



St Bernard's Parish

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9th December 2018

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

We are not walking alone

At this stage of Advent we should be like John's disciples, filled with a spirit of anticipation. Like them also, we need to admit that we are part of the human species, which has got the world out of kilter.

Like them, we should repent for our part in all that and ask for God's mercy.

Then let us look forward to the coming, the advent of 'the One' who is imminent, 'the One' who is at hand.

- 'the One' who can *flood* our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit
- 'the One' who can *immerse* us in the new consciousness, which can transform the human race
- 'the One' who can *kindle* and enflame our hearts with Divine fire
- 'the One' of whom John said:
- '... the One who follows me is more powerful than I am ... he will *baptise* you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Fr Michael Tate



John the Baptist was the first to see Jesus for who he really is for the world.
He recognised that Jesus' sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low,
make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth.

As Christians, we are asked to cultivate patience for life's valleys, mountains and crooked paths,
where sometimes we can feel Jesus' absence more than his presence.

Only when we look back, can we see he was with us all the way. Liturgy Help



New directions for St Bernard's :

The Vicar-General, Mgr Greg Bennet has notified us that

Fr Sang Ho has been appointed as Administrator to St Bernard's.

The appointment begins on *Wednesday 9th January 2019*.

We welcome Fr Sang Ho and look forward to his arrival.

We remember those who have died :

John Turner **Henk van Gestel**

We pray for those who are unwell :

Joan Moro **Stephen Harbison**
Pat Alldis **Brittany Schultz**
Noelene Goonan **Alan Ansell**
Vincent Daniels **John Orders**
Tim Coakley **Tulli Seabert**



Special prayers for :

Mohammad Rahmani. Pray for Mohammad, who is still waiting for a Border Force decision, on his submission for Refugee status.

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

Next weekend :

St Vincent de Paul Christmas collection, will help make up hampers for those needing an extra hand at Christmas.



Christmas Cards are now available at the Book Nook \$8 pkt of 10 cards.

Meetings

Tues 11th Dec 10am

Men's group in the Church café. Join us for a chat & morning tea.



Sun 16th Dec 7pm : **Carols in the Park** at Highton Reserve.

Join us for our 10th year of Carols. (Bad weather : St John's church cnr Roslyn & South Valley Rd)



16-24 Dec ADVENT DAWN MASS 5.30am

A devotional nine-day series of Masses, in anticipation of Christmas and to **honour the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

St Francis Xavier 143 Bacchus Marsh Rd Corio. *Bishop Mark Edwards* will celebrate the 9th Day Novena

Information : Arlean 52 754 120

Mon 17th Dec 1.30pm

Belmont Rhythmic Singers

Belmont Seniors Hall, 52 Thomson St Belmont. \$5 with tea & coffee.

The **Gloria** is omitted during Advent, not because it is a season of penance and abstinence, but so we can sing this hymn, which echoes the song of the angels heralding the birth of Christ, with renewed *joy and vigour* on Christmas night.

www.cathnews.com.au A free website, keeping you in touch with catholic news around the world.

Christmas gifts from Caritas :

As we welcome the season of *Advent*, the season of *waiting and preparing* our hearts for the birth of Child Jesus, may we act and pray for a more just and fair world, a world where every women can give birth safely and cherish the *miracle of motherhood.*



Ranging in price from **\$10 to \$150**, each Global Gift comes with a card which can be given to a friend or a loved one.

To purchase a global gift, or to make a donation, call

Caritas Australia 1800 024 413

or : <https://globalgifts.raisely.com/>

More information in the foyer.

Thank you to the ladies who knit or provide wool.

So far this year **51 knee rugs/cot blankets** have been distributed.



These have gone to Geelong Mums, St Mary's Pantry, Salvation Army, Balmoral Grove and Rice Village.

We may think that **Baptism** is an invention of the christian community, but baptism was previously used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist.

It was part of the Jewish ritual long before the time of Jesus.

Ritual cleansing, by full immersion, was an important element of worship & converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath, known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin, was a different interpretation of the well-established practice.



Liturgy Help

As world leaders gathered in Poland for the United Nations' annual climate conference, *Caritas Australia* has urged politicians here to **make climate change a priority**, through domestic emissions policies and international leadership.

God of this Advent time,
as we watch, wait, long and hope,
awaken our hearts to your presence.

