



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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Chrissie Puls (Sacramental Coordinator - Tues)

Karen Marshall (Finance Officer - Wed)

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31st March 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Year B

We Christians often call ourselves the people of hope. This is because we have faith in a God of mercy and compassion; *a God who became human, so that humans can participate in the divine life.* It is that same God, who is not only willing to share in the human sufferings of Good Friday, but above all, promises the greatest hope of new life, through his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



We celebrate the ups and downs of everyday living, when *we gather to celebrate Eucharist - the very mystery of Resurrection.*

However, Easter is a special, designated time each year, for us to renew our faith in the promise of God, that His Son will always accompany and endure with us, in time of suffering and darkness and that after the Cross is the Blessed Resurrection.

We wish everyone a happy and hopeful Easter and we also extend our very warm welcome to those who come to celebrate Easter 2024 with us.

Fr Sang Ho PP

Our community prays :

For those who are unwell:

Sofia Solisty
Joan Hepworth
Riley Swander
Christie Raj
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



Welcome

We welcome **Adam and Meredith**, as they enter our Catholic community at the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, where they will receive their Sacraments of Initiation.

Pease keep praying for them on their journey of Catholic faith.



Reflecting on Easter, Pope Francis highlights the importance of *'walking away from the tomb.'* Once found, faith must be lived.

As Saint Peter said, *'we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people.'* Easter is, in a sense, the starting point of our Christian responsibilities.

Living the Easter mystery means becoming a joyful Easter people.

We must, therefore, be open to action and change. We cannot become stuck in our ways, crippled by doubt, despair or habit. As Pope Francis says, *Easter shows us that 'it is always possible to begin anew, because there is always a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures.'*

The annual celebration of Easter reminds us that what we celebrate is present here and now. Ours is a living faith. As the Pope adds, *'faith is not an album of past memories; Jesus is not outdated. He is alive here and now.'* Easter is a celebration of the mystery that Jesus is present. He is here, in both the needy of the world and through the actions of His followers.

So, having celebrated the mystery, we are sent forth to live it. *'Having made himself present in the heart of our world,'* the Pope points out, *Jesus 'invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life.'*

Nick Brodie, Liturgy Help

Important Notices

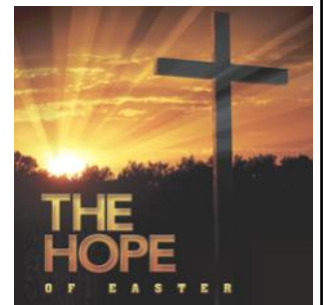
There will be **NO weekday masses from 2nd-6th April.**

The Parish Office will be **closed** on **Easter Monday 1st April**

Fr Peter's Café will be **closed** on the **31st March**

Easter Hope

The challenge of Easter today is to take God's part in protesting against the violence and the suffering in our world. Death is not just something we meet at the end of life. We see death all around us amid life. There is the economic death of people staving to death; the political death of the oppressed people; the social death of those marginalized in society; the death of the unborn child and those on death row; the death of our environment and the extinction of species; the soundless death of the person who says and does nothing.



Having faith in the resurrection challenges us to protest these deaths, act as God would act, and have the courage to stand up against the injustices we see. God acted and raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus did not raise himself. We, too, are called to act and raise ourselves and others from the death of oppression and abuse, from the death of apathy. The truth that God raised Jesus from the dead gives hope and help to all those who want that miracle repeated in the midst of life.

The resurrection did not happen once. We experience the resurrection every time we dare to stand up for our principles and our rights, and the rights of others. As Christians, we are hope-filled people. We live with Easter hope that empowers us to make a change for the better—for ourselves, our families, our community, our world and our earth. This is the true sign that we believe in a God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Edited extract Fr Peter O'Neill, The Far East

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE
GENERATIONS



Please return Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to baskets in the foyer or place plate during the collection during mass.

Report demonstrates 'the Church at work in the world'

Catholic Social Services Victoria has released a report that maps out the work of its 40 member organisations, demonstrating 'the Church at work in the world'.

The report finds that Victoria's Catholic social service organisations supported at least 302,550 people in 2021-2022 – more than 4.5 per cent of Victoria's population – through the efforts of 7510 staff and more than 15,800 volunteers. These organisations provided services in over 30 different areas of work from early intervention and prevention to crisis response.



'Catholic social services are a part of the enactment of the social mission of the Church — they are a vital expression of an established, connected community of people working to live in fidelity to the Gospel,' Catholic Social Services Victoria executive director Josh Lourensz said.

'Their unique and important contributions to our social fabric traverse being both responsive and charitable and simultaneously being committed to reform and justice over the long term'.

'Good work doesn't come from nowhere. Having expertise to walk with and accompany people with complex social needs requires investment. Good administrative and compliance processes evolve over time.'

'Our member organisations, often in close collaboration with their founding congregations, parishes, diocese and schools, are reaching out to and supporting a very diverse range of people. This is the Church at work in the world.'

While the variety and scale of support and program offerings have grown over the past few years as Catholic providers work to help meet society's needs, the increasing number of people in need of services and support is concerning.

Pressures of costs of living, the affordable housing crisis and growing inequality present immense challenges to governments and organisations.

