



St Bernard's Parish Belmont

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Clairvaux Catholic School
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28th October 2018

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

MINISTERIAL LEAVE

Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to take this opportunity to inform the parishioners of St Bernard's Parish Belmont, that I have sought and been granted a period of ministerial leave by Archbishop Peter Comensoli. The purpose of this leave is take an extended break, to discern and explore future vocational directions.

As a consequence, I have offered my resignation as Parish Priest and will finish up at St Bernard's on 14th November.

This news may come as a shock to some, but to be honest a change such as this has been a long time coming. It has been a privilege and honour to serve at St Bernard's and be blest by the pastoral heritage built up by many people of faith in this community and by its priests. However, for some time I have been facing major questions over my pastoral effectiveness and what I may be called to do in whatever time is still left to me. To be fair, my use by date as either an assistant or parish priest has arrived. There are many areas that need fresh vision and fresh energy. The school / parish connection comes to mind. The need perhaps to offer a different and more engaging sense of faith, that translates into a more vibrant parish. Other areas of neglect could touch on adult education, social justice, robust administration, liturgical formation and opportunities for prayer and worship. Also the fact that church attendances have so dramatically collapsed on my watch cannot be dismissed as only due to outside macro factors.

Also, my own experience of priesthood has not been that life giving in many ways. Unlike some of my other brothers, I have felt no need to celebrate or laud my time in priesthood, or the signature anniversaries. It is a hard and lonely life and the scandals besetting the church have made priests figures of deep scorn and contempt in many quarters.

I also have profound issues with my church in many areas touching on authority, sexuality, the place of women, dogma and liturgical expression. Our time is one of unparalleled crisis in faith. Our affluence has made us hard and frequently heartless. Much of what we church men offer as spirituality, is devoid of real potency and profound sense of mystery. Our great religious tradition has frequently been reduced to boring imposition of second hand nostrums. We have lost our capacity to induce awe, wonder, dread, mystery and frequently privilege formal functionality, over direct participation in the divine mystery. Too often, the very liturgy we celebrate to express our core faith is itself reduced to a tedious, pompous, boring ordeal. I have no idea what we need to do to fix it, but I can no longer pretend I am not myself an architect and facilitator of such boring tedium.

So my vocation such as it is, is at cross roads and I am in urgent need of a time of leave, to assess and search out what my God is calling me to. I am very grateful for all the wonderful support given at St Bernard's. We have wonderful pastoral staff and there is still, even in these trying times, a very lively sense of community and service in Belmont parish.

I know this is short notice. I have given over seven years to this community and might not have given more than a few days, since my mother had her major stroke the very day my appointment here began. I do not wish for any formal farewell or fanfare. The time ahead is to simplify and clarify in my sense of vocation. I have talked a lot, indeed way too much as a 'God botherer'.

A little bit of extra walking will not go astray.

As one of my great inspirers and teachers Thomas Merton once said :
"I pray to you better by walking than talking"

With love and appreciation to all, Shalom Vincent.



We remember those who have died :

Margaret Tizard

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 :

Matilda Mathews
Philippa Edwards
George Henderson
Molly, Poppy & Chloe O'Brien



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.

Thurs 1st Nov **All Saints** mass **12 noon**

Fri 2nd Nov **All Souls** mass **12 noon**



We need someone to run the **power point at 6.00pm mass, week 3.** Training provided. Please call the Office 5243 2739

Volunteers needed for Vinnies South Geelong store especially on

Fridays, but help any day, including *week-ends* is much appreciated.

You will make new friends and help to support those less fortunate in our community Enquiries 52 290 911



Tues 20th Nov :

Widowed & Social Group Christmas Dinner

Rice Village. 5.30- 6.00pm.
Cost \$30.00.

Names and cash to Mary 5243 2673
by Friday 9th Nov. All welcome.



Tues 20th Nov 7.00 for 7.30pm

Widening the Door of Hope : A Response to the Victorian Assisted Dying Legislation at Mercy Theatre, ACU, 115 Victoria Pde Fitzroy.

