



## St Bernard's Parish

74 Fryers Rd Belmont 3216 [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au) [www.stbernards.org.au](http://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**

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11th February 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

### Spirituality of the reading

The gospel stories this year are being told by Mark, just as they were told last year by Matthew. The most vivid of the gospels is Mark's. He is direct and uses fewer words, but he has more concrete details. Last week Jesus did not just 'cure' Peter's mother-in-law, a bland way of putting it. He 'grasped her hand, and helped her up.' When Jesus stills the storm at sea, he is not just 'in the boat,' he is 'at the stern' of it according to Mark, and he is not just asleep, but asleep 'on a cushion.'

Mark's approach helps us to get the texture of the story, to listen with our imaginations, to let the life of Jesus enter in. As we receive Jesus, the Word of God, we open to the God of all creation. We share his life spiritually, partaking of it in ritual: we recall it in the readings and we receive it as sacrament. Whether we realize it explicitly or not, our goal is to 'know him more clearly, love him more dearly, follow him more nearly.'

John Foley SJ

### Our community prays :

For those who have died:

Santina Nofi

Ihor Iwanciw

For those who are unwell:

Iris Appleton

Rita Croft

John Orders

Frank Whyte

Frances Butler

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

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

David Butler

We welcome for Baptism:

Ned & Paddy Tyquin



## Ash Wednesday Masses at St Bernard's 9.30am & 7.30pm

**Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are in the foyer**

**On Fridays during Lent Stations of the Cross will be prayed  
after the Midday Mass**

### Lenten Reflections - A Resurrected Life

You are invited to participate in one or both of the following ways:-



- A weekly meeting in the church, led by a member of our team, using the Lenten resource, "A Resurrected Life". **Sessions will be held on Mondays 10.00am & 7.30pm commencing 19th Feb in the Church.** or
- A daily self-directed reflection, using the Lenten resource, "A Resurrected Life." Resource Booklet \$5.

If this invitation appeals to you, could you please contact the Parish Office on 5243 2739 or email [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au), by *Sunday 11th Feb.*

### 80th Birthday Celebration!

#### Jack Karwan

is turning 80 this Sunday, 11th February and he's never had a birthday party!

After 10.30am mass please join Jack's family to celebrate his special birthday. Morning tea will be provided. All welcome.



There will be **no weekday masses** on **Thursday 15th February & Friday 16th February**

Important Message

## Lent. Are you ready?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, it is a time set aside for reflection, penance, and spiritual renewal. The ashes that are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross are a symbol of mortality and a reminder of the need for repentance and forgiveness.

Lent is a time to take stock of one's life, to recognize one's faults and shortcomings, and to seek a greater relationship with God.

For many Lent is a time of sacrifice and self-discipline. People choose to give up something they enjoy, such as sweets or social media, as a way of focusing their attention on spiritual matters. Others use this time to engage in acts of service or to deepen their prayer life. It is a season of introspection and growth, a time to draw closer to God and to become more aware of one's place in the world.

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying before beginning his public ministry. Lent is an opportunity to follow in his footsteps, to imitate his example of selflessness and devotion. The Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, from Matthew's Gospel warns against performing religious acts for show, but encourages us to pray, give alms, and fast in secret, so that our Father who sees in secret will reward us.

This reminds us to focus on our personal relationship with God during Lent and to emulate Christ's humility and devotion.

*Edited extract Majellan Media*



## 'Through the desert, God leads us to freedom'. Pope Francis Lenten statement for 2024



In his statement, Pope Francis asks each of us to consider whether we are ready to move into a new world and leave behind our old compromises and concerns with material things and to move forward in hope. 'The witness of many of my brother bishops and a great number of those who work for peace and justice has increasingly convinced me that we need to combat a deficit of hope that stifles dreams and the silent cry that reaches to heaven and moves the heart of God.'

*Australian Catholics*

**Lent** is a time to free oneself from slavery and take action to free others suffering from the multiple forms of slavery that afflict the world, Pope Francis has said in his Lenten message for 2024.

Even though baptism has begun a process of liberation, *'there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery. A kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom,'* the Pope said in his message for Lent.

Released by the Vatican, the text of the Pope's Lenten message focused on God's call to leave behind the bonds of slavery, with the title, *'Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom'*, which is from the Book of Exodus (20:2).

Echoing the tragedy of the ancient Israelites, a modern-day Pharaoh *'stifles dreams, blocks the view of heaven, makes it appear that this world, in which human dignity is trampled upon and authentic bonds are denied, can never change,'* the Pope wrote.

God enables people to embark on a new journey and experience *'a Passover from death to life'*, he wrote.

*'Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom'* during which Christians seek to rediscover God's call and promise, he wrote. *'It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister.'*

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, presented the Lenten message at a Vatican news conference.

*'Traditionally, Lent is a time to review our lives and to individually face the need for personal conversion,'* he said. However, the Pope is challenging the faithful also to seek to change the world.

