



St Bernard's Parish

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

03 5243 2739

Parish Team

Fr Sang Ho (Parish Priest)

sang.ho@cam.org.au

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

marina.dias@cam.org.au

Chrissie Puls (Sacramental Coordinator - Tues)

Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au

Karen Marshall (Finance Officer - Wed)

Karen.Marshall@cam.org.au

Clairvaux Catholic School 03 5243 7102

45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216

Brendan Flanagan (Principal)

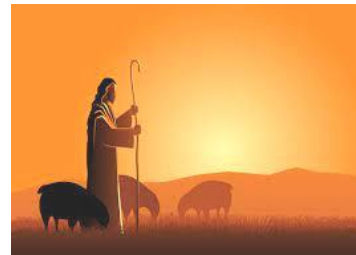
bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au

21st April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B

Reflection

Behind the image of Christ as 'Good Shepherd' lies the tradition that the first king of the house of Judah, David, was originally a young shepherd.



Instead of lording over their subjects like the rulers of other peoples, Israelite kings, as successors of David, were meant to be shepherds for other people. Few kings lived up to this standard. But the long awaited Son of David, the Messiah, was expected to be the 'Good Shepherd' par excellence.

In this weekend's Gospel Jesus solemnly claims this title and role for himself. Unlike the shepherds who run away at the sign of danger, he is prepared to stay with the sheep of his fold and, if necessary, lay down his life to protect them.

Secondly, his relationship with them is one of true knowledge that has biblical sense of implying deep intimacy. Moreover, as Jesus explains, such knowledge is itself a projection of the knowledge and intimacy existing between himself and the Father.

Jesus refers to 'other sheep' not yet of this fold who have to be brought in. Here the Good Shepherd reaches out to us.

At the end of the passage Jesus makes a majestic declaration concerning his death. Outwardly life may seem to be taken from him. But his surrender to death will be a supremely free act of love: the Good Shepherd giving his life to save his sheep. And the self-giving love that impels him to do this is simply an extension of the love of the Father that stands behind his entire mission.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

Our community prays :

For those who have died:

Clare Welsh

Margaret Griffiths

For those who are unwell:

Paul Shanahan

Sofia Sulistyo

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:

Olive Conaughton

Maeve Jolly

Pearl & Elvie Fort

Henry Virgona

Pearl & Juniper Sleight

Will & Jake Stone



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

**Final day to drop off books to be sold -
THIS Sat 27th April at Clairvaux Hall between 9 & 10am.**



Please pick up a **flyer** from the church foyer & **display** it at your **workplace**.

Also, **Helpers** are needed for the **pack up** at **2pm on Sunday 5th May**. Please contact the parish office if you can help on 52432739 or belmont@cam.org.au

**Catholic Care
Collection next
weekend**

**27/28 April
at all masses**

**Save the date—
St Bernard's
Volunteer
lunch—
Sunday 26th
May**

May Mass Count

Each Sunday in May, the archdiocese requests that we count every person attending mass. These figures help with pastoral planning.

**While Marina is on leave
Temporary Parish Office
Hours are :**

Mon: 11am—4pm

Tues: 10am—3pm

Wed: 10.30am—4pm

Thurs: 10am—1pm

Fri: 11.30am—4pm

Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Today is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations.**

Pope Francis tells us:

There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him.



Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

Are you being called to serve? The **Permanent Diaconate** is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

Come & See! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on 4 May 2024 Saturday, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne. For more information: Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au



**St Bernard's
Parish Groups—
Men's Group
meets 2nd
Tuesday of the
month at
10.30am in the
Church Cafe**



The Voice

In the regions where Jesus was an itinerant preacher, three or four flocks could be kept in a communal sheepfold for safety. In the morning, the shepherds would come and, as each called out, the sheep attuned to the sound of his voice would follow to life-giving pasture.

We are surrounded by hundreds of voices clamouring for our attention. We are bombarded by messages, social media incessantly chattering. *Jesus invites us to get attuned to his voice, listening for the distinctive sound of it so that, even if it is faintly heard in a cacophony, we immediately turn toward it so that we can follow it in a life-giving direction.*

How do we get attuned to that voice? By reading the gospels. A Chinese student once told me that the Chinese character for gospel is 'happy sounds'. I like the plural. *Jesus' gospel voice is not a monotone but a polyphony sounding in different ways in different situations.*

As disciples, we have to get onto the same wavelength as that voice so that we can echo it in our own lives. *We become reverberations of Christ's voice in many different situations, helping him to lead others to life-giving pastures.*

We could take a moment to pray for better listening so that we might recognise the gospel voice of Jesus Christ, especially at the moment of death. Then we may hear the one voice we need and long for: *'Today you will be with me in paradise.'*

Fr Michael Tate

Laudato Si News **Ecological Education - Laudato Si Goal 5**

"Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change." (Laudato Si' 202)

Catholic Earth Care Caritas Australia has offered the Thin Ice screening for you here: <https://thiniceclimate.org/> This is a unique exploration of the science behind global warming, and an intimate portrait of a global community of researchers racing to understand our planet's changing climate.



