



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

Karen.Marshall@cam.org.au

45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216

bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au

25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

Year B

Reflection

On this second Sunday of Lent, and every second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Someone once called this particular Sunday the 'Sunday of the three mountains.' We have Abraham on Mount Moriah, the redeeming Christ on Mount Calvary and the Transfigured Christ on Mount Tabor.

We are invited to climb these mountains during Lent. Mountain climbing is hard but when we reach the top, we see things in a different way.

The air is clearer, the light is clearer, we seem closer to God and we are changed by the effort.

S. Joseph Krempa



Transfiguration of Our Lord

Our community prays :

For those who have died:

For those who are unwell:

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

Joan Hepworth

Riley Swander

Christie Raj

We welcome for Baptism:

Henry Pierce

Ayanna Nogueira

Ethan & Xavier Leddin

Meili Perera



Mill Market Stall

Can you help St Bernard's market stall with items from deceased estates or house clearances?

Our market stall is doing very well at the Mill Market and is always looking for more stock.

We take all sorts of crazy items from china, ornaments, records, books, vintage magazines, clocks, boardgames, vases and anything else you think would be of interest.

Please call Marina at the Parish Office (5243 2739) to discuss further or Peter on 0409 969648 to arrange collection if you can't make the hall drop off on Saturday mornings. Thank you for your support.

Real Deal Community Forum March 14, 2024

We are excited to invite you to the Real Deal Community Action Forum hosted by Real Deal Geelong, a coalition of community organisations dedicated to addressing the pressing issues in our community with solutions which will make a difference.

At this forum, we will bring together community members, politicians, and stakeholders to discuss one of the most pressing issues facing Geelong, the housing crisis.

As housing affordability continues to decline and homelessness rises, it's imperative that we come together to take action. We want to see implemented important and urgent solutions, which we have spent the last nine months building. By joining us, you'll have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue, hear from key stakeholders and decision-makers and contribute to positive change in our community.

When: Thursday March 14

Location: Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington Street, Geelong West

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm sharp start. Supper served from 8.30pm

Please [register here](#).

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.

URGENT

St Bernard's Parish Groups - Outdoor Gardening Ministry

The Outdoor Gardening Ministry contributes to the beauty and physical appearance of St. Bernard's church by helping maintain and enhance the attractive parish gardens.

As you arrive at Church and look around and notice how beautiful the gardens are, and not just the rose beds but all the other carefully tended beds around the Church property, it's a pleasure to be a parishioner of St Bernard's. However, this all requires constant maintenance and we would love more gardening enthusiasts to join us in caring for the gardens.

Jobs include: Weeding, deadheading rose heads, fertilizing, and keeping shrubs and various plantings under control. These tasks are not onerous, but the garden does need constant care, it is a living thing. These gardening jobs need to be done whenever appropriate, but not on a weekly or fortnightly basis, but as the need arises.

Bill and I are happy to share our skills and knowledge if you feel you can assist in any way. We would really appreciate having you share this ministry with us in caring for the garden, please contact the Church Office E: belmont@cam.org.au P: 52432739.

Thanks and regards Rita and Bill Poel



Project Compassion—For Future Generations

22-year-old Ronita lives with her husband and two children in a Barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family.

Thankfully, Ronita was given a second chance at completing her studies when she heard about the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ's Alternative Learning System (ALS) program, Ronita was able to re-enroll in her studies, and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child, Egzy Grey.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre which she hopes will allow her to support her family while she continues her studies.

With the support of the FCJ, Ronita has overcome tremendous obstacles to enjoy better employment prospects and a brighter future for her whole family. *'I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself,' she said, 'I feel hopeful for the future ... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you.'*

Prayer of Intercession - We pray for gratitude for the wonder of faith in God and the beauty of life. May our vision be broad and deep as we embrace people in great need through our support of Project Compassion, organized by Caritas Australia. Lord, hear us.

Do you want to fast this Lent ? (In the words of Pope Francis)

- *Fast from hurting words and say kind words*
- *Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude*
- *Fast from anger and be filled with patience*
- *Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope*
- *Fast from worries and have trust in God*
- *Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity*
- *Fast from pressures and be prayerful*
- *Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy*
- *Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others*
- *Fast from grudges and be reconciled*
- *Fast from words and be silent so you can listen*



In a social media era, make private time for God: Pope

Pope Francis opened the Lenten season with a procession and Mass on Ash Wednesday, telling Catholics to carve out a silent space for God amid the buzz of the digital era in which little remains private.

