuse. It needs to show real readiness to listen to its own people. Women's voices in particular need to be heard and that hearing needs to materialise in new inclusive lay forms of governance in the church.

This call to "be opened" is not an invitation into indiscriminate inclusivity. Real openness to the divine voice requires a journey into silence and to discerning listening. But once the gospel breaks open our hearts they will not be allowed to return to old dispensations. Once we are not deaf to God neither can we be deaf to injustice or evil doing or to the cares and needs of one another.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

We pray for those who are unwell :

**John Wedding**      **Judith Herron**  
**Pat Alldis**        **Brittany Schultz**  
**Noelene Goonan**    **Alan Ansell**  
**Vincent Daniels**    **John Orders**  
**Tim Coakley**        **Tulli Seabert**

We welcome for Baptism :  
**Henry Kerr**



Special prayers for :

**Mohammad Rahmani.** At present, his solicitors are applying for a copy of his department file, under a Freedom of Information request.

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

#### Upcoming Meetings

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

Monday 10th September at 7.30pm.

##### **St Bernard's Men's Group**

Tuesday 11th September at 10.00am in the Church Café

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

Wednesday 12th September at 7.30pm in the Clairvaux Meeting Rooms.  
Members attend and please bring a plate.

##### **St Bernard's Widowed and Social Group**

Monday 17th September at 10.30m in the Fitzpatrick Room. Guest Speaker.  
Bring lunch to Share. New members welcome. Enquires Mary 5243 2673



*Thank you for your prayers and many kindness on the death of my mum. They have been a great comfort.*  
Helen and Terry

10th Sept 11am for 12noon lunch.

**YCW REUNION** Past members of YCW (Young Christian Workers) are invited to lunch at the Waurm Ponds Bistro, 1154 Princes Hwy. Enquiries and RSVP Maureen Zampatti 0407 680 751.

Wednesday 26th Sept 7pm.

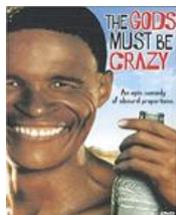
**Movie night 'The Gods must be crazy'.**

Fund-raiser for the Geelong Inter-Church Social Justice Network Forum on Climate Change & Sustainability.

St David's Uniting Church crn Aphrasia & Talbot Sts Newtown.

\$25 at door; \$10 concession

\$20 online : [www.socialjusticegeelong.org.au](http://www.socialjusticegeelong.org.au)



## **Update on Mannya Coffee Processing Machine (Huller)**



A message from Fr Nestus

Thanks dear friends for all the love care and support.

We trust God will always care and provide for his children. Nestus

*The Coffee Processing Machine arrived in Kampala.*

Thank you to all who have helped so generously - we have almost enough money for current needs : transport from Kampala to Mannya (\$1900), electricity connection (\$tba), installation & training operators (\$3,600).

#### **Direct bank transfer :**

BSB : 063 504

Acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : Coffee & surname

#### **Cheques :**

'St Bernard's Church Mannya acc'.

or leave **money at the Office.** *Thank you*

Thurs 20th Sept 6pm

**St Joseph's College Annual Fashion Dinner** President's Room GMHBA stadium \$100. 2 course dinner.  
*Raising funds to support the communities of Mannya & St Joseph's PS Kensekka.*



Online booking : [www.trybooking.com/XGOG](http://www.trybooking.com/XGOG)

**Circle Dancing** at Rice Village (not line dancing), 2-26 Marshalltown Rd, each Monday 4.30pm – 5.15pm. Anyone, any age welcome. No partner needed. Enquiries Fina 5245 8726

During September, Pope Francis has called for a **month of prayer for the Season of Creation.**

Visit The Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality <http://www.campion.asn.au/nature-2018/>

**Mannya beads :** The colourful beads in the **Book Nook** are hand-made with rolled paper, by the women in Mannya.



**Necklaces \$10. Bracelets \$5.**

## Women acting locally are helping women globally

Women for the World events, which can be held at home, in workplaces, schools or anywhere, can take the form of a morning tea, movie night, luncheon or a dinner party.



Caritas Australia helped these women in Zimbabwe acquire water tanks (Caritas/Nicole Clements)

Funds raised through the events go to Caritas Australia, which works in countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific and with Australia's First Peoples to empower communities and eradicate poverty.

Michelle Fernon, a long-time Caritas Australia supporter and driving force behind Women for the World, said that given the disproportionate impact that poverty has on females, it is vital that action is taken.

"Women are the backbone of their families, workplaces and communities," Dr Fernon said. "They are also subject to systemic discrimination that denies their chance to fulfil their potential and contribute fully to their societies. Yet we know that when we help a woman, her family and her community also benefit."

