



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)

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3rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent Year B

Reflection

Advent marks the beginning the new liturgical year; a season that allows us to prepare for the birth of Christ. As I reflected upon the season, the expression a 'New Year's resolution' came to mind; one that I was not familiar with until I arrived in Australia and entered the seminary. When we think of New Year's resolutions at the end of each year, we often reflect on what we can do better ourselves.

Interestingly, the origin of New Year's resolutions is not a modern invention. It can be traced to a religious foundation both in ancient Roman society and biblical times. The Romans of antiquity, who were superstitious and fearful of provoking the ire of their gods, resolved every January to begin a new year with better aspirations and goals. This got me thinking, why can't we make a '*liturgical New Year's resolution*' to coincide with the beginning of Advent? Whilst the ancient Romans made their resolutions out of fear of their gods, we should make a New Year's resolution that pleases God – a *spiritual resolution*.

Keeping in mind that we ought not make resolutions that are too noble, which are unachievable, but rather, set out to resolve to contribute in some small way to the betterment of ourselves and the world. For example, we may resolve to 'mend' a relationship that has been fractured in some way, be it with others or with God, or we may resolve to act to safeguard the environment, to do 'our bit'. Making a *spiritual New Year's resolution* at the start of the Advent season will allow us to strengthen the bonds with those around us, as well as God, and will hopefully create a sense of peace in our hearts, knowing that our relationships have become more wholesome. May we bring the goodness of Jesus into our lives and the lives of others as we prepare for His birth.

Fr Sang Ho

Our community prays :

For those who are unwell:

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

Andrew Pamvouoglou

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

David Butler

John Orders

Frank Whyte

Frances Butler



We welcome for Baptism:

Daisy & Evelyn Nolan

Situations Vacant

2 or 3 Ladies required

once a month for

9 am Mass cafe

service, providing tea

and coffee.

New Roster commencing

Feb 2024. Please

contact

the Parish office

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. 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, Mon 25th Dec 9.00 am **(one mass only)**



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Next weekend at every mass, there will be a special collection for Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society
servi caritatis

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

Goal 5 - Ecological Education

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



- Film presentation of 'The Letter' December 2022
- Parish LSi' Action group formed January 2023, to advise on actions
- Parish social media – LSi' education and events
- LSi goals/information in parish bulletin over the year
- A summary of LSi' goals, actions to be included on the Parish website.
- Presentation by Sue Martin on Ecological Conversion September 2023 with CLC Australia

Goal 6 - Ecological Spirituality

'Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.' (Laudato Si' 217)

- NATSICC Sunday Liturgy July 2023
- LSi' Week May – Bulletin information and liturgy
- Walk with God in Nature resources provided in Season of Creation
- Tradition of LSi' Sunday liturgy/music/sermon with reflection on goals x 3
- Indigenous Stations of the Cross on Good Friday 2023
- Clairvaux School led liturgy for World Day of Prayer 1/9/23
- Season of Creation Calendar on the website as a resource for parishioners

Goal 7- Community Engagement & Participatory Action

'Bring the whole human family together... for we know that things can change' (Laudato Si' 13)

- Palm Sunday Walk for Refugee Justice 2/4/2023
- Suggestion Box in Church foyer to receive suggestions and respond to parishioners
- A Parish 'Welcome' sign on social media
- After 9 am Sunday Mass Parish Café open – welcome to all; new people, people with a disability, all cultures welcome
- Real Deal Social Justice Project and Research Action Teams ongoing; to champion systemic change to current social and affordable housing issues, Care and Connection for All and Meaningful Work and Affordable Living
- Connect with diverse cultures in parish through our International Lunch in August 2023

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.

Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is our situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: *'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'*

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: *'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'*
Fr Michael Tate

The Character and Characters of Advent

The season of Advent, unlike other liturgical seasons, encompasses several different purposes and key figures.

The Roman Document on the Liturgical Year describes Advent as having 'a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation'. (GNLY 39)

First the season focuses our attention on the end of time when Christ will come again in glory. Then John the Baptist, who heralds Jesus' public ministry, takes centre stage. Finally, in preparation for the joyful celebration of Christmas, the liturgy of Advent focuses on the nativity. What joins these diverse elements together is the spirit of 'devout and joyful expectation'.

The gospel of the first Sunday of Advent looks to the Lord's coming in glory at the end of time. This year, the year of Mark, the message is urgent: *Stay awake!* Advent begins therefore by picking up themes that occur in the final Sundays of Ordinary Time at the end of the previous year's cycle, especially in the feast of Christ the King.

John the Baptist is the central actor in the gospels of the second and third Sundays of Advent. It can sometimes be a little confusing just before Christmas to be hearing stories telling of events some thirty years after Jesus' birth. It is a reminder that the Church's liturgy is not a chronological re-enactment of past events but a living encounter with the whole mystery of Jesus' incarnation, ministry, death and resurrection to glory.

The notion of Christ as the Messiah may also assist us to appreciate the fullness of the mystery that is celebrated in Advent. The first readings for these weeks are taken from the prophets who looked forward to the coming of the messiah. In this year B we hear from Isaiah. These texts help to situate John the Baptist as the last of the prophets who prepared for the coming of the Christ, the salvation of God's people.

The character of Advent changes sharply on the 17th December as the readings now look at the circumstances of Jesus' birth. On the fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the story of the Annunciation from the gospel of Luke and the focus is on the role of Mary in salvation history.

Liturgy Lines – edited

Three new priests ordained for Melbourne Archdiocese

Three men were ordained to the priesthood for the Melbourne Archdiocese at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday. Source: Melbourne Catholic.

The new priests are Fr Thomas Christie, Fr Peter Nguyen and Fr Tien Tran. Jean-Sébastien Géry was also ordained to the transitional diaconate, the penultimate step in the journey to becoming a priest.

During his homily, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reminded the ordinands of what constitutes a vocation in Christ: '[St] Paul talks of charity, selflessness, gentleness, patience, unity and peace. We might firstly note just how closely these vocational elements harmonise with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.'

Edited extract Cathnews



The letter to the People of God provides an update on work carrying forward the Plenary Council's outcomes while awaiting the Holy See's formal recognition of the Council's decrees.

'This letter to the People of God outlines just a selection of the initiatives that are being pursued, including diocesan synods and assemblies, national conferences and events hosted by various Church entities,' Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB,said.

The letter, which considers the complementary nature of the ongoing Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church, includes reminders of some of the key milestones since the Plenary Council's celebration phase ended last year.

[Letter to the People of God](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q5yDkcVIU7t67JmcEvU1UZuH7RhL025z/view)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q5yDkcVIU7t67JmcEvU1UZuH7RhL025z/view>



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

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 ...

Wednesday 6th Dec, 6-8pm Christmas Carols at Iona, BYO picnic, chairs and blankets. Booking via [Trybooking FREE EVENT](#)

Thursday 7 December 6.30pm for light meal, 7pm sharp start. Finish 9pm. Real Deal update and invitation, Cloverdale Community Centre, 167-169 Purnell Rd, Corio

Registrations are essential, 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.

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



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

Daily Ignatian Advent Blessings - for Fresh Hope

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

[Visit—jisa](#)



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 Mannya 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 : 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

Next Week's Readings : Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 ; Ps 84:9-14 ; 2 Peter 3:8-14 ; Mark 1:1-8