RSVP / enquiries: by Monday 12th Nov
justice@cam.org.au or (03) 9926 5727

Sat 1st Dec 10.30am

Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

Book Nook News 2019 Columban Calendars are in stock NOW. \$10.00

Prayer Shawls & Pocket Hearts from the Pastoral Healthcare Network. Ideal comfort for the sick, bereaved, or those needing hope. PHNA Office, 100 Yarra St Geelong (Thurs) or ph 5249 5799 for delivery.

Yellow lines & bollard.

In an effort to prevent further accidents (commercial vehicles have twice crashed into the porch), the area directly in front of the church has been marked with **yellow** lines & a **bollard** will be installed.



Please note : **this area may still be used for mass drop off & pick ups.**

Mannya Coffee Machine Update

Fr Emma has asked for **prayers for more rain.** They have had some rain, but not nearly enough. The season is not predictable.



This week the Mannya community will be planting a traditional fence around the site of the coffee processing factory – trees are planted very close together to form a fence.

This week installation of the coffee processing machine will commence.

At this point in time we are waiting for electricity to be extended to the site.

"Thanks for all your support and we can now see that the project is coming to completion".
Fr Nestus

Thank you to all who contributed to last week's collection. \$3,439.70 will be used towards final coffee expenses & for our on-going support of the community in many other ways.

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.

From the Clairvaux newsletter :

I received an email this week from Fr Emma in Uganda, thanking us for the amazing contribution we have made to our sister school, St Aloysius in Mannya.

From the Clairvaux Classic and the recent Lap-a-thon we have been able to send \$10,000 across to them, an amount that Fr Emma described as a miracle.



Thank you for supporting Mannya, because having been there, I know what a difference your efforts are making to so many people. (Basil Flynn)

Plenary Council Listening & Dialogue sessions



The two Plenary sessions held at St Bernard's last week were well attended and around 60 issues were listed. These will be in the bulletin for comment & reflection over the next few weeks, then forwarded to the Council, as they prepare the agenda.

There is still an opportunity to express **your views** on *what issues the Church is facing today*.

Put another way - **'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?'**

email your thoughts to the website :

plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/pages/contact-us/
or post to : PO Box 747 North Sydney 2059,
or leave at the Parish Office.

This first stage of 'dialogue & listening' will continue until April 2019.

Synod of Bishops: 'Shake up the Church'

At a recent daily press briefing, many issues that the Synod assembly addressed were



mentioned - *migration, freedom, sexual morality, the mystery of evil in the world, justice and the fight for human dignity.*

The fact that young people do not like

hypocrisy was also highlighted.

Ms Corina Fiore Mortola Rodríguez from Mexico, said young people at the Synod are very grateful to Pope Francis, for giving them this opportunity to be at the Synod and for the chance to speak.

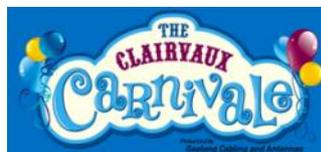
She said that the presence of young people has been fruitful and everyone is working together. She explained how, in a coffee break, she had a conversation with Pope Francis who told her that *young people must 'shake up the Church'*. She said that the Holy Father told young delegates to *speak their minds*.
15.10.18. Vatican News

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.

**Please leave items in the box
under the green noticeboard.**



You are invited!
Clairvaux Carnivale
is fast approaching -
Sat 17th November
from 10am - 3pm.

The Carnivale High Tea team are looking for *donations* of :

cup and saucers sets
OR **fine porcelain mugs**
(no mugs with logos / writing)

Please leave at the school or parish offices.

Thank you!



Compassion and justice after abuse apology

'The church cannot undo all of the harm done in the past, but it has the responsibility to do all that is within its power to create an environment in which people will treat other people with respect, dignity and justice.'

