



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

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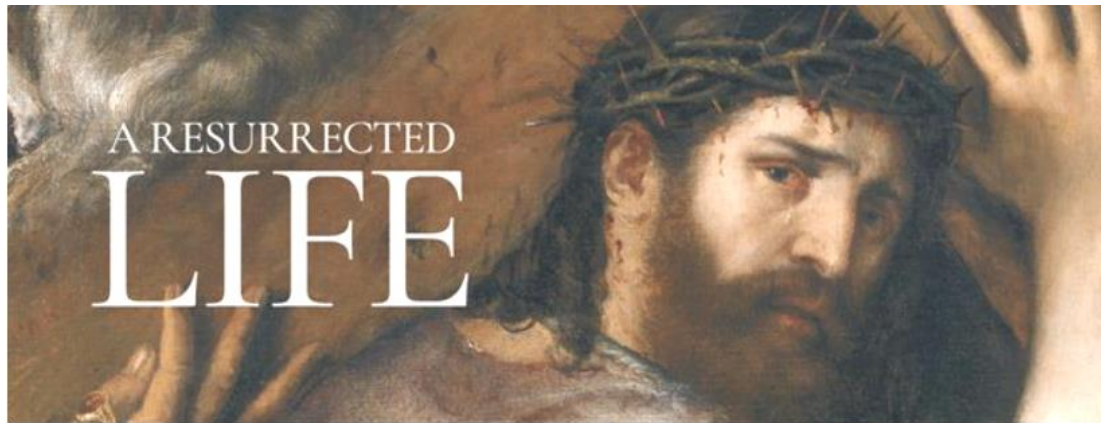
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28th January 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



The Outreach & Engagement in Faith team invite you to

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Purpose: To find a few minutes each day to sit, reflect and trust God to lead us forward. The 6 week program includes scripture readings, silent reflection, faith sharing (if completed with a group), and prayer (also includes Holy Week). The program comes from the Archdiocese of Brisbane and invites us to put our faith into practice, to believe in the extraordinary HOPE that the Gospel bears.

You are invited to participate in this program in one or both of the following ways.

- A weekly meeting in the church, led by a member of our team, using the Lenten resource, "A Resurrected Life."
- A daily self-directed reflection, using the Lenten resource, "A Resurrected Life."

If this invitation appeals to you, could you please contact the Parish Office on 5243 2739 or email belmont@cam.org.au

- Leave your name and contact details
- Indicate your preferred way of engaging in this program – self-directed or joining a group in the morning or evening (the sessions will be held on the day that suits the most participants).

Ash Wednesday is very early this year – February 14th – so please register your interest by **Sunday February 11th**.

Once we have gathered this information, we will inform you of details of how the program will proceed.

The Resource Booklet will be available from the Parish Office at a cost of \$5.

Our community prays :

For those who are unwell:

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
 David Butler
 John Orders



**Fr Peter's Café
reopens
NEXT Sunday
after the 9.00am
Mass.**

**All welcome to
gather for a coffee
or tea and a catch
up!**



Mannya Update January 2024

Dear Parishioners,

The Mannya Advisory Committee would like to *thank all those who have contributed to the education of students throughout the 2023 school year.* We anticipate being able to continue to support students throughout 2024, with your ongoing assistance.

We are really pleased to report that the parish hall is well underway. Money raised for the hall as a result of our parish appeal was sent late in 2023 and the foundations and wall structure are taking shape.

The building will be completed in stages but Fr Emma was keen to commence the project and advance the building as far as possible, with the available funds.

Fr Emma has provided detailed invoices of expenditure and a few photos of progress.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the capital appeal.

We look forward to providing further details of building progress as they become available.

Mannya Advisory Committee



We are only as strong as our weakest link: Bishop Long

It is in the interest of our health and our future to ensure that everyone's wellbeing is safeguarded," Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv said ahead of the 2024 Catholic Social Services Conference in Melbourne next month.

"It is also in the interest of a better society and a better world that the human and social infrastructure of the "care economy" be prioritised more than profit and success."

Under the theme, "Commons, Commonality, Common Good", the February 21-23 event aims to bring together people of goodwill, particularly staff, leadership, volunteers in Catholic social services, health, education, parish communities, and individuals in faith and values-based organisations from across the country, and to inspire important conversations and positive action for the common good.

Bishop Long will open the conference, fostering thought and discussion on the topic, "What makes us human? What is essential to flourish?"

"I believe that what makes us human is the conviction that we are created in God's image. As such, flourishing in the most profound sense entails communion with God the Father through faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit," Bishop Long said.

