



St Bernard's Parish

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Parish Team

Fr Sang Ho (Parish Priest)

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4th February 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Reflection

For tennis fans, all I can say is, what an epic final between Sinner and Medvedev at the Australian Open! Don't you love Sinner(s) more after that game? Goes to show that nothing is impossible, don't you think?

This AO final probably also marks the end of holiday mode for everyone as we see many of our children returning to school with much freshness and enthusiasm after a well-earned break. We pray for every one of them as they begin their academic year with a fresh heart and mind and looking forward at the great possibilities the 2024 holds for them.

RCIA candidates also resume their programme after a 7 week break over Christmas and the New Year. Adam and Meredith will be travelling to the St Patrick's Cathedral with our RCIA leaders and will be joined with many other candidates across our Archdiocese for the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent. This will be a great experience for them to visit our local mother Church. We pray for them as they continue to search and to know God through our community of faith here at St Bernard's.

Lunar New Year will fall on Saturday the 10th, Feb 2024 this year. It is the year of the Dragon! As you know, celebration of the lunar new year for some Asian countries including Vietnam is very much like the way we celebrate Christmas here in Australia; everyone has time off from work allowing them to reunite with all family members. It is not a one-day celebration, but rather goes over a three-day period. May all who are celebrating travel safe and sound and have a great time with their family.

Talking about new year, people tend to have certain resolutions for the year. I found a rather interesting introduction written by one student who addressed the whole school at the commencement Mass of the school year: "A new school year, a new chapter, a new page or just the same old story? Ultimately, you write it - the choice is yours." I found this to be so inspiring. Yes, it is up to us to have the conscious choice of how we make the year look like for us; everyone has our own brand-new page of the year to write on.

In the second reading this weekend, we will find St Paul telling people of Corinth that preaching the Gospel is his duty and responsibility, but he puts it in a very confronting way: *'I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel,'* but at the same time, he says that it is a reward in itself: *'In my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the Gospel gives me.'* Inspired by St Paul's words, let us write our new page of 2024 filled with much of the Good News of joy and hope.

Fr Sang

Our community prays :

For those who are unwell:

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 Solisty
Joan Hepworth
Riley Swander
Christie Raj
Isobel Symons
David Butler



The Outreach & Engagement in Faith team invite you to LENTEN REFLECTIONS

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, indicating your preferred way of engaging in this program **Sunday February 11th**.

Once we have gathered this information, we will inform you of details of how the program will proceed. **The Resource Booklet** costs \$5.

80th Birthday Celebration—Jack Karwan is turning 80 on Sunday 11th February and he's never had a birthday party! After 10.30am mass please join Jack's family to celebrate his special birthday. Morning tea will be provided. All welcome.



Fr Peter's Café reopens THIS Sunday after the 9.00am Mass. All welcome to gather for a coffee or tea and a catch up! We received \$1,058.25 in donations to Manny at the Café in 2023! Thank you to all!



An introduction to St Mark's Gospel

Each year, the season of Advent marks the beginning of a new Church Year, and a new year in the three-year liturgical cycle. This year (2023–24) is Year B, when we read the Gospel according to St Mark on most Sundays. (Occasionally Mark is replaced by extracts from St John.) Mark, Matthew, and Luke are referred to as synoptic Gospels (from the Greek, 'seeing together'), and they share more or less the same theology and vision of Jesus. In Years A and C, we read Matthew and Luke respectively.

Date of St Mark's Gospel

After Jesus's death and resurrection, accounts of his life and teaching were told orally to new converts – either in Aramaic (the language of Jesus himself), or in Greek (the dominant language of the day). Gradually these accounts were written down. The collection of writings we now know as Mark's Gospel was probably written in Rome around 65–70CE.

Authorship

For many years, St Matthew's Gospel was thought to be the earliest, but it is now widely accepted that St Mark is not only earlier, but also a main source for both Matthew and Luke. According to tradition, Mark was a travelling companion of Paul, a cousin of Barnabas and possibly a disciple of Peter. However, because his sources seem to derive from both oral and written material, it is generally agreed that Mark did more than simply transcribe what Peter told him. A man named Mark was certainly a follower of Paul and Peter, though we cannot be sure whether this same Mark wrote the text now recognised as Mark's Gospel.

Audience

St Mark's Gospel was written for non-Palestinian Christians of Gentile (non-Jewish) origin. In contrast with St Matthew, Mark is much less concerned with linking his stories with the Old Testament. He often explains Jewish customs, gives geographical indications and stresses the meaning of the Gospel message for pagans.

Structure

Mark does not attempt to give us a chronological life of Jesus. His Gospel can be divided into two halves: the first centred around Galilee and northern Palestine; the second describing Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem, and his final moments. Over half of Mark's text is concerned with the Passion of Christ.