The healing that is necessary involves a long process and will take courage, compassion, openness and patience. Above all it will take faith — faith in one another and faith that God is with us in this journey.'

Maree Marsh, Brigidine sister & psychologist



Do You Want to See?

Bartimaeus called out to see Jesus, asking for sight. Jesus granted his request and when Bartimaeus could see, he stood up and followed Jesus.

Bartimaeus reminds us that we have a choice. We can be blind. We can turn away from people and problems that call us to show compassion and sacrifice, or we can ask Jesus to help us see.

Christians sometimes focus their vision just on helping others. The good thing is that Jesus helps us see more than that – a lot more. He helps us see how valuable we are to God and how much God loves us, regardless of our strengths or weaknesses. God helps us to *see the good friends* coming into our lives through our *service and discipleship*. He helps us see that we can't help everyone – that it's critical to *say 'no'* at times, in order to rest, relax, and avoid burning out from helping others.

So don't feel down when you want to just turn away. Ask Jesus to help you, to see why you should turn back to him and where you can find the support you need to keep going. He'll show you. Like Bartimaeus, you'll 'see' that the best choice in life is to get up and start following Jesus again.
GPBS eNews

Mon 29th Oct 1.30pm **All of a sudden "It's Ron"**. Ron Sudden at Belmont Seniors Concert Hall. \$5

Sat 10th Nov 10am **St Joseph's Old Collegian's Association Remembrance Mass**. College Chapel, followed by light refreshments. Enquires: Julie 5226 8149 or julie.cole@sjc.vic.edu.au

Friday 9th Nov 8pm Music at the Basilica presents **In Flanders Field** a concert of beautiful and moving music and poetry, with works by poets and composers who served during the war. Tickets at the door or www.trybooking.com/TNVB \$40 adult & senior, \$30 concession, students free.

Sun 11th Nov at 11.00am **KSC Annual Deceased Members Mass** at Holy Spirit, followed by Awards Luncheon in the hall. \$25.00. Open invitation to members, ladies and family. RSVP Denis 5242 8663

Sat 1st Dec **St Margaret's PS, East Geelong, Class of 1968 reunion**. Enquiries Frank 0414 949570.

Villa Maria Catholic Homes A Catholic, not-for-profit organization, providing services to more than 7000 people across Victoria. For more information please phone 1800 036 377 or visit www.vmch.com.au

Senior Administration Officer St Mary's Parish to commence duties early December 2018. Pre-requisites include experience in Microsoft products inc Excel, Outlook, Power Point and Word. Practical use of Accounting programs with an understanding of General Ledger postings, Bank Reconciliations, Accounts Payable. Enquiries Terry Philp, Business Manager 5222 1977. Working hours 5 days 9am to 5pm.

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 : 1 3/4 Nov

Setting up for Mass	6.00pm	B & C Bogacki
	9.00am	B & AM Sherwell
	10.30am	M Powell M Inei
Eucharist Ministers	6.00pm	B Shannon V Bogacki D Turnbull A Parnell L Russell
	9.00 am	G Mugavin B & AM Sherwell J & R Gollan
	10.30am	L Dowling S Dowling L Rastas T Watts
Readers	6.00pm	J Loveday J Parry
	9.00 am	G Mugavin M Calderwood
	10.30am	M Inei M Powell
PowerPointers	6.00pm	K Bogacki
	9.00 am	B Arnup
	10.30am	De Grandi Family
Musicians	6.00pm	Sally
	9.00am	Men's Choir
	10.30am	Instrumental music
Book Nook	9.45am	Joanna
Coffee Shop	Mary S Margaret S Jill G	
Cleaners : 14	J Earle J Honner C Raj J van Rossum E Rayson	
Flowers	Ann	
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 : Friday

9.30- 10.30
 in the Big Space.

This week:

Jer 31:7-9
 Heb 5:1-6

Ps 125
 Mk 10:46-52

Next Week:

Deut 6: 2-6
 Heb 7:23-28

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51
 Mk 12:28-34