Women for the World events, Dr Fernon said, are about bringing together those who are passionate about justice and the eradication of poverty. "It is an exciting time for Australian women who are in a position to help others. By joining together, we can build a nationwide movement that makes a real difference to those living in poverty," Dr Fernon said.

"One of the most important things about hosting a Women for the World event is to have fun. Choose something that you like to do; for me that's catching up with friends that I don't see nearly enough. "It might seem hard to invite your friends to a fundraiser, but in my experience once they know where the money goes and who they are helping their generosity is overwhelming." Cathnews 5 September

*Archbishop Comensoli is inviting young adults to join him on the **Melbourne Pilgrimage** to World Youth Day in Panama! [Applications due Wed 12th Sept](#). Visit our website or contact the Archdiocesan Office for Youth on 03 9287 5565 or [wyd2019@cam.org.au](mailto:wyd2019@cam.org.au).*

## Human rights groups give Government a deadline



A coalition of some of Australia's biggest humanitarian and human rights organisations has given the federal Government a deadline to get all asylum-seeker and refugee children off Nauru.

World Vision, alongside more than 30 other organisations and advocacy groups, including the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council and Sydney's House of Welcome, has called for Parliament to bring the more than 120 children and their families to Australia or settled in a safe third country by Universal Children's Day on 20 November.

It follows a unanimous motion passed by the Australian Medical Association's federal council on Saturday, calling for the government to "act urgently to guarantee the health and wellbeing" of the children and their families.

"We are calling for common sense, for courage, for compassion and for leadership from our political leaders to resolve this situation," World Vision Australia's chief executive Claire Rogers said in Canberra yesterday.

"There's a quite clear contravention of the refugee convention, and also we believe very strongly a breach of the rights of the child."

CathNews 21 August



## Drinkable water a basic human right: Pope

Care for water sources and water basins is an urgent imperative," the

Pope said in a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

With the world day 2018 focused on water, Pope Francis drew special attention to the more 600 million people who do not have regular access to clean drinking water.

"Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights," he said.

Believers have an obligation to thank God for the gift of water and "to praise him for covering the earth with the oceans," Pope Francis said. But they also have an obligation to work together to keep the oceans clean instead of allowing them to be "littered by endless fields of floating plastic". cathnews 3 Sept

Thursday 13th September 7.00am to 9.00am **Archbishop's Catholic Man Breakfast Series**, featuring our new Archbishop, Peter Comensoli. The title of his address is "Being a man; a man of God!" CQ Club 113 - 123 Queen St Melbourne. Cost \$45. Enquiries Michael Bohan 0439 172 465.

Fri 12th Oct 7pm **St Mary's Parish Pantry Fundraiser** St Mary's Football Club, Kardinia Park West Oval. Dancing, Door Prize, Table Lotto, Raffles ... \$50pp from : St Mary's Parish Office - 5222 1977; Gary McIlvena - 0447 599 059; Catherine - 0409 007 913 or [cmoon2@bigpond.com](mailto:cmoon2@bigpond.com)

Monday 24th September 1.30pm **The Belmont Rhythmic Singers** at Belmont Seniors Hall, 52 Thomson St Belmont. Cost \$5.00 Tea and coffee provided

**Home-share accommodation** available in Newtown. Contact Maureen 0438 297 165 or 5229 7165

**Flooding in Kerala India.** Anyone wishing to assist in Caritas's response is encouraged to **donate to our Asia Emergency Appeal.** [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**Asylum Seeker Food Bank @ The Welcome Place**



(Wesley Centre Geelong)

Please see the noticeboard, or **take a flyer from the window ledge**, for details of how you can help :

- vouchers
- *culturally appropriate* non-perishable food
- toiletries and cleaning items
- Financial donations are also welcome.

**There will be a box under the green noticeboard for donated goods.**

**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 15/16 Sept**

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 Bogaki K Taylor L McKay M Purcell
	9.00 am	Joanna P Tobias J Corless A Bates
	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	
	9.00 am	O'Byrne Family
	10.30am	L Brennan
Musicians	6.00pm	
	9.00am	John and Greg
	10.30am	
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop		Felicity Maree Margaret W
Cleaners : 8		A & K Bainbridge B Morris P & G Heenan T Lunny
Flowers		Janine
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*

**Wednesday cards**

*Join us for a friendly game of 500*  
 1-15 - 4pm in the  
 Church café.

**Christian Meditation**

Wed 7.30pm  
 in the Church

**Tai Chi : Fridays**

9.30-10.30  
 in the Church.

**This week:**

Isa 35:4-7 Ps 145:7-10  
 James 2:1-5 Mk 7:31-37

**Next Week:**

Isa 50:5-9 Ps 114:1-6, 8-9  
 James 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35