



## 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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14th April 2024

Third Sunday of Easter Year B

### Easter at St Bernard's

The Liturgy team would like to thank everyone who contributed to and participated in any way in our Sacred Triduum ceremonies (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil). **Our biggest thanks go to Fr Sang who led us gently and prayerfully through them all and provided much for us to reflect on in his homilies. Another special word of thanks** goes to Marina Dias for all her work in contacting participants, preparing PowerPoints and running sheets, and making sure everything that was needed was available.

We were very blessed to have the assistance of the visiting Redemptorist seminarians, Siven, Minh and Hans, whose presence added a different dimension of prayerfulness to the ceremonies.

**At the Easter Vigil we welcomed Adam and Meredith into our Catholic faith and the community of St Bernard's following their journey of preparation through the RCIA process. We pray that their faith will deepen grow as they continue to learn about the mysteries of faith that have been handed on to us.**

Last, but by no means least, a **big** "Thank You" to all who attended. Your presence helped to build our worshipping community at this time, enabling each of us to enter into the spirit and prayerfulness of each occasion fully, consciously and actively (cf Vatican 11 *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #14). May the blessings and joy of Easter remain alive in each of us.



*Our community prays :  
For those who have died:*

**John O'Bourne**

*For those who are nwell:*

**Sofia Solistyo**

**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:*

**Lilly Mae Babie**

**Fergus Kavanagh**

**Mila & Koa Milanovic**



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

St Bernard's Book Fair is fast approaching.

*Peter & Margaret Wills* have been busy throughout the year, collecting & sorting your donated books.

*The Book Fair is a significant fund-raiser for the Parish & your contributions are sincerely appreciated.*

This year we are also asking all bakers to provide SCONES for the *Scrumptious Scone Stall*.

**Thank you for your past support.**

We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May.**

#### How you can help?

- Sort through your shelves & bring books we can sell, to Clairvaux Hall on **Sat 20<sup>th</sup> or Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April, between 9 & 10am**, or drop off at the Parish Office (before Fri 26<sup>th</sup> April). (No magazines or textbooks thank you) **NOTE : Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April is the final collection date anywhere**, to allow time for sorting.
- Pick up a **flyer** from the church foyer & **display** it at your **workplace**.
- Spread the word through your **social media contacts**.
- Your **freshly baked scones** (plain, savoury or fruit) can be **delivered to the Hall** on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May between 5-5.45 pm, or on Sunday morning.
- Bring your family & friends & **COME ALONG & browse** through a huge selection of *quality second-hand books - fiction, non-fiction & children's books*, jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs & CDs - all at **bargain prices**.
- Take home some freshly baked scones, from the **Scrumptious Scone Stall**.
- Helpers** are needed for the **pack up at 2pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May.**  
*Something for everyone!*



On **Divine Mercy Sunday**, 7th April, Pope Francis noted that the 'fullness of life' comes not from the pursuit of transitory pleasure but is 'realised in Jesus'.

'To have life,' the Pope said, 'it is enough to fix one's eyes on the crucified and risen Jesus, encountering him in the sacraments and in prayer, recognising that he is present, believing in him, letting oneself be touched by his grace and guided by his example, experiencing the joy of loving like him. Every living encounter with Jesus enables us to have more life.'



Pope Francis presented this message in contrast with today's prevalent narratives of what constitutes a good life and the pursuit of happiness, observing that it is 'a frenetic race to enjoy and possess many things.' Cautioning against this materialistic and myopic view, he stressed that 'by following the path of pleasure and power one does not find happiness'.

'Indeed, many aspects of existence remain unanswered, such as love, the inevitable experiences of pain, of limitations, and of death. And then the dream we all have in common remains unfulfilled,' the Pope continued. Edited extract Cathnews

### St Bernard's Parish Groups—Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group Meetings, if possible, are held around the tabernacle on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10 am in the Church.

Following is a time of praise and worship (songs) there are prayers of petition, proclamation of and reflection on the day's readings and sharing time.

Our hope is that our Prayers in Love, even in our brokenness, trusting in the Power of the Holy Spirit, will be pleasing to God. Some members stay for Mass at midday and the Rosary.

Please contact the Parish Office 52432739 or [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au) for more information.



### Reflecting on this Gospel passage, Pope Francis draws our attention to the three key verbs: look, touch, and eat.

'To look is not only to see,' the Pope points out, adding that 'it is more; it also involves intention, will.' When Jesus asks the disciples to look at his hands and feet, therefore, he is not only offering visual proof of identity. Rather, Jesus is inviting his disciples to look at his wounded limbs as 'a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look

the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others.' Jesus' wounds are still present for those with the courage to look at them.

Similarly, Jesus' invitation to the disciples to confirm his presence by touch has a teaching element too. 'By inviting the disciples to touch him,' the Pope suggests, 'Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance".' Having seen the wounds, we must be close to the wounded.

Finally, by eating with his disciples Jesus again did more than prove he was physically present at that specific moment. As the Pope points out, 'eating, when we do so together, among family or friends ... becomes an expression of love, and expression of communion.'

