



St Bernard's Parish

74 Fryers Rd Belmont 3216 belmont@cam.org.au www.stbernards.org.au

Parish Team

Fr Sang Ho (Parish Priest)

Marina Dias (Admin Officer - Mon, Wed & Fri)

Chrissie Puls (Sacramental Coordinator - Tues)

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28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

Boldness in Faith

We've all experienced moments of feeling like outsiders, awkwardly on the fringes of a group, unsure of our place or welcome. This experience can be profoundly isolating, highlighting our deepest insecurities and fears. Imagine, then, the daunting challenge faced by St. Paul. Following his dramatic conversion, he found himself in a precarious position. Once a fervent persecutor of Christians, he was now passionate about spreading the very faith he had tried to destroy.

The first reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter Year B captures this pivotal moment. Despite the understandable suspicion and fear from the disciples, Paul "spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord." His courage wasn't just about speaking; it was about embodying a new way of living, characterized by a radical commitment to the Gospel.

This boldness is not unique to Paul. It is a calling for all Christians, even today. Many of us shy away from actively sharing our faith, daunted by the prospect of evangelization. Yet, the early Church flourished precisely because of such boldness in both word and action. This challenges us to consider: How are we called to be bold in our faith today? How might our words and actions contribute to building up the Church and spreading the Gospel?

From Young Catholics

For those who have died:

Bernard John Gebbie

Prema Cooray

For those who are unwell:

Paul Shanahan

Sofia Sulistyo

Joan Hepworth

Riley Swander

Christie Raj

David Butler

Iris Appleton

Rita Croft

John Orders

Frank Whyte

Frances Butler

Marion Andrew

Katherine D'Arcy

George Koch

Melissa Bann

Lila Moorfoot

Josephine Mariah

Vanessa Eldridge

Judy Robertson

Colin & Linda Boyd

Lynette Stott

Margaret Walker

Maria Pereira

Gerry O'Donoghue

Brittany Schultz

Rev Alan Ansell

We welcome for Baptism:

Charlie Marsh

Vaida Delahunty

Mia, Amilia & Jade Shill

Bodhi & Hugo Hickman

Violette Marzo & Olivia

Cowdery

Zoey Kent



Masses for First Eucharist Children

The masses for all of our children who will receive the Eucharist for the first time this year of 2024 will be:

Friday 3rd May at 12noon, Sat 4th May at 6pm, Sun 5th May at 10.30 and Sat 11th May at 6pm.

We pray for these children:-

May God bless you, May God keep you, May God's goodness shine on you, May we see God's face in everything you do. Amen.



As there will be around 25 children receiving First Eucharist at each of the above masses, parishioners may consider going to another mass at St Bernard's that will not have First Eucharist children and their families so that everyone is accommodated comfortably in the Church.

St Bernard's Church Annual BOOK FAIR - Sunday 5th May Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Rd. Belmont 8am to 2pm

Bring your family & friends & COME ALONG & browse through a huge selection of second-hand books - fiction, non-fiction & children's books, jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs & CDs - all at bargain prices.

Also, **Helpers** are needed for the **pack up** at **2pm on Sunday 5th May**. Please contact the parish office if you can help on 52432739 or belmont@cam.org.au



**While Marina is on leave
Temporary Parish
Office Hours are:**

Mon: 11am-4pm

Tues: 10am-3pm

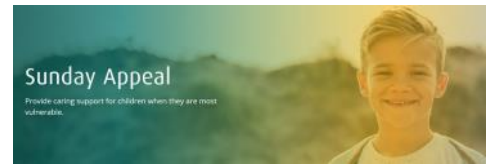
Wed: 10.30am-4pm

Thurs: 10am-1pm

Fri: 11.30am-4pm

CatholicCare Sunday Appeal

Jesus calls on us to practice mercy and compassion: especially towards those who are disadvantaged.