Purpose

Mark's main purpose is to give his readers an understanding of who Jesus is. His ministry gradually reveals his identity: his status as Messiah, Son of God, and suffering Son of Man. Mark shows Jesus acting and preaching with authority. His suffering and death are always linked to his Resurrection, and Mark ensures that his readers understand that the path to glory and eternal life involves suffering. Christians living at the end of the first century suffered much persecution and would have been comforted by this text. They could immediately see how relevant Jesus's life was to their own lives.

Symbol of St Mark: The Winged Lion

Artists and iconographers often depict St Mark with a winged lion, suggested by Mark's description of John the Baptist 'crying out in the wilderness' (Mark 1: 3), bringing to mind a roaring lion. The lion also appears in a vision of the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1: 10), where the four-winged creatures were later taken to represent the four evangelists. *Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ*

Word of God Sunday The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 4 in 2024 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B).

Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God.



Courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach,
the Diocese of Wrexham, UK
Image: Wiki Commons



St Bernard's Parish Groups

Playgroup



St Bernard's Playgroup has been running since the 1980's. It was set up initially by members of the parish to help connect and provide a space for parents and children of the parish to connect. It continues to be that today: A space that children can play and interact whilst enabling the parents to gather and connect also and although we aren't all parishioners many of our referrals still come through the Parish.

St Bernard's playgroup runs every Tuesday of school terms from 9.00-10.30 in the BIG SPACE at the parish/Clairvaux. It is open for all children from birth to school age. On average we usually have between 5 -15 families that attend every week. Our youngest at the moment is 7 months and the oldest are heading to school next year. We don't cap numbers and so anyone can attend. You also don't have to prebook or commit to a time frame- it goes on a week by week basis which adds to our appeal that families can come when it suits them. It is a gold coin to attend and all money is put back into the playgroup directly. The playgroup is all run by volunteers usually mums. It isn't a drop off service so parents stay with their children for playgroup. There is no committee involved with the playgroup - the person running it will often confirm with other parents about issues or purchases.

It's a fantastic space to meet other families in the area. Many of our families attend to get a connection with other families attending Clairvaux. This year there are 6 children heading to school together who before playgroup didn't know each other and so providing a familiar face at school is of huge benefit. There are so many social and emotional benefits to attending Playgroups. Play is so good for us. It feeds the brain. It builds skills and knowledge. During play, children engage with and learn about the world around them. The skills you acquire while playing are endless – fine motor, problem solving, creativity, language, social, emotional, dexterity and resilience are all hard at work during play. As are all of the senses. Incorporating a variety of play experiences enriches skills and knowledge, the more you play, the more you learn and therefore every week we rotate the play through a variety of different options.

How to get in contact: You can email stbernardsplay@gmail.com or contact the Parish office 52432739/belmont@cam.org.au

Australia Day

A wonderful sense of community was felt today as a number of parishioners, families and friends came together to celebrate Mass and then a shared lunch on Australia Day.

Fr Sang's heartfelt homily was thought provoking and mindful. We were able to reflect on the Beatitudes and on the importance of a change of heart, if we are to move forward as a nation. A wonderful afternoon full of warmth and friendship pursued

Thank you to those who assisted in the preparation of the day and tending to the BBQ and also a big thank you to parishioners who brought along something to share. A huge thank you to those who attended to make the day so special



Seeking accommodation in Belmont—

A 73yr old grandmother is seeking a place to rent in or around Belmont. Due to rain damage she has been asked to vacate her current premises. She has been attending St Bernard's Church when in Geelong. If you are able to help please email Ann Denham at freshgreenfields@gmail.com

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 Stall at the Mill Market consistently provides much appreciated income to the Parish each month. **Thank you** to all who **donate goods** to sell. We must send **volunteers for four x 4 hour shifts** each month. If you can help - even a few times, please contact the Office. *Thank you*

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

Vinnies NILS offers applicants on a low income NO INTEREST LOANS—up to \$1,500.00 for essential goods and services. Visit www.nilsgeelong.com.au

Tuesday February 13 at 6pm Geelong Catholic Diners Club warmly invite you to join for a social get-together for dinner at The Bistro, Belmont hotel, cnr Hight St & Mt Pleasant Rd. If interested contact Joan on 0429215111 or Micha 0431959584 by Friday 9 February

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.

St.Vincent de Paul Society Regional Council is seeking a skilled IT person to help record the important information pertaining to the various good works that we are engaged in. There is a template that is being designed to ensure that information is correctly inputted. For further information please call

Martin P Butler on 0418572067 or email mpbutler@bigpond.com

Prayer : In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray.

The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this.

It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead.

Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead. *Liturgy Help*

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

Next Week's Readings : Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46 ; Ps 31:1-2.5 11 ; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 ; Mark 1:40-45