Once again, the Gospel suggests Jesus' action had a deeper meaning about Jesus' continuing presence among his followers. As St Augustine said of the Eucharist, we become what we consume, which means something truly amazing: *The Risen Jesus still eats with us!*

Nick Brodie

Next Sunday we celebrate

### Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.

**Good Shepherd**



**Accommodation** Urgently needed for a family of 7, preferably in the Belmont/Highton area.

If you can help, please contact the Parish Office 52432739 or [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au)

## St Bernard's Holy Week Reflection 2024

### Palm Sunday

Hans, Sivens, and I arrived at St. Bernard's Parish in Belmont on Palm Vigil Sunday, 2024, to a warm welcome from Fr. Sang Ho. We saw Sang already at work in the parish, decorating the palm tree in the front foyer in preparation for the Mass. He showed us the presbytery, where we would be staying for a week.

Palm Sunday was a Sunday of joy, and the parishioners looked happy with palms in their hands as they processed from the foyer to the church: "*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*" The King who sat on the colt on Palm Sunday was the same King who was on the Cross of Calvary.

### Tenebrae & The Stations of the Cross



Something that I experienced differently at St Bernard's parish was the Tenebrae service and the reflection on Stations of the Cross in a contemporary context.

The contrasting images of the darkness of the world and the light of Christ of Tenebrae reminded me of John's Gospel: "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*" (Jn 8:12)

Contemporary reflections on the Station of the Cross enabled the people of God to reflect on their relationship with Jesus and encouraged everyone to take part in making a better world—a world of justice, peace, consolation, and hope.

### Happy Easter

Back to the presbytery. Sang was the master chef in the house. He did most of the cooking, and we did the washing up. Hans and Sivens prepared a healthy Indonesian dish that left a lasting impression on Sang. No doubt, the fish menu was the most preferred, and Sang decided to take on the challenge of having fruit for his dessert.

Thank you, Fr. Sang, for your hospitality, and thank you to everyone we met at St. Bernard's Parish.

We very much enjoyed our stay and remember St. Bernard's parishes in our prayers. *Hans, Minh and Siven CSSR.*



L to R— Siven, Angel (Altar Server), Fr Sang, Minh, Hans

### Ghosts, meals and humanity

When Jesus appeared to them, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, a sort of projection of a human image on the screen of the world but with no human depth and vitality. In fact, ghosts seem to drain life and warmth from those they encounter.

The disciples became convinced that they were in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ when he assumed a characteristic way of acting – sharing a companionable meal (of fish).

His bodily presence of that sort is now withdrawn from us. But we are now encountered by him in the Mass which has many dimensions, one of which is that of a sacred meal. When we share in the sacramental signs of his Real Presence in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion, he brings us the life and warmth of the Risen Son.

In fact, he shares his very life with us, and because his life is gloriously fully human, we become less ghost-like as he heals those parts of our personality which drain goodness and vitality from the world.

We could take a moment to pray to take greater opportunities to share in the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. This will move us from the illusion of being alive to that vitality which is nourished by his glorified humanity. *Fr Michael Tate*



## 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 ...

**Please return Project Compassion boxes and envelopes as soon as possible.**



**Donations of 8ply wool** can be left in the children's liturgy room. Knitters, please help yourself from the supply in the cupboard.

## The Geelong Community ...

**Holy Spirit Pilgrimage (2024):** Europe Pilgrimage and Tour (Medjugorje, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland) from 12/09/2024-27/09/2024; Spiritual Director: Fr Emmanuel-tv. Contact us ASAP for ; Tel:(08)93413079; Email: [holyspiritp@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritp@gmail.com); [fremmanueltv@gmail.com](mailto:fremmanueltv@gmail.com)

## The Wider Community.....

Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with **Palms** is for you? Wanting to share your skills with communities in the Pacific, Asia or Africa to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty?

Come to **Palms' Discovery information session** at Sacred Heart Primary School, Oakleigh on 22 April 5.30pm to 6.30pm or phone 02 9560 5333 or visit [palms@palms.org.au](http://palms@palms.org.au)



**Mission: Transform Lives**  
- theirs...and yours

[www.cathnews.com.au](http://www.cathnews.com.au) A free website, keeping you in touch with **catholic news** around the world.

Experience the peace of Jesus Christ.  
Offer the peace of Christ to others.

**The peace of Christ seeks healing for the hurting.  
The peace of Christ confronts the powerful.  
The peace of Christ calms the troubled.  
The peace of Christ builds community.  
The peace of Christ will not stand for injustice.  
The peace of Christ quiets our spirits.  
The peace of Christ goes beyond time.**

You are at peace because you have experienced the peace of Christ.

**We will take the peace of Christ with us as we go out into the world.**

'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: 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** - 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 3:13-15. 17-19 ; Ps 4:2.4.7.9 ;  
1 John 2:1-5 ; Luke 24:35-48

**Next Week's Readings :** Acts 4:8-12 ;  
Ps 117:1.8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29 ;  
1 John 3:1-2 ; John 10:11-18

