



## 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**

Brendan Flanagan (Principal)

**03 5243 2739**

[sang.ho@cam.org.au](mailto:sang.ho@cam.org.au)

[marina.dias@cam.org.au](mailto:marina.dias@cam.org.au)

[Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au](mailto:Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au)

[Karen.Marshall@cam.org.au](mailto:Karen.Marshall@cam.org.au)

**45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216**

[bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au](mailto:bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au)

17th March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

### Reflection

In this fifth week of Lent, we once again use the readings of year A in conjunction of third scrutiny for our RCIA candidates.



The readings reflect death and rising from the dead take many forms.

In Ezekiel, death is akin to hopelessness, and resurrection is its reversal - *the infusion of hope into an exiled, suffering community.*

For St Paul, resurrection is linked with *righteousness and new life with Christ through the death of sin.*

And in the Gospel, the raising of Lazarus is a literal, physical return to life from death, and with it a shift *from mourning to celebration.*

Consider the areas of death in your own life and in the world around you - those spaces of hopelessness, brokenness, and mourning.

What spaces need new life, and what would resurrection look like in those spaces.

*Mahri Leonard-Fleckman*

Please Note **Wed 20th March** the morning **Mass is cancelled** as Fr Sang will be at the Chrism Mass.

### Easter at St Bernard's

Wed 20th March **7.30pm** Penitential Service (*This Wednesday*)

Mon 25th March **7.30pm** Tenebrae quiet prayer

Tenebrae is Latin for 'darkness' or 'shadows'. Tenebrae, from the Middle Ages recreates the emotional aspects of the Passion. As Tenebrae progresses, candles are extinguished except for one which symbolizes the light of Christ. Tenebrae ends in darkness and with a striking sound, the 'Strepitus' that signifies the closing of the Tomb and the tumult in Heaven

Holy Thursday **7.30pm** Mass : The Lord's Supper  
*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Good Friday **10.00am** The Stations of the Cross  
**3.00pm** The Passion of the Lord

Easter Vigil **7.30pm** Mass

Easter Sunday **9.00am & 10.30am** Mass

### Our community prays :

*For those who have died:*

**Margaret Seiger**

*For those who are unwell:*

**Joan Hepworth**

**Riley Swander**

**Christie Raj**

**Isobel Symons**

**David Butler**

**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**



*We welcome for Baptism:*

**Mary Rose van Rensburg**

**Ashley Locaylocay**

**Oscar Angus & Theia Lyons**

**Harvey & Georgina Pancic**

**Jack & Stevie Light**

We ask that you  
keep our RCIA  
candidates

### Adam & Meredith

in your prayers as  
they move through  
their final stage of  
preparation to  
become Catholics  
at Easter

## Reflection

On this last Sunday in Lent Lazarus is given to us to help us think about the tombs in which we lie hidden and the life to which we are called. The bad spirit seduces most of us into having some form of secretive life. It might be a secret we can't tell, a sin we can't confess or a memory we want to bury. At its worst it can be a lifestyle or a pattern of unethical behaviour we have divorced from the rest of our lives. We may even con ourselves into believing that all of this is normal and 'not so bad'.



These tombs often look similar. They seem small on the surface, but as we get away with our secrets we bury ourselves in them more deeply. We jealously guard the entrance, displacing energy to defend our tombs and we're ashamed if anyone rolls away the stone and sees the mess inside.

But this Sunday Jesus stands at the entrance of our tombs and calls us out of them. We're asked to face down the bad spirits that keep us locked in secrecy, to move away from shame, embrace repentance, recognise the price to be paid for being true to what's best in ourselves and *we're invited to know the light and life of Christ's healing and forgiveness.*

No one can pretend that this journey is easy, but it's what Lent is all about: *the journey from the tomb of our own particular deaths, through penance to the new life of Easter.* May this Eucharist allow us to see the Lord stand at our tomb and gently call us by name, 'Come forth'. And at His word may we be unbound and let go free.

