

St Bernard's Parish Belmont



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Geelong Catholic Deanery

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23rd September 2018

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Serving the vulnerable

The picture we get of the disciples in today's gospel is not pretty. But then again how pretty are we? True enough we see the disciples bickering and wrangling over who has power and status. Amazingly, Jesus has just told them that the only messiah he will be is a suffering servant messiah. But they do not get it. This should not surprise us too much. Especially when we humans create hierarchies and systems of patrimony emphasizing authoritarian top down dynamics. In culture after culture and in so many different times in history, we witness rampant power games or 'games of thrones' all about 'who is the greatest'?



The fact that Jesus so comprehensively rejects such ambitious agendas has not stopped us playing them. Much of the crisis facing our church at present is one of authority. The clericalism underpinning many kinds of abuse in church history has its genesis in a very consistent inflating of the messenger over the message. We very happily cohabitated with dominance power games resembling a pyramid, with a few on top and many underneath. Strangely, the model Jesus was teaching could be described as an inverse pyramid. In no way does the gospel justify seeking power and celebrity for its own sake.

We are in need of a good deal of the gospel spirit of serving the common good for the good of all, both in our church and wider society. Once more we are witnessing how much federal politics has become a blood sport. This does justify the old adage that politics is 'show business for ugly people' and gives credence to another adage 'power corrupts'. But surely it also calls out for some real leadership, in what appear to be very 'interesting times'. We are in need of leadership that protects the vulnerable and powerless and to champion common interest over vested interest. Witness this week how fresh evidence has emerged of how dire and mean our national aged care has become. This is directly a matter of individual and collective responsibility.

Letting go of the machinations of power and ambition feels profoundly counter intuitive, in a culture that demands addiction to consumerism and haunts us with insecurity, in a blizzard of marketing. We need to acknowledge we are as much confused about what gospel servant authority might look like, as were the first apostles. We see this in the prophetic act of Jesus, of setting a child in front of them. This would have shocked them very much, as children effectively were non entities across the cultures of the Greco/Roman/Jewish world. Effectively children were deemed as chattels without any personal rights. A very different picture to our own present social understanding of the rights and distinctive dignity of children.

Such an act challenges us in our times, to actively care for the defenceless and the vulnerable. It is an invitation to welcome Christ, in our care for one another.

Fr Vincent Jewell PP

We remember those who have died :
Joan Edmonstone

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 :

Frankie Downey
Sylvia Ranieri
Emily & Sam Flynn



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.

Meetings :

St Vincent de Paul

Monday 24th September at 7.30pm.

NB : **No Tai Chi** over the school holidays.



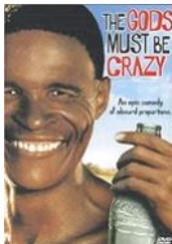
Thank you to all who contributed \$2,497.85 to the **Priest's Retirement Fund.**

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



Wednesday 3rd October 12noon

Sisters of the Holy Angels Luncheon

Holy Spirit Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights.

Thursday 11th October 7.00pm—10.pm

Geelong Inter-church Social Justice Network
Climate Change and Sustainability—

In the face of climate change, what can an individual like me do?

Geelong West Town Hall. 158 Pakington St.
Enquiries Ian Yule 0439 140 013 or
www.socialjusticegeelong.org.au
or email : info@socialjusticegeelong.org.au

Friday 12th October 11am

St Joseph's College Boarders' Reunion

Tour of college and then lunch. \$25.00.
Partners welcome.
To book : www.trybooking.com/WNGX.
Enquiries: 5226 8149 or
julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au

The Coffee Machine has arrived!



The coffee processing machine has arrived in Manny on two trucks.

The equipment is in the new building ready for assembly.



Electricity has arrived, soon to be extended (cost \$tba) and connected to the coffee machine building, so installation and

training of operators can commence.

Thank you to all who have helped so generously.

Only the final stages still need funding & Fr Nestus' latest project to assist future self-sufficiency will be up & running!

Direct bank transfer :

BSB : 063 504

Acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : Coffee & surname

Cheques :

'St Bernard's Church Manny acc' or leave **money at the Office.** Thank you

With spring come the weeds!
Special thanks to our faithful gardeners who work through the year to keep things tidy.

At this time of year, extra helpers are most welcome to spend half an hour weeding in the spring sunshine.



St Vincent de Paul now have a larger storage area for **household furniture.** *Mattresses, kitchen tables/chairs or lounge suites* in good condition are needed.



To arrange pick-up, ph 1800 621 349

We now have a good supply of **wool for knitting squares.** Please 'help yourself' from the plastic tub in the children's liturgy cupboard. **Donations of 8ply** wool can be left in the tub.