"At the conference, I'll be exploring Pope Francis' call to rebuild and revitalise the Church with a synodal vision rooted in unity in diversity, subsidiarity in solidarity and personal agency in communion that leads us to being a model society and an effective vehicle of the Good News for the disadvantaged, the planet and all of God's creation.

"Addressing inequity and caring for the poor and vulnerable are not optional extras. We are only as strong as our weakest links." Edited extract Cathnews

21-23 Feb Catholic Social Services National Conference **Commons, Commonality, Common Good.** More information on tickets, the conference theme, speakers and the program is available at: <https://css.org.au/css-national-conference-2024/>



Reflection

As we know, in Jesus' society possession by 'unclean spirits' was a general term that covered all kinds of conditions for which we today have medical or social explanations and sophisticated labels. We can therefore approach these stories with a type of superiority as if they either don't occur anymore or are best left to experts to deal with.

Yet isn't it true that all of us are 'possessed' in different ways by forces over which we have to admit to having little or no control? Some people are enslaved by addictions to drugs, alcohol, food, gambling and so on. Many of us suffer from more subtle addictions so that we don't even want to admit to ourselves, let alone to anyone else, that we are virtually powerless to control them. All of us know deep down that many of our habits and ways of dealing with others are so much a part of our make-up that we can do little to change them.

The people who acclaimed Jesus realised that he had something special that could influence them to change their lives. The authority and healing power of Jesus is present today in his body, the Church, through the Sacraments, but also in the love, care and compassion of every community of faith.

We only have to look around us when we are gathered for the Eucharist to name it and accept it. It is when the Church is able to back up teaching and doctrine with the same concern for the troubled lives of ordinary people that it is most effective in continuing the mission of Jesus. That is why in the Gospels he is always accompanied by followers learning how to be genuine 'fishers of men'.

Fr Chris Hope, Liturgy Help

Australia Day

On Friday Australians once again grapple with what it means to be Australian. For some, Australia Day is a day of celebration of the country that they were born to, or have made their home; for many First Nations peoples it's a day of sorrow, a lament for forcible dispossession of their lands; and for others it's a day off work to enjoy the outdoors, though the effects of climate change have threatened that pastime.

However you choose to commemorate the day, let us pray for all those who call Australia home. We pray for our families and communities that they do share in the country's beauties, rich and rare. We pray especially for the environment and that we take responsibly our role as stewards of our common home.



Australian Catholics

Francis announces Year of Prayer

Pope Francis has announced the start of a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year, whose theme is "Pilgrims of Hope"

The Pope said that a Year of Prayer starting 21st January will be "a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world. I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and to experience the power of God's hope."

The year 2024 also should be about rebuilding and renewing spiritual pathways and practices so that the spiritual significance of the Jubilee can "emerge more clearly, something which goes far beyond the necessary and urgent forms of structural organisation," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation's section for new evangelisation, which is coordinating the Holy Year.

The jubilee must be "prepared for and lived in individual communities with that spirit of expectation which is typical of Christian hope," he said,

The Pope said that the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation will publish resources to help Catholic communities to more fully participate in the Year of Prayer.

A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years, though the Pope can call for extraordinary jubilee years more often, such as in the case of the 2016 Year of Mercy or the 2013 Year of Faith.

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on December 24 (Christmas Eve) and concludes on January 6, 2026.

Edited extracts Cathnews



We pray for Mohammad

Please pray that Mohammad, and all asylum seekers left in limbo, are fairly reviewed in their quest for a permanent visa.

For the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine & other war torn countries.

May there be peaceful resolutions.

St Bernard's community

St Bernard's subscribes to 'LOOK', a weekly work sheet for children, based on the readings of the day. To receive this via email, please contact the Office.



If you have Facebook, why not follow St Bernard's Parish Belmont to see what is happening in the Parish.

The Geelong Community ...

Monday March 11 at 7pm Music at St Mary's Basilica— Cologne Chamber Philharmonia Orchestra is presenting their Annual Concert. See notice board for more details

The Wider Community.....

LOURDES DAY MASS – SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2024

The Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes. The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant.

Need to dispose of a vehicle?

If you need to dispose of a vehicle, 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).

Bread 4 Today Redemptorist web site. Daily prayers for reflection and meditation
<https://cssr.org.au/bread4today/>

'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 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 : Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ; Ps 94:1-2. 6-9 ; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 ; Mark 1:21-28

Next Week's Readings : Job 7:1-4. 6-7 ; Ps 146:1-6 ; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23 ; Mark 1:29-39