Encourage us in our efforts
to listen humbly to each other.

Inspire in us the words to speak boldly with each
other.

Create within us a spirit of discernment.

Give us hopeful hearts as we continue our journey
to the Plenary Council.

We ask this in the name of Emmanuel— God-with-us.
Amen.



During the Christmas period, it is common for

Norwegians to eat risengrynsgrøt, a traditional porridge made of rice. Sometimes they also hide an almond in the middle, as it was said that whoever got the almond would be the first to get married.



Use the prayerful affirmation "*I have enough*" for reflection throughout the day.

Make one resolution to help you (and your family) have an "*Enough Christmas*".
Prepare the Way of the Lord.

Garratt Advent calendar

Mannya news :



David has returned safely & the community are working hard to care for one another, in the aftermath of the fire.
Thank you for your prayers & support.

Christmas Timetable at St Bernard's

Service of Penance

** **THIS THURSDAY** 13th Dec at 7.30pm
(Same format as previous years)

Christmas Eve

- 6pm family mass
(outside, weather permitting)
- 9pm



NOTE : no 11pm mass Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

- 9am (one mass only)

Get Out of That Mainstream!

John the Baptist was "*a voice ... crying out in the desert*". John, like many religious leaders through history, removed himself from society's mainstream to promote a different message – a message that wasn't popular but was good for the people. "*Change your lives,*" he was calling out, "*You're on the wrong paths, even though it doesn't seem like it and even though those paths are leading you away from God.*"

Today, just as in John's time, there are a lot of paths out there. And many paths are promoted that lead people away from God. Each one can lead to what seems like good things at first. But eventually, statistics show, these paths lead to dead ends like broken relationships, addiction, violence, or jail.

God wants much more for you. So God has sent people like John the Baptist. People who can live happy and healthy lives, while changing the world. *People who point to paths* that will lead you to be all God knows you can be, if you take the time to *watch and listen* to them.

Can you be a voice in the wilderness this Advent? Or, can you listen closely for the voices pointing out new paths for you?

GPBSeNews

Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that **Advent is a season of preparation**. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us.

The call to make a way for the Lord, is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and *allow it instead to flow directly through us*.

Sun 2nd Dec 3pm **A baroque Christmas** Australian Chamber Choir at St Mary's Basilica

Mon 10th Dec 12.30-1.15 **Music at the Basilica free lunchtime concert** Beverley Phillips

Fri 14th Dec 8pm **Cheryl & Peter in concert** St Mary's Basilica



Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place Food Bank.

Pick up a list of foods from the window ledge of the notice board.

Supermarket vouchers are also greatly appreciated. *Thank you*

Heart of Life : Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral formation. 2019 programs in the foyer.

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 872

Australia's Church leaders have praised federal Parliament, for its commitment to tackling the scourge of slavery with the passage of the **Modern Slavery Bill** last week.
CathNews

Support for Manny

Direct bank transfer :

BSB : 063 504

Acc number : 008 005 74.

Bank reference : initial & surname eg T Smith

Cheques :

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



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 Mass or Lay led liturgy
Friday : 12 noon Mass or Lay led liturgy
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

The root of peace
lies in the capacity to listen.
Pope Francis

Charismatic Prayer

1st & 3rd Tuesday
10.00am
in the Church.

Week : 3 15/16 Dec

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|---------------------|---|---|
| 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 Bogacki K Taylor L McKay M Purcell |
| | 9.00 am | Joanna P Tobias J Corless A Bates M Lee |
| | 10.30am | 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/G Caruana |
| PowerPointers | 6.00pm | |
| | 9.00 am | O'Byrne family |
| | 10.30am | L Brennan |
| Musicians | 6.00pm | |
| | 9.00am | |
| | 10.30am | |
| Book Nook | 9.45am | Joanna |
| Coffee Shop | Felicity Maree O'B Margaret W | |
| Cleaners : 6 | B Shannon A Nguyen A Parnell B Killury S Turner | |
| Flowers | Advent wreath - <i>Thank you</i> Jasmine | |
| 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:

Bar 5: 1-9

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

Ps 125: 3

Lk 3 : 4,6

Next Week:

Zeph 3 :14-185: 1-9

Phil 4 : 4-7

Is 12 : 2-6

Lk 3 : 10-18