Pope Francis September prayer intention :

Season of Creation.

Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality
www.campion.asn.au/nature-2018/

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. A Plenary Council is the highest form of gathering of local church and has legislative and governance authority.



The **decisions that are made at the Council become binding for the Catholic Church in Australia.**

It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future. To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question

"What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

Thursday 18th Oct

'Listening and Dialogue encounter' at St Bernard's, for YOUR contributions to this important question. More details to follow.

You Don't Compare?

Competition and comparison – our culture thrives on them. Competition can spur us on, but it also can tear us up inside. Why can't I be like her? Why can't I achieve like him? I know many people who tear themselves down because they constantly focus on how they don't measure up to others? *We need to stop comparing ourselves with others and start loving ourselves for who we are* – as God loves us.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are competing to be the best. Stop comparing yourself

to others, Jesus tells them. *Look inside yourself, get to know your special talents and use them for the least in our society.* Jesus pulled a child aside, because children were valued least in that society.

According to Jesus, your value doesn't come from appearance, popularity, or how well you compete. It comes from God. And if you really want to feel great, go out into the world and show the people who are not valued just how valuable they are. Is your talent making kids laugh? Develop it. Are you good at listening and offering comfort? Do that more often.

So relax. You've got nothing to prove. Turn off the reality shows and turn on the Gospel. You'll feel a lot prouder when you look in the mirror.

GPBSeNews

Sunday – a holy day

The Pope recently continued his series of audience talks about the Ten Commandments, focusing on keeping the Lord's day **holy**.



Sunday is a day of *'contemplation, blessing and giving praise'*. The Eucharist, which lies at the heart of Sunday, means *'thanksgiving.'* It is a day to thank the Lord for his mercy, his gifts and for the gift of life.

Sunday is a day to come to terms with one's life, to find peace -- realizing life is not easy, 'but it is precious.'

Finding peace is a choice.

It is not changing one's past, but is becoming reconciled with what has happened, 'to accept and give value' to one's life.

Excerpt Pope Francis CathNews 6.9.18

Thank you from Caritas

Dear people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne,



I wish to thank you very sincerely for the wonderful and generous response you gave to the Caritas Australia Project Compassion 2018 appeal *'For a Just Future'*.

The Catholic community of Melbourne donated **\$1,514,019** to the appeal – a major contribution to supporting the poorest of the poor, in the **over 25 countries** where Caritas Australia supports programs. Across Australia the appeal raised around \$10.8 million, money that will make a real difference in *lifting people out of poverty and giving many the opportunity to build secure lives, free from poverty and hunger.*

Since the end of the 2018 campaign Caritas Australia has continued, with your generous help, to provide assistance to those areas hit by disasters like the flooding in *Kerala, India and Typhoon Mangkut in the Philippines*, as well as ongoing development work.

Again, thanks for your help in enabling Caritas Australia to be the gospel in action.

(Deacon) Jim Curtain, Caritas Australia
Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Melbourne

Important safety notice :

The **coffee machines** are on and **hot** during 9.00am mass. Parents, please carefully supervise any children in the café area during mass, to ensure that they do not go anywhere near the servery.

Monday 24th September 1.30pm

The Belmont Rhythmic Singers at Belmont Seniors Hall, 52 Thomson St Belmont. Cost \$5.00
Tea and coffee provided .

Fri 12 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

Volunteer Overseas - *The Cagliero Project*,
(Salesians of Don Bosco) January 2019 departure,
*working with disadvantaged young people in Salesian
communities throughout Cambodia, Samoa, Zambia &
Solomon Island.*

Applications close October 15th.
Enquiries : www.cagliero.org.au

Tuesday 16 Oct, 5:30 pm **Palms Information Night**
Ross House, Jenny Florence Room 247 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne. Visit www.palms.org.au/events
or 02 9560 5333

**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 is 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

Please Note: Church
car park gates are locked
at 1.00pm each Sunday

Week : 5 29/30 Sept

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.

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 : Not
running over the
school holidays**

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	H Brislane
	9.00am	M & B O'Brien
	10.30am	
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	H Brislane M Dias 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
PowerPointers	6.00pm	H Brislane
	9.00 am	D Turnbull B Arnup
	10.30am	G Caruana C Caruana
Musicians	6.00pm	Men's Choir
	9.00am	John and Greg
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Doris I Leonie R Edna B	
Cleaners : 10	D Fraser A de Bekker M Powell D Canny B Hollander F McFarlane	
Flowers	Denise & Rosemary	
Communion at home	D Turnbull—co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	

This week:

Wis 2:12, 17-20 Ps 53:3-6, 8
James 3:16-4:3 Mk 9:30-37

Next Week:

Num 11:25-29 Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14
James 5:1-6 Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48