



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

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Geelong Catholic Deanery

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7th October 2018

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Marriage

There are two separate themes in today's gospel, one dealing with the vexed question of marriage and divorce, the other about the need to welcome God's kingdom with child like innocence. Given that the standing of unmarried catholic clerics is at rock bottom, courtesy of the 'collateral shame' of the scandal of endemic sexual abuse, I really should leave the first theme alone. Too often celibate clerics have presumed to hector and lecture people about living a principled and good marriage. They have thundered from pulpits with scant regard for the complex demands and trials of marriage. Too many made a hobby horse of moralising and placing heavy moral burdens on others, without an iota of empathy or understanding of particular circumstances.

There are many particular issues and problems that can arise when dreams fail and human weakness creates havoc. It's not that we latin rite priests have nothing to say about marriage, only that there is surely wisdom in the protestant, orthodox and Jewish traditions, whereby most of their ministers or pastors are married. Thus they can speak directly, to the joys and sorrows, the tensions and struggles of married life. Living inside the mystery and sacrament of marriage, rather than just speaking about it, they would be less likely to reduce marriage down to legalities and proscriptions.

It is precisely the heartless and manipulative legalism of the Pharisees that causes Jesus to state the high ideal of marriage as an inseparable union, based on God's faithful and unbreakable covenant. Jesus speaks directly about what 'God has put together' to Pharisees intent on traducing and abusing women in particular. Under their legal interpretations, divorce was frequently contrived in order to arbitrarily abandon women. Thus many women were repudiated on the flimsiest of pretexts. For Jesus such hardhearted legalism is unacceptable. He defends marriage as a vital and indissoluble union because God's love is permanent and faithful.

Undoubtedly then it is a high ideal Jesus sets before us. But as we can all attest, this high ideal is so often tragically unrealised. High principles will not resolve all situations. Dreams do fail and so do marriages. There is darkness and light in the journey of marriage. But these difficulties are no reason to reject the vocation of marriage.

Jesus calls married men and women to true equality and a rich life of intimacy, friendship and belonging to each other, not a meagre one. It is a life without commitment that is the most meagre of all.

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 :

Maggie O'Donohue
Marigold Scholtes



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.

Sunday 7th October **WORLD ROSARY DAY**

Countries around the world are joining to hold Rosary Rallies to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.



Meetings this week :

Monday 8th Oct 7.30pm

St Vincent de Paul

Tues 9th Oct 10am

Men's Group. Church cafe



Wed 10th Oct 7.30pm

Knights of the Southern Cross.

Clairvaux meeting room.

Members please attend & bring a plate.

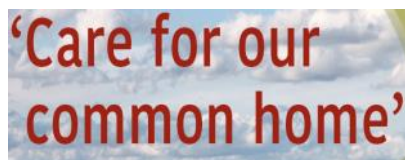
Sat 1st Dec **St Margaret's** Primary School, East Geelong, **Class of 1968** 50 Year Reunion

For information – www.stmargarets1968.org
OR call Frank 0414 949570.

Please share this notice with any family or friends who might have an interest.

Thurs 11th Oct 7 - 10pm

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 Oct 11am

St Joseph's College
Boarders' Reunion

To book :

www.trybooking.com/WNGX.

Enquiries: 5226 8149 or

julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au



Fr Vincent is taking his annual break for the next 3 weeks.

We welcome back **Fr Bob Wood** for weekend masses.

There will be **NO week day mass** until Fr Vince returns on Friday 26th October.

Singers & musicians—an invitation :

Sunday 25th Nov 2pm

Vox Box Community Choir is performing

'The Holy Boy', a beautiful, contemporary musical setting of the Old Testament readings, the birth of Christ and nativity story at *St Bernard's*.



Music by David Palmer. Tickets \$20 (\$5 to be donated back to St Bernard's).

Interested musicians, are warmly invited to come along to the **Monday rehearsals**

7.30-9pm South Barwon Community Centre, Mt Pleasant Rd, Belmont.

Further information : Lisa 0413 480 182.

The Coffee Machine has arrived!

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 *Mannya* acc' or leave **money at the Office.** Thank you

Thursday 18th Oct

Circle of Mercy Expressions of Faith

Naomi Wolfe Indigenous Spirituality

7.00pm Celies Dining Room

Sacred Heart College

rsvp@shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au

or phone 5222 0467



Mon 29th Oct 1.30pm

All of a sudden "It's Ron".

Belmont Seniors Concert Hall. \$5

The Good Oil, monthly e-magazine of the Good Samaritan Sisters.

Stimulate your thinking and nourish your spirit.

<http://www.goodsams.org.au/good-oil/>



Plenary Council 2020

– Listen to what the Spirit is Saying.

With the encouragement of Pope Francis, the Australian Bishops have set up a Plenary Council, which is a gathering of both hierarchy and people with authority, to make decisions on various aspects of the Australian Church. It has been constituted to listen to the peoples' views about the Catholic Church and then to discern how to respond to these views.