*Edited extract Fr Richard Leonard SJ*

## St Bernard's Parish Groups—Morning Tea 9 am Mass Group

Over the last 19 years a regular group of nine ladies coordinated by Doris Irwin, have provided welcoming hospitality at the 9 am mass, to all who would like to meet other community members and have a chat. The Parish is grateful for their long service commitment to the Parish over this time.

The Café came to life again post covid in February 2023, now doing great work within the Parish community. The café is open between February and December, the ladies have a well earned rest in January.

For many years they sponsored a Manny schoolboy's education.

They continue offering the community morning tea and appreciate a gold coin donation to the Parish Manny project. We thank cafe patrons for their Manny donations of \$1058 in 2023.

*Two volunteers are required to assist on the fifth Sunday of the month or as an emergency if one of the regulars are away.*

Please contact the Parish Office 52432739 or [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au) if you are interested in volunteering with this group, to assist Doris and the team.

## Project Compassion—For Future Generations

The word 'caritas' means *love*. The work of Caritas Australia is a heartfelt response to the needs of the world, one that gives expression to our shared hope. Caritas always works in partnership with others.

During Lent, as we have listened to the experience of people we have helped through our support of Project Compassion, we will have noticed that life-giving partnerships with groups on the ground in many countries make this possible.



**Prayer of Intercession** - *We pray for all who go out of their way to bring God's love to others, especially to those most in need. We pray in gratitude for the many partners of Caritas Australia who ensure our contributions to Project Compassion reach the places they are needed. Lord, hear us.*

## Slavery Free Chocolate

As Easter is fast approaching, we are calling for everyone to consider the ethical dimensions of their purchases; we ask you to make sure your Easter chocolate is slavery free.

As Pope Francis says: 'Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act'

Slavery-free chocolate is chocolate that is certified. Look for chocolate with one of the three logos Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Cocoa Horizons.



## The Scrutinies



In recent weeks, we have heard Fr Sang refer to *the Scrutinies* celebrated by our catechumens and candidates. These are part of a series of rites belonging to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) of Adults) that are celebrated during the season of Lent on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays

*What are the Scrutinies, and what is their significance?*

'Some people feel quite uncomfortable with the term 'scrutiny'. The word 'scrutinize' means to examine in minute detail, and we may feel that it is intrusive or hypocritical to pry into the lives and motives of those who wish to join the church. Because of those misgivings, the term 'rites of healing and strengthening' is sometimes used instead. The ritual book says that the purpose of the scrutinies is to 'heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect' and 'to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life'. The rite also describes the scrutinies as 'rites for self-searching and repentance'. (RCIA 128). Every time we celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we ask the questions, 'Do you renounce Satan... and all his works...and all his empty promises?' These are serious questions. We should consider them carefully before answering. And that is what the elect, those preparing to be baptised at the Easter Vigil, spend much of Lent doing.

For those who are making their final preparation for baptism, Lent is a time of purification and enlightenment. In the light of God's word, they examine their lives and ask the entire Christian community to pray that whatever is weak and sinful within them may be eliminated and that whatever is good and holy may be affirmed.'

When the Scrutinies are celebrated within the Mass, they occur after the homily when 'a litany of intercession, the power of Jesus over all sin is proclaimed. A prayer is then said over the elect asking for their deliverance and strengthening. The presider, catechists, sponsors and other members of the community may also lay their hands on the heads of the elect in an ancient sign of forgiveness, healing and empowerment. Because the entire community will renew its baptismal promises at Easter, we all take this opportunity to examine our way of life and ask ourselves whether we are truly living as Christ's disciples, as people of the Gospel.'

It is recommended that Parishes use 'the Gospels of Year A in Years B and C when there are catechumens because these scriptures are of major importance in regard to Christian initiation (LMI 97). They are the stories of the Samaritan woman who meets Jesus at the well, the man born blind who is healed and who comes to faith, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead. By examining ourselves through these readings, we come to know that we have become dry and barren, that we have been blinded, and that we have become deadened through sin.

