



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)

Karen Marshall (Finance Officer - Wed)

Clairvaux Catholic School 03 5243 7102

Brendan Flanagan (Principal)

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5th May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

A Reflection

Last Tuesday, 30th April, all Year Four children from both our school and our parish gathered for a day of preparation for their First Eucharistic celebration. These celebrations will be happening this weekend and the next. It was a day of reflection, learning and fun for them with various activities organized by our teachers and Chrissie, our sacramental coordinator. At midday, the whole group joined our parishioners at Mass and that was a special time. I had the opportunity then to interact and share a couple of thoughts with the group through the homily.

There was a statement from an old teacher of mine which came back to me. It states: "everyone likes to receive gifts or presents, doesn't matter who you are."

To examine such a statement, I posed a question to the children: "is there anyone of you here who doesn't like to receive gifts or presents?" The result was that out of about a hundred children, no-one raised their hands.

Again, to reaffirm, I paraphrased the question: "Is there anyone of you, who would like to receive gifts or presents?" All of them raised their hands, even some of them raised both their hands.

Obviously, this particular group affirmed.

The next question I posed to them was: "if your birthday is approaching, what would you like to receive?" Interestingly enough, boys seem far more ambitious than girls in their answers. One boy said: "I'd like to have a set of PlayStation." Another said: "I would like to have a Lamborghini." Again another one states: "I like to have a Ferrari." While girls seem to have simpler requests, one said that she would like some paints or another one wished to have some books to read.

continued on page 3

Our community prays :

For those who recently deceased

Bernard Gebbie

For those who are unwell:

Paul Shanahan

Sofia Sulisty

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



St Bernard's Church Annual BOOK FAIR – TODAY 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.

Helpers are needed to pack up at 2pm THIS afternoon (Sunday) please.



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

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

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



Lenten Reflection Program—A Resurrected Life

135 parishioners participated in the program – 40 came to weekly meetings in the church, 30 were at Rice Village and the rest opted for self-guided reflection.

At the conclusion of the Lenten program, participants were asked *Describe how the experience was for you?* Here are some of the responses

- Reflective, solemn, contemplative. I found the resource very easy to use and used it daily during Lent.
- I have found the book fabulous in breaking open the word and making me think and reflect more clearly. I have also enjoyed hearing other opinions during the group sessions that may make me see things differently. Also getting to know the others has been lovely.
- So good to meet parishioners and get to know them. Reflections were insightful – different points of view and knowledge shared – enriching.
- It was a very positive experience. Our group created a sacred space where trust and comfort was created. We listened and opened up the readings with questions and gained fresh insights which helped me to grow.
- Very positive, no pressure to share, but everyone did.

Many thanks to Louise Madden and Noreen Nicholson for organizing the program.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for May 2024

For the formation of men and women religious and seminarians.

In his video message, the Pope emphasizes the ongoing development of their vocations through grace, prayer, community, and witness to the Gospel.

He says every vocation is a “diamond in the rough” that needs to be polished, worked, and shaped on every side.

The Holy Father notes that “a good priest, sister, or nun, must above all else be a man, a woman who is formed, shaped by the Lord’s grace”. These are people who are aware of their own limitations and who are willing to “lead a life of prayer, of dedicated witness to the Gospel”.

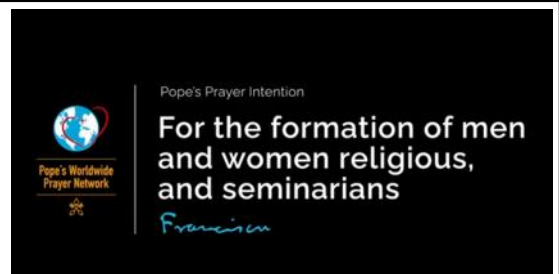
The Pope reminds us that beginning in the seminary or novitiate, their preparation must develop integrally in direct contact with the lives of other people. This, he added, “is essential”.

