



St Bernard's Parish

74 Fryers Rd Belmont 3216 belmont@cam.org.au 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

marina.dias@cam.org.au

Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au

belmont@cam.org.au

45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216

bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au

19th November 2023

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Reflection

It is not enough that we wait patiently. We are expected to be industrious as we await the advent of the reign of God. We have all been entrusted with talents that really belong to God, and we must use these talents to the best of our ability in the interim between the Lord's departure and his final return. The ideal wisdom figure in the first reading is a model of such industriousness.

Fidelity to the reign of God requires that we be willing to take risks. We do not know the time of the Lord's coming, and so there will have to be a kind of tentativeness to all of our plans. We will never be able to be certain that they will be brought to fruition. We must spend and be spent without the assurance that we will be able to reap the rewards of our investment. To *refuse to risk is to refuse to trust.*

If we have been wise and have industriously employed the Lord's talents, which were entrusted to us, we will be richly rewarded. However, if we have not realised the potential that is possessed by our talents, and if we have not employed them as they were meant to be employed, we will be punished. The foolish man in the gospel knew that the householder was exacting. He had some idea of what to expect. He made his choice and he had to accept the consequences of that choice.

Dianne Bergant CSA



Our community prays :

For those who have died:

Cesare D'Amico

Brian Allen

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

We welcome for Baptism:

Lucy & Eamonn Daly



St. Bernard's Parish Confirmation

This weekend St Bernard's Parish welcomes our Confirmation candidates, their families and Bishop Martin Ashe who will confirm these candidates at 3pm this Saturday and at 1pm and 3:30pm on Sunday.

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.

The Confirmation students at Clairvaux are learning what it means to be of service to others. They will be attending the weekday Masses on *Wednesday 29th Nov and Friday 1st Dec.* Parishioners are invited to attend the normal weekday Mass on these dates and stay for coffee and supper afterwards.

Congratulations

Monica Baker who celebrated her 100th Birthday on November 9th



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.



Reflection

As Catholics we have no problem with the time-bound nature of the Bible. In fact, we appreciate it, believing that the scriptures deserve to be read within their context, and also need careful interpretation. And while the Catholic Feminist Association may not choose to have today's first reading as the opening text at their next convention, we would be mistaken to hear it only in terms of our world today.

The Book of Proverbs is a distillation of sayings and teachings which had grown up over hundreds of years, most probably from Rabbis and Scribes. *Its world is a vastly different one to ours.* This is clearly seen in the tasks of the 'capable wife'. She is praised for her work with wool, flax, in the vineyard and in real estate. It's only in the context of an agrarian society that the power of this text makes sense.

Until quite recently, women in Palestinian society, and in wider society for that matter, were considered the 'possessions' of their husbands. They could be bought, sold, divorced, or killed without any appeal to the law. Wives in this society had no legally recognised human rights. *They were expected to serve and shut up.*

By contrast, then, this text from the Book of Proverbs, which can seem so old-fashioned to us, was a liberating text in its day. A woman's right to work is not only defended, but also extolled. *She is praised for her creativity, wisdom, goodness, strength, sense of justice, generosity, joy and faith.* In any age and for either gender this is not a bad list of virtues toward which we should all aspire.

And these days of course, through the ongoing revelation of the Spirit, we believe that what the Book of Proverbs expects and praises in a capable wife, we should *equally look for in a capable husband.*

It is almost possible that Jesus had women in mind when he shared the parable of the talents in today's Gospel. What can often get lost in the debates about who should be ordained in today's Church, is that women have always and still 'lead' *the Church in powerful and long-lasting ways.* From the extraordinary abilities of religious and lay women in Catholic welfare, education, healthcare, overseas missions and theological reflections, to wives and mothers whose daily witness to the fidelity and goodness of God, this all reveals in innumerable ways the power of the parable of the talents. The reality is that if it were not for women's leadership, commitment and faith, it would be hard to see how the Church could survive. We would not be able to continue almost all of our ministries.

None of this minimises the pain and hurt some women have experienced at the hands of the Church. Some feel as though their particular contribution to the life of the Church has not been fully realised.

All we can hope and pray for is that we may find ways to use everyone's talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God, and that we may see that everyone's contribution, irrespective of gender, is precious and worthy of praise.