Catholic Care needs your support to help vulnerable children like Mason. Clad in pyjamas, Mason's eyes were fixed on the television with the volume set to an extreme. He sought refuge in distractions to cope with the overwhelming distress he endured, witnessing domestic violence since infancy. Mason was labelled as 'non-verbal' until he received support from CatholicCare Victoria. Mason's experiences for family violence left him feeling isolated and he struggled to articulate his pain. He was missing the key elements for a nurtured, safe and cheerful childhood - laughter, play, routine and the bond with his primary caregiver.

Children like Mason need access to counselling and compassionate support. For children, the effects of domestic violence ripple into challenges in relationships, learning, and self-esteem, persisting well into adulthood. Estimates reveal that over two million children across Australia endure abuse within their homes, before reaching the age of 15.

With your donation, CatholicCare are able to support families to navigate relationship challenges, deal with mental health issues, find healthy ways to resolve conflict, assist with parenting arrangements, escape family violence, and who face financial struggles.

Invitation to Volunteers

Are you on any rosters for the parish?

Do you help in ways unseen and unsung in the church or grounds?

You are invited to a **THANK YOU** luncheon on Sunday 26th May in the Big Space at 11.45am.

RSVP by Friday 10th May (essential for catering).
Please indicate special dietary requirements.

Phone the Parish Office on 5243 2739 or email belmont@cam.org.au



Pope marks World Earth Day with plea for bold action

Marking World Earth Day on 22 April, Pope Francis reiterated his urgent plea for bold action for "our common home" and for world peace.

The international day was established in 1970 to raise awareness about the critical environmental challenges facing the planet and to mobilise efforts to address them. The observance provides an opportunity for individuals, communities, organisations, and governments to come together and engage in activities to repair and heal ecosystems, combat climate change, and preserve biodiversity, so as to preserve the planet for future generations.

In a post on his X social media platform (formerly known as Twitter), Pope Francis noted that his generation has bequeathed many monetary riches to later generations, but has done little to protect the planet.

He also commented on the link between current environmental problems and the many conflicts raging throughout the world.

"Our generation has bequeathed many riches, but we have failed to protect the planet and we are not safeguarding peace. We are called to become artisans and caretakers of our common home, the Earth which is "falling into ruin". #EarthDay"

The Pope's post echoed his words in the 2015 Encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On Care of Our Common Home and its call for individuals, communities and governments to care for nature.

Each year, Earth Day has a specific theme to draw global attention on pressing environmental issues. Under the banner "Planet vs. Plastics," this 54th edition is focused on plastic pollution and the urgent need to reduce its use and production. Beyond its environmental implications, the proliferation of plastics poses a significant threat to human health, akin to the challenges posed by climate change. Humans produce over 400 million metric tons of plastic annually, which is roughly the weight of all human beings on the planet. Only 9 per cent gets recycled, and about 22 per cent of plastic waste worldwide is either not collected, improperly disposed of, or ends up as litter.

Cathnews



May Mass Count Each Sunday in May, the archdiocese requests that we count every person attending mass. These figures help with pastoral planning.

Reflection

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.



It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.

It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

Fr Richard Leonard SJ

Laudato Si News Cry of the Earth - Laudato Si' Goal 1

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come before us, to children who are now growing up." (Laudato Si' 160)

Seismic Blasting in the Southern Seas Campaign:

The Southern Seas are at threat with two multinational companies who have applied to seismic blast the area for 400 days. This damage endangers unique and globally significant areas, including the 12 Apostles, the Great Southern Reef and numerous marine protected areas (including two Commonwealth Marine Parks and protected whale sanctuaries). These proposals threaten the coastline, marine life, culturally significant areas and the climate.

Southern Blast Film screening at the Pivotonian on Wednesday, May 1 at 6.15 pm \$10

What is Seismic Blasting? Seismic blasting is the first step in offshore oil and gas exploration. The process involves ships, equipped with air guns, emitting deafening blasts of sound into the ocean. These blasts reach 250 decibels—louder than an atomic bomb! Seismic blasts displace, injure and kill marine life. These blasts occur: Every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day, up to 400 days at a time **Find out more about the campaign and sign the petition or write to your MP with the help of the Surfrider Foundation:** <https://www.surfrider.org.au/campaigns/save-the-southern-sea/>

We pray for Mohammad

We pray for Mohammad that he be comforted while he awaits a decision on his application for a visa.



