



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)

03 5243 2739

sang.ho@cam.org.au

marina.dias@cam.org.au

Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au

Karen.Marshall@cam.org.au

45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216

bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au

10th December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent Year B

Reflection

One day, a man was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a boy reaching down to the sand, picking up something and very gently throwing it back into the sea. As he got closer, he called out, "Good morning, young man! What are you doing?" The young person paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the sea." Why are you throwing starfish into the sea?" the man asked. "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in they'll die." "But, don't you realize that there are miles of beach here and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!" The boy listened politely. Then he knelt down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said... "Made a difference to this one." Advent is the time to make a difference in the life of somebody

Loren Eiseley

Ideas for Christmas gifts :

Mannya Hall Building Project Phase 2: customized donation certificates are available as Christmas gifts. Each certificate will purchase a 'block of work' towards the Mannya Hall building project. Please email recipient's name to belmont@cam.org.au & make payment to Office, or as bank trf to : BSB : 083347 acc : 35-851-4559 Ref : (Your) Surname - Hall

CLAIRVAUX SCHOOL CAROLS EVENING

Monday December 11th 2023
An opportunity for parents and families to celebrate the end of 2023 year. Starting at 5pm and concluding at 6.40pm. Please enter via the Church car park entrance (gate 5). Bring a picnic dinner to share with your family along with picnic blankets and chairs.



Christmas Children's Mass 6pm

Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the nativity story.

Christmas at St Bernard's

This Wednesday 13th Dec 7.30 pm Penitential Service

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 23rd Dec 6.00pm

Sun 24th Dec Sun 9.00am **ONLY. NO 10.30am mass**

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Sun 24th Dec 6.00 pm Family mass in the school ground. Bring chairs/rugs

Christmas Eve, Sun 24th Dec 9.00 pm (Carols 8.15-8.50pm)

Christmas Day, Mon 25th Dec 9.00 am **(one mass only)**



Our community prays :

For those who have died:

Faye Cook

For those who are unwell:

Marion Andrew

Katherine D'Arcy

George Koch

Jennifer London

Jeanette Freijah

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

Sofia Solistyo

Joan Hepworth

Riley Swander

Andrew Pamvouoglou

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

David Butler

John Orders

Frank Whyte

Frances Butler

We welcome for Baptism:

Lennox Trebilcock

Lucas & Nyah McBain



Situations Vacant

2 or 3 Ladies required **once a month for 9 am Mass cafe service**, providing tea and coffee. New Roster commencing Feb 2024. Please contact the office

Advent Reflections

If you have not received one by email, please collect a reflection after mass.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The theme of this year's Christmas Appeal is the ongoing impacts of the cost-of-living crisis which has seen already vulnerable people pushed into poverty with barely anything left to hold onto and facing the brink of homelessness.

Workers in full-time employment, families on dual incomes and renters burdened by the soaring cost of housing have turned to the Society through necessity. Alarming, the number of people turning to our members for the first time has increased from one-in-four to one-in-three over the past year.

While cost-of-living pressures occur across the board, the most acute impacts are felt by those with the least capacity to absorb the financial, social and wellbeing blows.

Belmont Conference July—Nov 2023

Home visits—202

Supermarket/ Geelong Food Relief Vouchers	\$9,730.00
Food purchased for food hampers	\$7,230.00
Transport (includes petrol, car registrations)	\$4,609.00
Other assistance (includes accommodation, utilities, education, furniture, medicine)	\$3,845.00
Total assistance given	\$25,414.00

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.
For a receipt, please use envelopes in foyer.



Reflection

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, *hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history.* This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of *hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.*

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. *As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.*

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. *The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart.* It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

Dianne Bergant CSA

Our Church during Advent

Students from Clairvaux School, assisted by their teachers, prepared the banner that is across the front of the altar during Advent. It highlights the theme of *giving and receiving HOPE.* The hands extend towards each other in a gesture of offering and acceptance, and the hearts represent the love that arises from this.



The students have also written messages of hope on the paper chains hanging in the church foyer, and all are welcome to take a little time to read these.

We thank teachers and students for accepting the invitation of the Liturgy Pillar to provide this artwork to help us enter into the spirit of Advent.

St. Bernard's Parish - Laudato Si' Action Plan 2023-2024

Parishioners are asked to review the Action Plan. Contributions to each goal are welcome. Please write your ideas on the forms available in the church foyer or take a form home to write a response during the week and bring your suggestions next week.



St Bernard's Annual Remembrance Mass to commemorate our loved ones who have died – especially those from families in our parish during the last year – was celebrated last Thursday.

