



St Bernard's Parish

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18th February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Year B

Reflection

Discussing this Gospel, Pope Francis once said that **'Lent is a time of repentance, yes, but it is not a time of sorrow!'**

The Pope wanted to remind Christians that Lent is a season of **'a joyous and serious commitment to strip ourselves of our selfishness ... and to renew ourselves according to the grace of our Baptism.'** Note his emphasis on it being 'joyous'.

In one of his major teaching documents, *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Pope begins as follows: *'The Joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.'* He goes on to say that **'With Christ joy is constantly born anew.'** This is the kind of Lent we should all strive for: a joyful one.

Later in the same document the Pope expresses concern about joyless seriousness. *'There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.'*

The Pope then reminds us that *'Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.'* Our Lent should be a time of joyful response to that love. Fasts and penances should be helping us find joy in Christ, not misery. After all, Jesus emerged from the desert proclaiming 'Good News'. *Nick Brodie, Liturgy Help*



Our community prays :

For those who have died:

Marie Carlon

Mayra Plunkett

Margaret Pitcher

Lance Douglas Collins

For those who are unwell:

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

Joan Hepworth

Riley Swander

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

We welcome for Baptism:

Elanor Whitley



Project Compassion—For All Future Generations

Project Compassion provides us with an opportunity in which we try to make the world a better and more just place for all. It acts as a timely reminder that, by putting our faith and compassion in action today, we have the power to create lasting change for generations to come.

The theme for Project Compassion is **For All Future Generations**. Inspired by the Bible's story of the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-20), this theme reminds us that the good that we do today will create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are in the foyer



Project Compassion Prayer 2024

God of all hope, we pray for our world with all its beauty and need. We thank you for the love in our lives that is a mirror of your unending love.

May all creation know your compassion this Lent and may we take courage to share it, especially with those who don't have what they need.

In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses: 'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous things.

Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, move us to act in the company of your Spirit, showing compassion and acting for justice to renew the face of the Earth, now and for all future generations.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to wash mass cloths, baptismal towels and Fr Sang's vestments.

Please contact the Parish office on 5243 2739 if you can assist.

Change of heart

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God.

This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go *'against the flow'* of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an *'easy option'* that we are called to live. Jesus' call to **'repent and believe'** is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

Liturgy Help

Prayer for Peace

This Lent we pray for peace and justice in our world, and the end to conflict and acrimony.

Pope John Paul 11 Peace Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are Yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you" – please grant us peace.

*Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace.*

*Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of
peace.*

May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.

*May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.
Amen'*

World Day of the Sick

In his message to mark the 32nd World Day of the Sick on February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pope Francis reflected on the way serious illness could cause vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity.



World Day of the Sick

World Day of the Sick is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care, both in health care institutions and within families and communities.

Bishop Vincent Long, the Bishop Delegate for Health for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said compassion was at the heart of Catholic healthcare services.

'This is a day to honour those providing tenderness and compassion to people in their care, and pray for the sick, vulnerable and poor who are at the heart of the Church.'

Catholic Health Australia CEO Jason Kara said Pope Francis' message urges the community to remember both the sick and the people who are caring for them.

'World Day of the Sick is an opportunity for us to reflect on the needs of those who turn to Catholic health and aged care services for their care and compassion,' Mr Kara said.

'Every day our staff and clinicians commit to our mission to help the poor, the sick and marginalised, building on the great legacy of the Sisters who were the first to care for the sick in our community.'

Edited extract Cathnews

Don't reduce women's role in Church to question of ministry: Pope

The importance of women in the Church cannot be *'reduced'* to the question of ministry, Pope Francis told members of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The Pope said in his prepared text: *'I want to say one thing about women's ministry. The Church is woman, the Church is mother, the Church has its figure in Mary, and the Church-woman, whose figure is Mary, is greater than Peter; that is, it is something else.'*

'One cannot reduce everything to ministry. The woman in herself has a very great significance in the Church-as-woman, without reducing it to ministry. This is why I said that every instance of reform in the Church is always a question of spousal fidelity, because it (the Church) is woman.'