For the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine & other war torn countries.
May there be peaceful resolutions.

St Bernard's community ...

St Bernard's subscribes to 'LOOK', a weekly work sheet for children, based on the readings of the day. To receive this via email, please contact the Office.



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 server.

The Wider Community.....

Engaging Your Faith: May 2024 Theology, Scripture, Meditation, Spirituality, Science & Faith. Catholic Theological College Sign up for one of 9 short, online sessions. Choose what interests you from \$25 per session. For more information and to register: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Friday 10th May 2024 10.00am – 4.30pm Austin Cooper Symposium. Catholic Theological College invites you to a hybrid symposium in honour of the Rev Professor Austin Cooper OMI AM (1931 – 2023) founding Master of CTC, historian, formator, and ecumenical friend. Cost: \$60 (lunch included) or \$30 (online attendance) Enquiries website ctc.edu.au or trybooking.com/CQJCP

Catholic Mission will host the recitation of the Rosary every day (from Monday to Friday) in May, and we invite our friends, supporters and collaborators from around the country to join in.

During this virtual Rosary, we will reflect on the mysteries of the Rosary and offer our intentions for peace, healing and blessings for our parishes and the world. This online gathering is open to everyone in the parish community.

To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/cmprayer>



Are you selling a second hand Car

Jinsi, one of our lovely musicians is in urgent need of a small, reliable and well maintained second hand car. If you have one or if you know anyone that is selling such a car please contact her on 0423872892.

More details are on the notice board. Thank you.

'In the spirit of reconciliation, St Bernard's Parish acknowledges the Wadawurrung People, the Traditional Custodians of country and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'

Mass Times this week

Saturday: **6pm**
Sunday: **9am & 10.30am**
Tue & Fri: **12 noon**
Wed & Thurs : **9.30am**

The **Rosary** is prayed after each weekday Mass
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held
First Friday of each month after 12pm mass

To receive the **bulletin** by **email** please subscribe via the parish website:
<https://stbernards.org.au/>

Contact the Office - 52 432 739 to arrange :

**** Communion at home (Friday am)**
New volunteers welcome to assist with this ministry.

**** To receive an email link to the Passionist Fathers recorded Mass each weekend.**

**** To receive an emailed worksheet for children, linked to the Sunday readings.**

Sunday Mass on Radio :

7.00am Light FM 89.9
10.00am Pulse 94.7 FM (St Mary's)

Sunday Mass on TV :

Channel 10 6-6.30am
Channel 31 or 44 11am St Patrick's Cathedral

Parish Office hours

Mon: 11am—4pm
Tues: 10am—3pm
Wed: 10.30am—4pm
Thurs: 10am—1pm
Fri: 11.30am—4pm

* **St Bernard's Play Group** Every Tuesday of school term 9-10.30am Gold coin donation

* **St Vincent De Paul** Membership enquiries : through Parish Office

* **Men's Group - 2nd Tues** of the month 10.30am Church cafe

* **Charismatic Prayer** - next meeting will be on 16 April 2024

* **Ladies Coffee and Chat Group, 3rd Mon** of the month, 10.30am at **FULL Circle**, Belmont opposite Car Wash, cnr Roslyn Rd.

* **Mill Market donation & Book Fair drop off** Saturdays **between 9am – 10am**



To assist the Manny communities :

direct bank trf to :

BSB : **BSB 083347**

ACC# **358514559**

Ref : **surname & support project**
i.e *Hall or education or General needs.*

Please note new account details

Readings this week : Acts 9:26-31 ;
Ps 21:26-28. 30-32 ; 1 John 3:18-24 ;
John 15:1-8

Next Week's Readings : Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48 ; Ps 97:1-4 ; 1 John 4:7-10 or 1John 4:11-16 ; John 15:9-17 or John 17:11