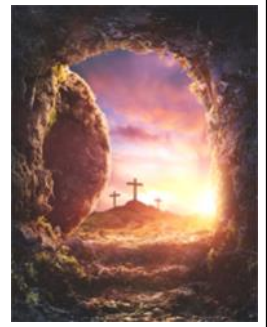
By understanding and acknowledging the reach and contributions of CSSV's member organisations, governments, the social service sector and the community more broadly can be better positioned to work together to serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

Cathnews

Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by *the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.*

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: *'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'*



The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was *'Apostle to the Apostles'* because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

Fr Michael Tate

A door opens

The stories of Jesus' rising focus on the experience of the disciples as they are awakened to Jesus' presence among them. Jesus is as ethereal and above suffering and the constraints of humanity in these stories as he is subject to them in the stories of his Passion. The stories explain what the disciples make of the signs that Jesus has risen. They are puzzled and devastated to see the tomb open and empty, and paralysed at being told that Jesus has risen and that they must give instructions to the disciples. They fail to do so. In the stories of the appearances, they are initially fearful as Jesus passes through walls and locked doors to appear to them. Mary Magdalene is overcome with grief and fails to recognise him. So do the disciples on the way to Emmaus. As Jesus keeps appearing to them, however, the disciples are gradually brought together as they come to believe, are overjoyed, and are given new life by their acceptance that he has risen. The disciples who run away from the brutal finality of the death recognise Jesus and return to Jerusalem to join the others. Thomas, who is sceptical and isolated, meets Jesus with the others and joins them in fishing and their eating together on the beach. The whole world in its ordinary relationships gradually becomes sacred.

All these details emphasise that *the Resurrection is about faith and meeting Jesus in the community.* We are led to think less about what Jesus does and how he does it, and more about our meeting and how to respond to him. The world of Herod, Pilate and the Roman soldiers is still with us and threatens to overpower us. But faith in the risen Jesus has given us a perspective from which it looks totally changed. The brutal reality of Jesus' execution is no longer a locked door that has excluded goodness and hope but an open door through which *God's love and calling are visible.*

Edited extract Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ



The narrative of Easter is a powerful testament to relentless hope, unwavering faith, and limitless love. It reminds us that no night is too dark for God's light to penetrate, no burden too heavy for His strength to bear. The resurrection of Jesus Christ isn't just a historical event; it's a stirring invitation to experience a life transformed by His love. This love invites us into an enduring relationship that promises not just happiness, but a profound and deep joy.

Experiencing this joy involves more than acknowledgment; *it's about allowing Jesus' sacrificial love to permeate every aspect of our lives, guiding our actions, comforting us in our trials, and instilling in us a peace that transcends all understanding.* This Easter season, let us rekindle our awareness of this divine love, allowing it to inspire us and spread its radiance to every soul we encounter.

Edited extract Magellan Media

At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce?

Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain.

Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

Edited extract Dianne Bergant CSA

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 Geelong Community ...

Real Deal Action Forum

The current housing crisis is a huge social justice issue in Geelong. St. Bernard's Parish has joined this alliance to advocate for solutions. 7258 people were supported by specialist homelessness services in the Barwon region in the last year. There are 7,101 households on the priority list for social housing.

You can show your support by signing this petition to the City of Greater Geelong to build public and community housing <https://bswhn.org.au/public-community-housing-petition> See notice board and website for more information.

Wanted Singers to join a Male singing group that sing Golden Oldies to Elderly citizens. Would suit retired singers. Enquiries Les 0414 442 471

Holy Spirit Pilgrimage (2024): Europe Pilgrimage and Tour (Medjugorje, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland) from 12/09/2024-27/09/2024; Spiritual Director: Fr. Emmanuel-tv. Contact us ASAP for ; Tel: (08)93413079; Email: holyspiritp@gmail.com; fremmanueltv@gmail.com

The Lazarus Community Centre is open 7 days a week. Enquiries 0419 741 935. The Lazarus Centre is a place for people to feel safe and welcome. Somewhere where they can take a shower, wash and dry their clothes, have a light lunch, participate in activities, meet with volunteers and receive support from specialist homelessness staff. All are welcome whether they are homeless or not.

Clean Up Australia - March Campaign

A great opportunity during this month to conserve the environment, eliminate litter and reduce waste.

The Graffiti Hotline is 03 5272 4319 or email graffiti@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Laudato Si Goal 1: Cry of the Earth



The Wider Community.....



Mission: Transform Lives

- theirs...and yours

professional placement with **Palms** is for you? Wanting to share your skills with communities in the Pacific, Asia or Africa to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty?

Come to **Palms' Discovery information session** at Sacred Heart Primary School, Oakleigh on 22 April 5.30pm to 6.30pm or phone 02 9560 5333 or visit palms@palms.org.au

'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: **No Mass**
Wed & Thurs : **Mo Mass**

*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: Closed

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** - 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 10:34. 37-43 ; Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 2-23 ; Colossians 3:1-4 ; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 ; John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7 or Luke 24:13- 35

Next Week's Readings : Acts 4:32-35 ; Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24 ; 1 John 5:1-6 ; John 20:1-31