All parishioners are invited to attend a meeting and tackle two questions :

1. What is your experience of being a Catholic?
2. How can we involve as many people as possible in answering this question?

For a start we will hold two meetings:

Thursday evening 18th October at 7.30pm
in the Fitzpatrick Meeting Room

Saturday afternoon 20th October at 2pm
in the Church Foyer

to give all parishioners the opportunity to attend. Please mark these dates on your calendar & plan to attend one session.

Synod of Bishops : happening right now in Rome (a general assembly of Bishops). This synod is focusing on "**Young people, faith and vocational discernment**".

Pope Francis opened the Youth Synod, by urging participants to take their lead from younger generations and to avoid "falling into moralistic or elitist postures".



Australian representatives :

Bishop Mark Edwards, Archbishops Anthony Fisher & Peter Comensoli.

Australian Catholic social services, individual parishes and dioceses have swung into action to **assist regional and rural communities suffering hardship due to prolonged drought.**

In light of the current crippling eastern seaboard drought affecting rural and regional communities from northern Victoria to Queensland, the Catholic Social Services Australia network has again called for a **reinstatement of federal Government support for its rural assistance and counselling programs.**



Life, Marriage & Family Sunday

Living icons ; mothers, fathers and the gospel of the family.

New resources highlight the role of mothers & fathers in family life. God chooses ordinary and imperfect people – mums and dads – to reveal his extraordinary love.

For this reason, Pope Francis describes married couples as "living icons" of God's creative love.

Pick up a booklet from the Life Marriage & Family Office - in the foyer today.



Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement
A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land.

The statement confronts the growing challenge of homelessness and housing insecurity in Australia.

They call us, government, society and individuals to action.



If you picked up a copy from the Church last week, please return for others to read.

Thank you

or **Read the statement** at :

www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

In the foyer : copies of the **10 steps leaflet** (practical things we can do today)

'Drive-In, Sleep-In' is a community event that focuses on those whose only option is to **sleep in their car.**

The St Vincent De Paul Society in Western Australia is encouraging families, friends, community, and business organisations to **camp in their cars on the night of Friday, October 12**, so they can *experience what it is like to sleep in unideal conditions.*

Funds raised will help Vinnies provide *immediate relief* to vulnerable people, as well as *raise awareness* about the challenges people experiencing poverty and homelessness face - loneliness, fear and hunger, as well as barriers to medical care, employment and education.

The eRecord



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 ... Tickets \$50pp from :
St Mary's Parish Office – 5222 1977; Gary McIlvena - 0447 599 059;
Catherine – 0409 007 913 or cmoon2@bigpond.com

Saturday 13th Oct Annual March for the Babies.
1pm - Assemble in Treasury Gardens, crn Spring St & Wellington Pde, moving on to Parliament House.

Sat 10th Nov 10am St Joseph's Old Collegian's Association Remembrance Mass, paying tribute to past students, staff and benefactors of the College. College Chapel, followed by light refreshments.
Enquires: Julie 5226 8149 or julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au

'The Journey'. Australian *Catholic Radio* freely available: Subscribe or listen www.jcr.org.au
OR download the App : www.itunes.jcr.org.au
P by 23.10.18. trybooking.com/XBUJ

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 : 2 13/14 Oct

St Bernard's Mass Times

Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 9.00 am and 10.30 am
(5.30pm at St Mary's)
Wednesday : next mass will be 31st Oct
Friday : next mass will be 26th Oct
Mass on the radio: 7.00am Light FM 89.9;
10.00am Pulse FM 94.7

Fr Vincent is on leave

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 : new 10 week programme starts **12th Oct** in the Big Space

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	R & B Campbell
	9.00am	L Madden
	10.30am	J Ross M Charman
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	B Campbell U Emanuel J Spiteri
	9.00 am	M O'Brien M Walker P Lewis C Doyle B Poel
	10.30am	J Brdar M Gill A Buttigieg A Chirawu
Readers	6.00pm	S Kenworthy D Turnbull
	9.00 am	M Walker
	10.30am	T Gulli
PowerPointers	6.00pm	O'Neill family
	9.00 am	K Marshall
	10.30am	Brdar family
Musicians	6.00pm	Marg, Tess L Eleanor Anna
	9.00am	Kevin & group
	10.30am	Kevin & group
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Doris Deirdre Mary M	
Cleaners :	Karen	
Flowers	Shirley Eileen Mary	
Communion at home	D Turnbull—co-ord. Contact Office to arrange.	

This week:

Gen 2 :18-24 Ps 127
Heb 2 : 9-11 Mk 10 : 2-16

Next Week:

Wis 7 : 7-11 Ps 89:12-17
Heb 4 : 12-13 Mk 10 : 17-30