As believers and as citizens, he said, Christians should ask, *'Where are we on the journey with so many siblings at home and worldwide who cry out and ask us to walk with them?'*

*'By embracing the gift of Lent, every Christian community can accompany its members in facing the challenges of our time,'* the Cardinal said, because *'the hoped-for changes in the world begin with change in me and in you'.*

*Edited extract Cathnews*

## St Bernard's Parish Groups

### Coffee & Chat Group

The Coffee & Chat group evolved from the St Bernard's Widowed & Social Group and previously met in the Fitzpatrick Room monthly but following Covid currently meet in *the Full Circle Belmont Café, 46B Roslyn Road*. Changes of venue will be advised in the parish bulletin.

With no need to bring a plate to share, it isn't a formal meeting, no speaker, participants just turn up. To break the ice, there was a 'Conversation starter' until recently, not needed now. The group meet at 10.30 am with no official finishing time with the option of staying for lunch if they wish.

With approximately 30 people on the list there are usually 16-18 people there.

No need to book, just turn up to the Full Circle Café on the third Monday of the month at 10.30 am.

How to get in contact: Parish Office [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au) or Lorraine - [jlmckay29@gmail.com](mailto:jlmckay29@gmail.com)

### Carbon Fast for Lent Calendar

Lent is a time of repentance and fasting, of turning away from all that is counter to God's will and purposes for his world and all who live in it. This year, we invite you to focus your Lenten 'acts of love and sacrifice' on our contribution to climate change, and those most impacted by it.

*Emailed with the bulletin or pick up a copy from the Church Foyer.*



### Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February—*For the terminally ill.*

*Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.*

In this month's The Pope Video (visit [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org)), which was released by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, the Pope invited the Church to pray for this intention.



This month's prayer intention comes during the month in which the Church observes the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick, both on February 11.

In the video, Pope Francis explains that *'when some people talk about terminal illnesses, there are two words they often confuse: incurable and un-careable'. But they are not the same.'*

He cites his predecessor St John Paul II, in saying, *'Cure if it is possible; always take care'*.

The images from The Pope Video for February exemplify situations showing love and tenderness for the terminally ill, and depending on how they are interpreted, depict a series of failures or successes, the failures being *'if the only acceptable outcome is a cure,'* and successes instead being *'if the objective is the care of the patient.'*

Pope Francis explains clearly that even when little chance for a cure exists, *'every sick person has the right to medical, psychological, spiritual and human assistance'*.

*'Healing,'* he acknowledges, *'is not always possible, but we can always care for the sick person, caress them.'*

Reflecting on the importance of palliative care, Pope Francis reaffirms that such care *'guarantees the patient not only medical attention,'* but also *'human assistance and closeness'*.

Meanwhile, when speaking about the role of the family, he underscores that those suffering *'should not be left alone in these difficult moments'*.

The role of the family *'is decisive,'* the Pope said, stressing relatives *'need access to adequate means so as to provide appropriate physical, spiritual and social support'*.

*Edited Cathnews*

*LOURDES DAY MASS Saturday 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant.*



## We pray for Mohammad

Please pray that Mohammad, and all asylum seekers left in limbo, are fairly reviewed in their quest for a permanent visa.



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

## The Geelong Community ...

Monday March 11 at 7pm Music at St Mary's Basilica— Cologne Chamber Philharmonia Orchestra is presenting their Annual Concert. See notice board for more details

Tuesday February 13 at 6pm Geelong Catholic Diners Club warmly invite you to join for a social get-together for dinner at The Bistro, Belmont hotel, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Rd. If interested contact Joan on 0429215111 or Micha 0431959584 by Friday 9 February

Clonard College Open Day Wednesday 13 March until Friday 22 March. Multiple Information and tour sessions. Bookings are essential via [www.clonard.vic.edu.au](http://www.clonard.vic.edu.au) Enrolments for Year 7 close on Friday 3 May 2024.

Tuesday 27th February 7.00pm Ashes to Easter Lenten Concert-Reflection with Peter Kearney at Holy Family Church, Bell Park. Free admission. To book your place, please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email to: [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au)



## The Wider Community.....

**St.Vincent de Paul Society** Regional Council is seeking a skilled IT person to help record the important information pertaining to the various good works that we are engaged in. For further information please call Martin P Butler on 0418572067 or email [mpbutler@bigpond.com](mailto:mpbutler@bigpond.com) GRC President

**Lent 2024 with the Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes** For 40 days you will receive a short, practical, and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is free. Visit: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

**Hope Bereavement Care** : offers confidential, personal support & information to anyone affected by the sudden & unexpected death of a child. 4215 33 58 BH or 1300 308 307 AH

**Bread 4 Today Redemptorist web site.** Daily prayers for reflection and meditation <https://cssr.org.au/bread4today/>

## Seeking accommodation in Belmont—

A 73yr old grandmother is seeking a place to rent in or around Belmont. Due to rain damage she has been asked to vacate her current premises. She has been attending St Bernard's Church when in Geelong. If you are able to help please email Ann Denham at [freshgreenfields@gmail.com](mailto:freshgreenfields@gmail.com)

'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 : **12 noon**  
Wed : **9.30am & 7.30pm**

*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 will resume in March 2023

\* **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 9am and 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 :** Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46 ; Ps 31:1-2.5 11 ; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 ; Mark 1:40-45

**Next Week's Readings :** Genesis 9:8-15 ; Ps 24:4-9 ; 1 Peter 3:18-22 ; Mark 1:12-15