It was a gentle time of reflection, appreciated by all who attended.

Comments received noted the warmth of the evening and the welcome extended to everyone.

'I felt alone in my grief; coming tonight I realised that I am not alone, and that brought me comfort.'

'It was a lovely, well-paced time which provided reflection and prayer, enhanced by silence and music.'

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the evening.



In **Advent**, amidst the tinsel and noisy bustle, we are invited to pause and reflect on the great mystery of God's love for Creation - so deep, and so tender that God chose to enter the world as one of us. We pray to discern God's traces in our shadowed world.

... We are called to witness the Incarnation in our care of all God's created world, and all God's

The fate of humanity will be decided now, Pope tells COP28 summit

The future of humanity depends on what people choose now, Pope Francis said in his message to global leaders at the COP28 World Climate Action Summit in Dubai.

'Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death?' he asked in his message. *'To all of you I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future!'*

'The purpose of power is to serve. It is useless to cling to an authority that will one day be remembered for its inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so. History will be grateful to you,' the Pope wrote.

The destruction of the environment is *'a sin'* that not only *'greatly endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable'*, the Pope wrote, but it also *'threatens to unleash a conflict between generations.'*

'The drive to produce and possess has become an obsession, resulting in an inordinate greed that has made the environment the object of unbridled exploitation,' the Pope wrote. People must recognise their limits, with humility and courage, and seek authentic fulfilment.

'What stands in the way of this? The divisions that presently exist among us,' he wrote.

Edited extract Cathnews



The Advent Wreath

The lighting of a different candle on each Sunday in Advent invites us to pause and reflect. Each candle has its own symbolism, while the intertwined evergreen leaves of the Advent wreath remind us of the promise of eternal life that Christ brings.

In most Christian traditions the first candle, lit on Advent Sunday itself, represents hope – a sign of our hopeful expectation as we await the coming of the Messiah.

The next three candles mark the themes of *peace, joy and love*. The large white candle is the *'Christ candle'*, lit as we mark the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach, the Diocese of Wrexham, UK



The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a *'no fuss'* gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, *'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.'*

The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

Liturgy Help

We pray for Mohammad

Eleven years on, Mohammad still waits for a visa. The Office of the Immigration Minister, Andrew Giles, has received his application. The immigration lawyers are hopeful, the refugee advocates are hopeful, but perhaps we just need prayer.



For the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine & other war torn countries.

May there be peaceful resolutions.

St Bernard's community

MILLMARKET

Collection for items for our Mill Market stall will conclude this year on December 16th.

Recommencement date is January 20th 2024. The holidays is a very busy time at the market and we are looking for more stock for our stall - Records, ornaments, vases, bric a brac, knick knacks, books, games, and toys are all items we can use.

What we can't use is china that is chipped or broken, incomplete sets of glasses or anything electrical.

Thank you so much to everyone who has been supporting this great fundraising venture.
Marg & Peter

The Geelong Community ...

Free Lunchtime Organ Recitals 12.30-1.15pm on Mondays at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels
Geelong Monday 11 Dec: David Macfarlane
Monday 18 Dec: Frank De Rosso



Friday 15 December, 7.30pm
Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, 136 Yarra St. Geelong

Windfire Choir
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Oratorio de Noël Saint-Saens
Fantasia on Christmas Carols Vaughan Williams
Tickets \$50/\$45/\$40 from www.trybooking.com/CFGTN
Children and school students - free

Thursday 12th Dec 6pm **Geelong Catholic Diners Club** you are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship. The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St Belmont. Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. Please advise by December 9. RSVP John Santospirito - 0409 165 943 or john.santospirito@bigpond.com

Mannya Hall Fund raising : You can make a payment *in person* at the Parish Office or via *direct bank transfer* to **BSB 083347 ACC#358514559** Ref : **surname & hall.** Please note new account details.



'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 & Thur: **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: 9am—4pm

Tues: 10am—3pm

Wed: 9am—4pm

Thurs: 10am—1pm

Fri: 9am—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** meeting every 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am to 11.30am in the Church

*** 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** at Clairvaux Hall on Saturdays 9am and 10am.



To assist the Manya communities :

direct bank trf to :

BSB : **063 504** acc : **008 005 74**

Ref : **surname & support project**

i.e Hall or education or General needs.

<https://mannyacoffee.or.ug/> Thank you

Readings this week : Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 ; Ps 84:9-14 ; 2 Peter 3:8-14 ; Mark 1:1-8

Next Week's Readings : Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 ; Lk 1:46-50. 53-54 ; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 ; John 1:6-8. 19-28

