



## 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)

03 5243 2739

### Parish Team

Fr Sang Ho (Parish Priest)

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

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**Clairvaux Catholic School 03 5243 7102**

**45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216**

Brendan Flanagan (Principal)

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12th November 2023

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year

### Reflection

The early Christians thought that all their questions about death had been answered with the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, when loyal Christians began to die, not only did their old questions come back, but also they were plagued with new and difficult ones. Was it possible that those loyal Christians had not been loyal after all? Or worse, were the promises made by Jesus empty promises? No! Paul assures us. It is all true. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again, and all the faithful will be joined with him. *How* it will happen, we do not know. *When* it will happen, we do not know. *That* it will happen, we are sure.

The wisdom that we have culled from life becomes the treasury from which we draw the prudence and insight needed to negotiate life's paradoxes. It throws light on our strengths and on our weaknesses; it enables us to discern what is important and what is not; it directs us to bring extra oil in our lamps. Life and the wisdom that we have acquired through it, have taught us that we can indeed trust the promises of God. They have been fulfilled in the past, and wisdom assures us that they will be fulfilled in the future. It is wisdom that cautions us to be vigilant, to be ready to adjust our plans. It is wisdom that prepares us for the night watches of life. It is wisdom that instructs us to be ready at all times.

*Dianne Bergant CSA*



### Our community prays :

*For those who have died:*

**Bob Hynam**

*For those who are unwell:*

**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**

**George Koch**



### St. Bernard's Parish Confirmation

At 3pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and at 1pm and 3:30pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, our young candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will fill them with unique gifts to strengthen their lives.



**Heavenly Father, we pray for all the children at St. Bernard's Parish who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. May Your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love. May they come to know You as the one true God who loves them without limits. May their hearts welcome you gladly; may their ears hear your voice in the scriptures; may their eyes see you in all things; and may they proclaim Your glory as they walk in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.**

In preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the students at Clairvaux are learning what it means to be of service to others. They will be attending the weekday Masses on *Thursday 16th November, Wednesday 29th November and Friday 1st December*. Parishioners are invited to attend the normal weekday Mass on these dates and stay for coffee and supper afterwards.

During this month of November, we have been remembering and praying for our Faithful Departed - those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and all who have died in God's mercy. This year we will conclude the month with our **Remembrance Mass on Thursday 30 November at 7.30p.m.**

All parishioners are invited to attend, and a special invitation is being sent to those for whom a loved one has died during the past year.

Each family attending the Remembrance Mass will be invited to participate in a candle lighting ritual in honour of those for whom they pray. Please join us for supper after mass in the café area.



If you have Facebook, why not follow **St Bernard's Parish Belmont** to see what is happening in the Parish.



## Reflection

In one sense the parable of the wise and foolish virgins could be considered the first known oil crisis in the east. It is, however, about planning for the future and pacing oneself to see that one has a future to enjoy.

In Christian theology this is called 'discernment'. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, wrote a lot about discernment and one of his teachings is that the Holy Spirit allows us to prepare for our future without living it.

Think for a moment of the times when we are going to have a difficult interview or a conversation we would rather not have. We play out in our mind how the interaction will run. It rarely happens how we imagine and we find that our anxiety and fear has often been misplaced. What is curious is that on the next occasion we go through this same process of trying to live the future all over again. Tragically, some people are so anxious about their future that they try and control it, and everyone associated with it. It's always a disaster.

St Ignatius was suspicious of this process. Ignatius seems to have understood today's Gospel very well. The early church thought Jesus would return quickly. There was a crisis of faith when he didn't. Some Christians lived as though this imminent return was a fact. We are still waiting. Matthew tells us then, that the Christian life is about wisdom, right judgment and reading the signs of the times.

St Ignatius tells us the best way to prepare for the future is to let go of the unhealed past, as best as we can, and live in the here and now. The Holy Spirit helps us see what needs to be done today and what preparation is necessary for tomorrow. This is such simple and sound advice and yet many of us don't heed it. For some of us it takes nothing to feel the hurt and pain of our past or to be consumed by the future.

Alcoholics Anonymous sums it up neatly when it tells us to take life '*one day at a time*' which is another way of saying what Matthew's community came to see, '*keep awake because you know not the time or place*'.

*Edited extract Fr Richard Leonard*



## Pope calls for 'paradigm shift' in Catholic theology

Pope Francis has called for a '*paradigm shift*' in Catholic theology that takes widespread engagement with contemporary science, culture and people's lived experience as an essential starting point.