In his homily, the pope focused on the emphasis the day's scripture readings places on praying, fasting and giving alms *'in secret,'* saying Jesus's invitation to the disciples to *'go to your room'* to do these things instead of seeking public recognition for them is at the heart of the Lenten season.



Going to one's room, in this sense, he said, *'means journeying from without to within, so that our whole life, including our relationship with God, is not reduced to mere outward show, a frame without a picture, a draping of the soul, but is born from within and reflects the movements of our heart.'*

'Without realizing it, we find ourselves no longer having an 'inner chamber' in which we can stop and care for ourselves, immersed as we are in a world in which everything, including our emotions and deepest feelings, has to become 'social',' he said.

In the social media era, *'Even the most tragic and painful experiences risk not having a quiet place where they can be kept. Everything has to be exposed, shown off, fed to the gossip mill of the moment,'* he said.

However, Francis said God's invitation for Lent is to *'Enter into the secret, return to the centre of yourself.'*

'Precisely there, where so many fears, feelings of guilt and sin are lurking, precisely there the Lord has descended in order to heal and cleanse you,' he said. Cathnews

Catholics encouraged to reflect on implications of damning report



The Productivity Commission last week released its report on the *Closing the Gap* agreement. In 2020, all Australian governments committed to 16 targets to tackle Aboriginal disadvantage by improving outcomes for First Nations peoples.

The latest report has found that improvement will continue to fail without fundamental changes, adding that successive governments have *'failed to fully grasp'* the challenges.

It calls for urgent changes to rescue the landmark agreement, accusing the federal Government of *'weak'* action on key areas, not fulfilling its promises and a *'disregard'* for the suggestions of First Nations communities. It said that efforts to eliminate institutional racism in areas such as justice and health have *'received little effort'*.

In response to the report, Bishop Charles Gauci – chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders – emphasised the pressing need for Australian Catholics to collaborate with their First Nations counterparts to achieve tangible improvements in their lives.

'As a Church, we are called to illuminate and enrich Australian society, particularly in the realm of Indigenous affairs,' Bishop Gauci said. *'Now more than ever, we must unite, deliberate, and take meaningful action.'*

He underscored the importance of Catholic institutions in fostering holistic wellbeing for all First Nations people.

'This moment urges us to contemplate how our Church entities can better support the health and prosperity of Indigenous communities,' Bishop Gauci said. He urged ongoing reflection and engagement, guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, to ensure a more inclusive and supportive future for First Nations peoples. *Edited extract Cathnews*

Lent is a season of opportunity, a time to pause and discern the obstacles that block the path to greater intimacy with God and others. *What are the stones I keep tripping over, the distractions, superficial desires, attachments, what fears and wounds, like fallen trees, block the way ahead?*

May this Lent be a time of clearing the clutter of my life, opening the opportunity to intimacy, for in the words of Pope Francis, **'The life that Jesus gives us is a love story, a life history that wants to blend with ours and sink roots in the soil of our own lives.'**

Jesuit & Ignatian Spirituality Australia

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



Friday 1st March 11.00am World Day of Prayer, Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St Geelong. This year's theme is "I beg you....bear with one another in love" prepared by the Christian people of Palestine. Guest speaker Daryl Cowden, retires representative of World Vision. Enquiries Heather 0412 139 295 or Sue 0412 781 331

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.

Taize Prayer 2024 Santa Casa, Queenscliff 23 March, 19 May, 31 Aug, 5 Oct, 14 Dec, 2.30pm - 3.30pm followed by afternoon tea. RSVP Sr Lizzie 0418 194 261 or santacasa@ismapng.org.au

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>

St Vincent de Paul **Assist a Student** -an education support program aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty. Pamphlets are available in foyer.



Australian Catholics Autumn 2024 available in the foyer. FREE

In this edition, there is a focus on the Traveller's Guide to the Station of the Cross and how different cultures commemorate them.

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

Next Week's Readings : Exodus 20:1-17 ; or Exodus 20:1-3.7-8. 12-17 ; Ps 18:8 -11 ; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 ; John 2:13-25