It is important to note that formation does not end at a specific moment, such as ordination, but rather continues throughout life, integrating the person intellectually, humanly, affectively, and spiritually.

Preparation continues into that of living in a community. “Life in community is so enriching, even though it can be difficult at times”.

“Living together is not the same as living in community”, adds the Pope.

Finally, Pope Francis asks that we pray that “men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual, and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel”. Edited extract Cathnews



Masses for First Eucharist

This weekend and next weekend, St Bernard's welcomes children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist and their families.

The masses will be Friday 3th 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.*

Continued from page 1

Again, another statement came back to me from a friend who after doing shopping for Christmas said: "The most difficult thing to do when you go Christmas shopping is to choose the right presents for each child." This gives me the impression that the givers might have to do more thinking than the receivers in relation to gifts or presents as they want to figure out what is best and what is most appropriate to offer

Coincidentally enough, the Gospel for last Tuesday when the children came to celebrate the Eucharist with us was talking about a special gift that Jesus wants to offer. He said: "Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you" (John 14:27).

Jesus has done his thinking and figured out what is best for us that he wanted to offer – "the gift of peace that the world cannot give." When he appeared to his disciples after he had risen, he said the same thing to them: "Peace be with you." This peace came with his presence with them.

Here and now in this world, he continues to be present with us in the Eucharist and endows us with his own peace. May all the children who are about to receive Eucharist for the first time, come to appreciate this very special gift that Jesus has to offer to us all. Sang Ho

Thank you to the knitters and those who donate wool, 23 knee rugs have recently been given to Geelong Mums, TLC The Belmont and Balmoral Grove.

Donations of 8 ply wool always welcome. A pattern is available for those who would like to knit squares.



Pope assures young people that 'Christ is alive and He loves you'

The "certainty" that "Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive" has inspired Pope Francis to write again to young people, on the fifth anniversary of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*.

Christus Vivit was written in the wake of the 2018 Synod on "young people, faith, and vocational discernment".

Pope Francis says, "Above all, I would like my words to be a source of renewed hope" to young people who may feel discouraged in a world "marked by so many conflicts and so much suffering."

The Pope assures young people that "Christ is alive and He loves you with an infinite love." He invites them to "walk with Him as a friend, welcome Him into your life, and let Him share all the joys and hopes, the problems and struggles of this time in your life."

He goes on to remind people of the "great mission" they have received "to bear witness before everyone to the joy born of friendship with Christ," reminding them of his invitation to make their voices heard and his encouragement to "make a mess".

Living in the presence of Jesus, the Pope tells young people, will allow their "memory of the past" to prove fruitful and help them to "find courage in the present" and "face the future with hope."

Christus Vivit, Pope Francis says, "is the fruit of a Church that wants to move forward together by listening, dialogue, and the constant discernment of the Lord's will," the result of the 2018 Synod on Youth that prepared the way for the current Synod on Synodality.

"Now, at this new stage in our ecclesial journey," the Pope says to young people, "we need more than ever to draw upon your creativity in order to explore new paths, always in fidelity to our roots."

Edited extract Cathnews

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.

The Wider Community.....

Engaging Your Faith: May 2024. 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>
Meeting ID: 893 8798 2280 Password 876574

Are you selling a second hand car?

Jinsi 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 0423 872 892 More details are on the noticeboard. Thank you

Have you ever thought what it really means when Jesus commands us to love one another? At first, it seems like a simple commandment: I can love my family; my friends; I can even feel love for some people I've never met.

But there was a condition that Jesus placed on the command: *love one another as I have loved you.*

How did Jesus love? Without restriction and without seeking something in return. He loved those that no one loved and he even loved those who hated him and sought his downfall.

Can I love those who hate me? Those that others ridicule and despise? Can I love without counting the cost?
Liturgy Help

'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 Mannya 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 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 17:11-19

Next Week's Readings : Acts 1:1-11 ; Ps 46:2-3.6-9. ; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Ephesians 4:1-13 or Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13 ; Mark 16:15-20