Citing the need to deal with '*profound cultural transformations*,' the Pope presented his dramatic vision for the future of Catholic theology titled *Ad Theologiam Promovendam*, or '*to promote theology*,' the document revises the statutes of the Pontifical Academy of Theology (PATH) '*to make them more suitable for the mission that our time imposes on theology*'.

'*Theology can only develop in a culture of dialogue and encounter between different traditions and different knowledge, between different Christian confessions and different religions, openly engaging with everyone, believers and nonbelievers*,' the Pope wrote in the apostolic letter.

Pope Francis wrote that Catholic theology must experience a '*courageous cultural revolution*' in order to become a '*fundamentally contextual theology*'. Guided by Christ's incarnation into time and space, this approach to theology must be capable of reading and interpreting '*the Gospel in the conditions in which men and women live daily, in different geographical, social, and cultural environments*,' the Pope wrote.

He contrasted this approach with a theology that is limited to '*abstractly re-proposing formulas and schemes from the past*' and repeated his long-standing criticism of '*desk-bound theology*'. Instead, he emphasised that theological studies must be open to the world, not as a "'tactical' attitude" but as a profound '*turning point*' in their method, which he said must be '*inductive*'.

Pope Francis emphasised that this bottom-up re-envisioning of theology is necessary to better aid the Church's evangelising mission.

'*A synodal, missionary, and 'outgoing' Church can only correspond to an 'outgoing' theology*,' the Pope wrote.

*Edited extract Cathnews*



Tuesday November 21, 7pm – 9pm  
**Growing Vital Parishes: vision, leadership and collaboration regional gatherings with Ron Huntley**, Pioneer Room, St Mary's, 150 Yarra St, Geelong.  
Bookings [www.trybooking.com/CMUOP](http://www.trybooking.com/CMUOP)

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm Knox  
**Public Lecture "Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins"** Presented by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ  
Live video stream via Zoom Bookings—  
[trybooking.com/CMYVM](http://trybooking.com/CMYVM) Enquiries: 9412 3333  
[vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au](mailto:vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au)

## We pray for Mohammad

Mohammad continues to wait for a Visa (11 years); please continue your prayers for him.

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

May there be peaceful resolutions.



## St Bernard's community ....



### Anniversaries to be remembered :

Please contact the Office, if you would like an anniversary remembered in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.

*We check the Parish records on the **first** anniversary only. Please phone, to be included in all subsequent years.*

## The Geelong Community ...

Tuesday, 14 November, 6.00pm Geelong

**Catholic Diners Club**, The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Rd, Belmont  
Cost: Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. RSVP please phone or text Joan 0429215111 or Michael 0431959584 by Friday, 10 November

**Volunteer Needed** Vinnies is looking for a **Geelong Hub Pantry Coordinator**. The position involves placing orders with Food Bank Vic. as required and packing orders from Conferences for food bags each week. Please contact Brian via email [Cherie.okane@bigpond.com](mailto:Cherie.okane@bigpond.com) if interested.

Saturday 25th Nov, 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm Friends of Faith and Light Geelong Meeting. St Mary's Pioneer Room, Level 1 (by lift), 150 Yarra Street, Geelong. . Theme—*The gifts we share in our community.*

RSVP 23/11 Tricia on 0414 672 267 Or Kevin via [kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

Saturday December 2, 10am-1pm, you are invited to a **Presentation, Conversation and Prayer for Parishes On Pope Francis' Encyclical letter Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home** by Sr Caroline Vaitkunas RSM at Holy Spirit Church Hall, Bostock Ave Manifold Heights. To register, please contact the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or email [bellpark@cam.org.au](mailto:bellpark@cam.org.au) by Monday Nov 27. This is a free event and a light lunch will be provided.

### Mannya Hall Fund raising :

You can make a payment *in person* at the Parish Office or via *direct bank transfer* to BSB 063 504 acc 008 005 74. Reference : **surname & hall.**



'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 Coffee By Design, Belmont

**\* Mill Market donation & Book Fair drop off** at Clairvaux Hall on Saturdays 9am and 10am.



### To assist the Mannya 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 :** Wisdom 6:12-16 ; Ps 62:2-8 ; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ; Matthew 25:1-13

**Next Week's Readings :** Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 ; Ps 127:1-5 ; Thessalonians 5:1-6 ; Matthew 25:14-30 or Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

