



St Bernard's Parish

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

Parish Team

Fr Sang Ho (Parish Priest)

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26th November 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year A

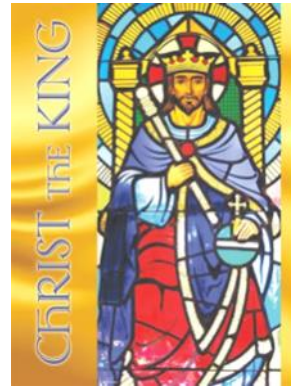
Reflection

We have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that *the kingdom of God is inclusive*. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on *the bonds of love and concern*.

What we do for others, we do for Christ, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified.

Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, *a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong*. He has turned the standards of the world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care.

Dianne Bergant CSA



Our community prays :

For those who have died:

For those who are unwell:

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

Andrew Pamvouoglou

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

David Butler

John Orders

Frank Whyte

Frances Butler



Christmas at St Bernard's

Wed 13th Dec 7.30 pm Reconciliation

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 23rd Dec 6.00pm

Sun 24th Dec Sun 9.00am **ONLY. There will be NO 10.30am mass**

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Sun 24th Dec 6.00 pm Family mass in the school ground. Bring chairs/rugs

Christmas Eve, Sun 24th Dec 9.00 pm (Carols 8.15-8.50pm)

Christmas Day, Sun 25th Dec 9.00 am **(one mass only)**



We welcome for Baptism:

Soli John Kershaw

Bear Hudson McMahan

Eva & Harris Hearne

Hugo Douglas Michael

Thompson

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 THIS 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.



St. Bernard's Parish - Laudato Si' Action Plan 2023-2024

Pope Francis released his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* to call for action to address the spiritual, social and economic crisis causing environmental devastation. He called us to '*Hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*'.



Taking their lead from Pope Francis, our Australian Catholic Bishops have invited us through Catholic Earthcare, to implement a *Laudato Si' Action Plan*, in order to be converted to new ways of living both personally and collectively, to care for our common home. The Pope's follow up Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum* (Praise God) in October 2023 urges us to take dramatic action to combat climate change and condemns climate change denial in his writing.

St. Bernard's Parish has responded to this call by initiating a *2023-2024 Laudato Si Action Plan* and we invite your contribution.

Goal 1 - Cry of the Earth

'What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up' (Laudato Si' 160)

- Clean up Australia Action - Parish Team March 2023
- Consider indigenous plants for new columbarium/garden area
- Assess energy use

Goal 2 - Cry of the Poor

'When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person... it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected.' (Laudato Si' 117)

- Vinnies active St. Bernard's Belmont Conference
- Fairtrade coffee for church café/Easter chocolate
- Uluru Statement of the Heart event information in the Bulletin
- Caritas Appeal during Lent and regular Manny Uganda appeals

Goal 3 - Ecological Economics

'Purchasing is always a moral - and not simply economic - act.' (Laudato Si' 206)

- 'Invest in our Planet' – Geelong Sustainability event 26/4/23 in Bulletin

Goal 4 - Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

'If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits.' (Laudato Si' 208-209)

- Connect LSi' goal to local environment actions, charities and good works
- Season of Creation promote sustainability tips and external events ACF, Geelong Sustainability like <https://energytips.org.au/> also the Our-Common-Home-SEI-Vatican (include link <https://www.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/our-common-home-sei-vatican-20221128.pdf>)

Next week—Goals 5-7

Parishioners are asked to review the Action Plan. Contributions to each goal are welcome. Please write your ideas on the forms available in the church foyer or take a form home to write a response during the week and bring your suggestions next week.

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

Real Deal update and invitation

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.](#)

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.

How are we living our lives?

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ says what Matthew's Gospel on Sunday (25:31–46) 'wishes to communicate with great seriousness is that the final outcome of one's existence is irreversibly determined by *the attitude one takes towards fellow human beings here and now*'.

Fr Byrne says the final judgment will not ask us about the 'correctness' of our faith but whether we have acted with active care and compassion to those in need.

Let us pray that we do all we can to promote peace in our hearts, our families, our communities and our world, and that we practise justice, mercy and faith.

Edited extract Australian Catholics

Daily Ignatian Advent Blessings – for Fresh Hope

Advent, the 28 days before Christmas, is all about hope, as we await the feast of God becoming human and living among us. Hope can take a real battering amid the stresses of broken life, violence between nations, and being disconnected from others, we can feel hope draining out of us.



We have a happy gift daily for your healing and building of hope for the 28 days of Advent, for yourself and your friends in need. Beautiful fresh blessings daily.

These Advent Blessings of Hope use two simple traditional prayer forms, the sign of the cross and prayer by breath, and two Ignatian prayer methods, prayer with the senses and body prayer.

A blessing in your inbox each day of Advent – from 27 November to 25 December 2023

[Visit—jisa](#)

Reflection

Jesus' reign, and his courtiers, are of an altogether different order to that usually prized in worldly kingdoms.

That's why today's feast is so important. On the last day of the Church's year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true allegiance to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but *the quiet revolutionary work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live*.

To the degree that we do this we are co-heirs to the Kingdom Jesus lived, died and was raised for, and we are witnesses to the real meaning of Christ's reign in our lives.

Edited extract Fr Richard Leonard SJ

**Australian Catholics
Summer Edition**
**Please collect one
after mass**

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

**Prayer Cards for
Peace in the Holy
Land .**
**Please collect one
after mass.**

Pope says poverty a 'scandal' and urges Christians to use gifts for charity

The material, cultural and spiritual poverties that exist in the world are a '*scandal*' that Christians are called to address by putting their God-given capacity for charity and love into action, Pope Francis said.



The poor, whether '*the oppressed, fatigued, marginalised, victims of war,*' migrants, the hungry, those without work or left without hope, '*are not one, two, or three, they are a multitude,*' the Pope said during a Mass celebrated for World Day of the Poor in St Peter's Basilica.

'*And thinking of this immense multitude of the poor, the message of the Gospel is clear: let us not bury the wealth of the Lord. Let us spread charity, share our bread, multiply love,*' he said. '*Poverty is a scandal.*'

Among the 5000 who filled the basilica for Mass were homeless people and others in need who were seated in the front rows near Pope Francis. After celebrating Mass and praying the Angelus, the Pope ate lunch in the Vatican audience hall with about 1250 people, continuing a tradition he began on the first World Day of the Poor in 2017.

Edited extract Cathnews

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 ...

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. RSVP by 27/11 to the Parish Office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au by Monday Nov 27.

Thursday 12th Dec 6pm **Geelong Catholic Diners Club** you are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship. The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, High St Belmont. Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. Please advise by December 9. RSVP John Santospirito - 0409 165 943 or john.santospirito@bigpond.com

The Wider Community.....

Tuesdays - 28 Nov, 5, 12, 19 Dec, 7.00pm - 8.00pm **Virtual Free Advent talks by four Australian biblical scholars.** Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week, Via Zoom meeting, Visit www.garrattpublishing.com.au

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 vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au

Wednesday 6th Dec, 6-8pm **Christmas Carols at Iona**, BYO picnic, chairs and blankets. Booking via Trybooking **FREE EVENT**

Saturday 9th Dec 2.30pm **Taize Advent Prayer** Santa Casa 33 Flinders Street Queenscliff. RSVP Lizzie 0418 194 261 or via santacasa@ismapng.org.au



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

Next Week's Readings : Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8 ; Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 ; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 ; Mark 13:33-37