When we and the elect are asked at Easter to renounce Satan, evil works and empty promises, our answer can be a thoughtful, strong and heartfelt "I do".' *Elizabeth Harrington*

## World Water Day 22 March.

We associate water with a bountiful and well-provided life. It is a gift. Water is also a gift that we often take for granted. Years of drought and of drying rivers, however, have shown that we need to care for it. It can turn from abundance to scarcity. We know that if water fails, our food, our security from fire and flood and our liveable environment will also come under threat.



In developing nations the burden of climate change and associated drought will fall most heavily on the poor. It will affect the crops and herds they live on, the quality of the water they drink and the washing on which hygiene and health depend. Lack of water can easily develop into famine. The shortage of water will also lead to competition for it between nations and corporations. Instead of being a gift that is free for all in society, it will become a prized commodity to be bought and sold on the market, with the inevitable further impoverishment of the poor.

When we think of water we see the importance of all the delicate relationships that make up our world, and the need to pay attention to them in the way in which we work and live. That has been the emphasis of Pope Francis when he speaks of attending both to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth.

We are led to see that water is not an unfailing resource to be used for private gain. It is a gift to our society and to our world. And as a gift it lays on us a mission. We are required to pay attention to all the factors that affect rainfall and drought, and order our society in a way that makes demands on everyone, but also benefits everyone, especially the most poor.

*Edited extract Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ*

## 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 ....

**On Fridays during Lent** Stations of the Cross will be prayed **before the Midday Mass at 11.30am**

**Lenten Reflections** Mondays 10.00am & 7.30pm in the Church. Enquiries the Parish Office 5243 2739 or [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au)

## The Geelong Community ...

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30 -4.00pm. **Rescheduled due to heat. Faith and Light Geelong** St Mary's Parish Offices, ground floor, 150 Yarra Street. Share your Lenten journey with the Gospel, Prayer, & Activities Includes shared Afternoon Tea. Enquiries : Tricia 0414672267

Wednesday, 20th March at 10:30am **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. All are warmly invited to attend.

Thursday, 21st March, 6.30 pm **A journey through the Passion of Christ** at Holy Family Church, Bell Park. We invite you to a prayerful and spiritual lenten experience including Holy Mass and healing adoration with Fr. Rojan George VC - Director of Vincentian Retreat Centre in Melbourne.

Sunday 24 March 5pm, Music at the Basilica invites you to our **Easter Concert** at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong. This year the Windfire Choir, orchestra and soloists will present the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré, Requiem for solo cello by Australian Composer, Peter Sculthorpe and the Australian premier of Septem Verba for violin and organ by Fredrick Frahm Tickets from [www.trybooking.com/CODRN](http://www.trybooking.com/CODRN).

## Clean Up Australia - March Campaign

A great opportunity during this month to conserve the environment, eliminate litter and reduce waste pollution.

Some neighbourhood actions you might like to consider - Pick up litter, adopt a highway, report graffiti, organise a neighbourhood clean up. To assist you, there is some Clean Up Aust. equipment such gloves, litter bags etc. in the Church storeroom next to the toilets.

The Graffiti Hotline is 03 5272 4319 or email [graffiti@geelongcity.vic.gov.au](mailto:graffiti@geelongcity.vic.gov.au)

*Laudato Si Goal 1: Cry of the Earth*



## Child Safety at St Bernard's

There are new Victorian **Child Safe Standards** included in legislation. It is now a criminal offence if you **fail to report** suspected abuse. There are copies of St Bernard's policies available from the Office & on the web site. These underpin our parish as a **Child Safe** and **Child Friendly Environment**.



'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** 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 **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 :** Ez 37:12-14 ; Ps 129 ; Romans 8:8-11 ; John 11:1-45

**Next Week's Readings :** Isaiah 50:4 -7 ; Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24 ; Philippians 2:6-11 ; Mark 14:1-15:47