The next Earth Care Caritas *live* screening is on the **30th of April starting at 6pm AEST.**

The film is *'Queen of the Sun'*. You can watch the trailer here: <http://www.queenofthesun.com/about/trailer/>

Queen of the Sun is a film about the importance of bees and the struggles they are facing around the world with the rise of chemical pesticides and herbicides, as well as colony collapse. Julie Armstrong from Act for Bees will be joining us to share a bit about her work and how you can help our pollinators!

To register please head to: https://caritas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvd-urgjkrHdM7OnPn066Wx_NUVdyj2XnB

Pope Francis April Prayer Intention—For the role of women.

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.



'In theory, we all agree that men and women have the same dignity as persons. But this does not play out in practice,' the Pope said.

The Pope provides concrete examples, citing *'discriminatory laws'* currently in force: mandatory dress codes, impediments to ongoing education, denial of assistance for job opportunities. And he recalls that *'in many countries, genital mutilation is still practiced.'* Thus, he said, *'governments need to commit to eliminate'* this discrimination and *'work toward guaranteeing women's human rights.'*

He asks us all to respect women, who unfortunately continue to be treated *'like something to get rid of,'* and who are often victims of violence and abuse in many parts of the world, even in countries claiming to be more advanced. *'And if we don't [respect women],'* the Pope adds, *'our society will not progress.'*

Whereas in some countries, women have access to education and employment, and occupy leadership roles in businesses and organizations, many still do not enjoy the same opportunities as men. In the job market, less than one in two women in the world, work, and women earn 23% less than men. The same goes for education, when we consider that women who are literate are in the minority in some countries. Fewer opportunities translate into enormous economic difficulties.

Edited extract Vatican News



Reflecting on Jesus' discourse on the good shepherd, Pope Francis suggests we focus on three verbs: *hear, know, and follow.*

Firstly, we are called to *'hear the voice of the shepherd'*. This, as the Pope points out, means being open to listening. Too often, the Pope says, *'we are overwhelmed by words and by the urgency to always have something to say or do.'* We need to make time and space and effort for the good shepherd's voice to cut through our

frenetic business and our own noisemaking.

Secondly, we are called to contemplate what it means to be *known by the good shepherd.* This knowing, the Pope points out, means more than knowing superficial facts about us like what we did yesterday. The sort of knowing Jesus speaks of is much more profound: *God understands; He loves.*

Thirdly, having heard the good shepherd's voice and accepting that we are known and loved, each one of us is called to *follow* the good shepherd. *'What do those who follow Christ do?'*, the Pope asks. *'They go where he goes, along the same path, in the same direction.'* This means *seeking the lost, giving practical aid to those in need, and being compassionate to all.*

Ultimately, we are called to allow ourselves to *be shepherded.* Sometimes this means being called out of our wayward tracks, at other times it might mean moving on from familiar pastures. Either way, we are called individually, but *not to travel alone.*

Nick Brodie, Liturgy Help

ANZAC Day 25th April

Lord God, we honour those who have sacrificed their lives so that we can enjoy the freedom and prosperity of this great nation.

We thank you for the courage of those who gave their lives that we might live.

We thank you for the patience and steadfastness of those who, having survived the conflict of war, have carried their scars back to Australia, but have continued to serve their country despite their suffering.

We thank you for the medical personnel who have cared for them, in wartime and in peace, and brought them as much comfort and healing as is possible.

We thank you for the opportunity to remember them as we do at this time each year, making us aware of the value of unselfishness, bravery and sacrifice.

As we honour them and pray for them, we ask that we may be true to the example that they have given, so that we may be ambassadors of freedom and courage to those around us, that we might serve others in the same way they have given themselves for us.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who sacrificed Himself for us and for all people. Amen.



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.

The Wider Community.....

Need to dispose of a vehicle?

If you need to dispose of a vehicle either from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, please consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Geelong Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status which for ten years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors of church-related sexual abuse.

A donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life. If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (frkdillon@outlook.com.au or 0421 777 360) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605 or adam-kaali@hotmail.com).

Catholic Mission will host the recitation of the Rosary every day (from Monday to Friday) in May, and we invite our friends, supporters and collaborators from around the country to join in.



During this virtual Rosary, we will reflect on the mysteries of the Rosary and offer our intentions for peace, healing and blessings for our parishes and the world. This online gathering is open to everyone in the parish community.

To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://tinyurl.com/cmprayer>

Meeting ID: 893 8798 2280 Password 876574

Child Safety at St Bernard's

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>

'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: 11am—4pm
Tues: 10am—3pm
Wed: 10.30am—4pm
Thurs: 10am—1pm
Fri: 11.30am—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 4:8-12 ; Ps 117:1.8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29 ; 1 John 3:1-2 ; John 10:11-18

Next Week's Readings : Acts 9:26-31 ; Ps 21:26-28. 30-32 ; 1 John 3:18-24 ; John 15:1-8