The more Catholics are educated about the liturgy and by the liturgy, he said, the more the liturgy will be that place of encounter. Liturgical formation is not something for *'a few experts'* but *should be a goal for all Catholics.*

Edited extract Cathnews

St Bernard's Parish Groups Passionist Family Group

The Higgs Family Group was formed when the Passionist Family Group was first established in the Parish of St Bernard's in August 1992. It was one of the eight original groups.

It is still an active group today although some of the faces have changed. We have ten family units representing fifteen adults of which 10 are female.

We are a social group that meets on the fourth weekend of the month. Invitations are sent out the two weeks prior.

We meet in a variety of places and share the organizing so that it doesn't fall to one family. In January, an annual calendar is prepared indicating the planned monthly dates and the family unit responsible for organising the event.

It is not about going places but more about catching up for a chat. Most events are held in the afternoon due to people feeling more comfortable going out during daylight hours. We have cuppas at various coffee shops around Geelong, afternoon tea in the Botanic Gardens, occasional walks for the more mobile, attendance at exhibitions in Geelong, meals at restaurants and at the homes of family group members and supporting parish functions including the St Bernard's Day lunch and the school fete. When we have a function not everyone can always attend. We found that on average more than half the members come to an event, but not always the same ones.

We have one family who are the group's contact point and who maintain the records, another member who makes reminder calls each month to those responsible for that month's activity, other members provide transportation or support as needed or just drop in to say hello.

The Family Groups' aim to foster a community of Spirit in the Parish is in line with St Bernard's being a welcoming Parish. If you are interested in the possibility of a new group or joining an existing Passionist Family group please contact the Parish Office: 52432739 or belmont@cam.org.au



The reason for the Season of Lent

This quote from the Preface of Lent I may seem surprising to those people who are accustomed to thinking of Lent solely as a time of penance: *'Each year, you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed'*.

Lent is certainly a period marked by seriousness, but, contrary to certain stereotypes, it is also a time of joy.

Lent calls the Church to confront both individual and collective sin. We become aware of our sinfulness, however, not by remaining fixated on ourselves, but by contemplating the love of God revealed by the Son in the Spirit. The readings for Mass during Lent certainly denounce sin but at the same time proclaim the divine mercy which is always ready to forgive. The call to conversion which we hear again and again in the prayers and scriptures of the Lenten season is not intended to overwhelm us with guilt and fear; it is an invitation to stand erect once more as people who are loved and forgiven by God.

The works of Lent – *prayer, fasting and almsgiving* – do not have value in themselves, as the scriptures we heard proclaimed on Ash Wednesday clearly reminded us. The Christian practice of fasting and almsgiving is not an ascetical performance or some form of self-imposed penitential punishment but aims at leading us to interior conversion. Fasting at certain times helps us to keep, or to rediscover, mastery over our instincts. *We fast in order to share our time and our treasure with an attitude of love towards God and others.*

Since its beginning, the 'reason for the season' of Lent has been a time of preparation for Easter, as the words of the Lenten Preface I quoted above indicate. The first reading of each Sunday of Lent recalls the wonderful work of God among the Hebrew people. At the Easter Vigil, we hear these stories again, starting with creation, the first step in God's universal plan of salvation.

Easter is the liturgical and sacramental celebration of renewal, of the passage from death to life, of new birth through our participation in the death and resurrection of Christ in baptism.

Lent is not a period of guilt-laden introspection, but a joyful walk towards the great season of Easter, a progression in the Church toward the summit of the liturgical year.

Edited extract Elizabeth Harrington, Liturgy Lines



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 after the Midday Mass

Lenten Reflections - 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, "A Resurrected Life." Resource Booklet \$5.

Enquiries please contact the Parish Office on 5243 2739 or email belmont@cam.org.au

The Geelong Community ...

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

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 Enrolments for Year 7 close on Friday 3 May 2024.

The Wider Community.....

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>

Child Safety at St Bernard's

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to "...find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated."



Temptation?

Liturgy Help

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph's carpentry business and not respond to God's call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

'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 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 : Genesis 9:8-15 ; Ps 24:4-9 ; 1 Peter 3:18-22 ; Mark 1:12-15

Next Week's Readings :

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18 ;
Ps 115:10. 15-19 ; Romans 8:31-34 ;
Mark 9:2-10