Fr Richard Leonard SJ



Pope marks two-year anniversary of platform, asks for prayers for COP28

Pope Francis has recalled the 2021 launch of the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* that offers useful tools for the care of the environment, our common home. An initiative of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development, the platform offers a shared space assisting the Church in developing responses to the ecological crisis, as described by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* and more specifically in his recent document, *Laudate Deum*.



The *Laudato Si' Action Platform* provides guidance, suggests actions and gives support to families, parishes, dioceses, educational institutions, health facilities, organisations, workers, businesses and even religious communities in efforts to care for our common home.

'I thank those who have joined in this initiative and encourage them to continue on the path of ecological conversion,' Pope Francis said.

The Pontiff then followed by asking to 'pray for the Dubai Climate Change Conference, COP28, which is now close at hand'. Pope Francis will attend the summit and is scheduled to deliver a speech on December 2.

Edited Extract Cathnews

World Day of the Poor—Sunday 19th November

Pope Francis has released his message for the annual World Day of the Poor. He begins his message by stressing that *'a great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity'*.



'We are living', he continues, 'in times that are not particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor. The pressure to adopt an affluent lifestyle increases, while the voices of those dwelling in poverty tend to go unheard.'

In particular, he stresses *'new forms of poverty'*, such as *'peoples caught up in situations of war'*, the *'inhumane treatment'* of many workers, and *'speculation in various sectors'*, which he said had led to *'dramatic price increases that further impoverish many families'*.

'In a word,' he continues, 'whenever we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus.'

Thus, *'the parable of the Good Samaritan [cf. Lk 10:25-37] is not simply a story from the past; it continues to challenge each of us in the here and now of our daily lives. It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian is to become personally involved.'*

Edited extract Cathnews

Ignatian Advent Blessings

Receive a blessing a day during Advent

[Visit—jisa.](#)

Safeguarding Children : Free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience.



Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers, as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps. Order a hard copy or download and view the resource online: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

Prayer Cards for Peace in the Holy Land .

Please collect one after mass.

Laudato Si - Goal 7 - Community Engagement & Participatory Action.

On Wednesday 22nd November, Catholic Earthcare in collaboration with JISA and the Brisbane Laudato Si' Circle are hosting the screening of – **Climate Changers**. Climate Changers is a film all about what leadership looks like in this changing climate. Please note that the film contains some course language.

Registration is essential via this link

<https://caritas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArdequrz8o6dE9rxDri4wdVjeVvp-ZJs4J>

Real Deal update and invitation

Following the table talks held at St. Bernard's, Community members have been working together to find policy solutions for a Real Deal Geelong that address our urgent priority Issues:

- Secure Housing,
- Meaningful Work and the Cost of Living
- Care and Connection.

Join us to hear more about our proposed solutions which will benefit our community.

Participate in the process and show your support for positive action in a Real Deal for Geelong.

Date: **Thursday 7 December**

Location: **Cloverdale Community Centre, 167-169 Purnell Rd, Corio**

Time: **6.30pm for light meal, 7pm sharp start. Finish 9pm.**

Registrations are essential, we expect seats to fill quickly so [BOOK NOW](#).

Learn about our solutions such as :

- Building more social and affordable housing at the Commonwealth Games village site and across Geelong
- Public Transport to Avalon and Lara for local workers
- Establishing a worker-owned Cooperative to make our homes more energy efficient
- Creating safe places for vulnerable community members to go in extreme weather

For further details about our work, see [Real Deal in Geelong](#).

As St. Bernard's Parish is a member of the Real Deal group, we would love to see you at the event to hear about the solutions proposed in this social justice project.

We pray for Mohammad Eleven years on, Mohammad still waits for a visa. The Office of the Immigration Minister, Andrew Giles, has received his application. The immigration lawyers are hopeful, the refugee advocates are hopeful, but perhaps we just need prayer.



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

The Geelong Community ...

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 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

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 by Monday Nov 27. This is a free event and a light lunch will be provided.

The Wider Community.....

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

Tuesday 28th 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 Enquiries: 9412 3333

Cartias Gaza Crisis Appeal—to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the help affected by the conflict. Donate www.caritas.org.au/gaza or 1800 024 413

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 **FULL Circle**, Belmont opposite Car Wash, cnr Roslyn Rd.

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



To assist the Manny 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 : 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

Next Week's Readings : Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17 ; Ps 22:1-3, 5-6 ; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28 ; Matthew 25:31-46

