



## St Bernard's Parish

74 Fryers Rd Belmont 3216 [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au) [www.stbernards.org.au](http://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**

[sang.ho@cam.org.au](mailto:sang.ho@cam.org.au)

[marina.dias@cam.org.au](mailto:marina.dias@cam.org.au)

[Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au](mailto:Chrissie.Puls@cam.org.au)

[belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au)

**45 Reynolds Rd Belmont 3216**

[bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au](mailto:bflanagan@ccsbelmont.com.au)

5th November 2023

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

### Ponder

Our readings this week emphasize the unity of all people under God. As Malachi asks, "Has not the one God created us?" And as Jesus reiterates, "You have but one teacher... on Father... one master," "and you are all brothers and sisters." Imagine how different our world would be if we internalized and acted upon this key biblical message: we are all equal under the one God, who unites us all. This is the Gospel, or "Good News." Yet when our reverence for God becomes warped into self-reverence, we begin to place ourselves at the center rather than God, which ruptures this sense of unity. The way to guard against the pull toward self-centeredness is to return our attention to God through consistent prayer, service, and other tangible, daily reminders. What are your tangible, daily reminders of this good news?

*Mahri Leonard-Fleckman*

### November—a time for remembering

We have again created a **sacred memorial prayer space**, around the statue of Mary, with photos & flowers. You are invited to bring along a photo (up to 15x22cm) or memento of your loved one & perhaps some flowers.



To our Catholic Communities in Australia, Dear friends,

I'm sure October 7 is etched in our memories now as a day when once again the Middle East, and particularly the Holy Land, was devastated with a new wave of violence. The Franciscans have, for eight centuries, been responsible for the care of the many sacred places, as well as schools and parishes in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank.

Pope Francis has called for peace: "*Terrorism and extremism do not help reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence, revenge and only cause each other to suffer. The Middle East does not need war, but peace, a peace built on dialogue and the courage of fraternity... Please do not shed any more innocent blood, neither in the holy land, nor in Ukraine, nor anywhere else! Enough! Wars are always a defeat, always!*"

At this time, I ask you on behalf of all those affected by this conflict to pray for peace with Psalm 122, 6-9:

*Ask for peace for Jerusalem: may those who love you live in safety; let there be peace in your walls, safety in your palaces. For my brothers and my friends, I will say: Upon you be peace! By the house of the Lord our God, I will ask good for you.*

Sincerely, Fr Bernie Thomas OFM, Commissary of the Holy Land Australia

### Clairvaux Year 6 Student Service

In preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the students at Clairvaux are learning what it means to be of service to others.

They will be attending the weekday Masses on *Wednesday 8th November, Thursday 16th November, Wednesday 29th November and Friday 1st December*. Parishioners are invited to attend the normal weekday Mass on these dates and stay for coffee and supper afterwards.

### Our community prays :

*For those who are unwell:*

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

Andrew Pamvouxoglou

Christie Raj

Isobel Symons

David Butler

John Orders

Frank Whyte

Frances Butler

George Koch

*We welcome for Baptism:*

Lexi Ferrira

Sophie & Will Bolton

Lennon Cimino



### Ladies' Coffee & Chat Group

Since **CBD** has closed a booking has been made at **FULL CIRCLE** and will meet there on

**MONDAY, 20 November at 10.30am**

**FULL CIRCLE** is opposite the car wash near the corner of Roslyn Rd & High St. Please spread the word to our group or intending newcomers. Thank you Lorraine

## Laudate Deum

The Vatican released the new Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, to all people of good will on the climate crisis, on 4 October 2023. It is a document intended to follow up on his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home.

It is worth remembering that an apostolic exhortation is a teaching document from the pope, which aims to exhort (encourage) a particular virtue or activity.

*Laudate Deum* was released on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, "*Laudate Deum*" holds a special place in Pope Francis' papacy, drawing inspiration from the saint known for his love of creation and care for the marginalised. This release date is meaningful as it aligns with St Francis' life and vision with the urgent need to address today's ecological and social challenges.

The title '*Laudate Deum*' translates to '*Praise God*,' a powerful reminder of the importance of stewardship and the responsible use of power. It emphasises the Pope's urgent call to tackle the climate crisis, recognising that time is running out and irreversible damage has been done.

While individual actions are crucial, Pope Francis underscores the necessity of political change on a global scale. He emphasises the importance of taking action now and the importance of upcoming events like COP28 in driving meaningful change.

Despite the seriousness of the challenges we face, Pope Francis encourages hope, reminding us that despair only exacerbates the impacts of climate change, especially on the most vulnerable among us. This message is particularly relevant in our world today, as we witness the effects of climate change and the urgent need for action. As Catholics, we are called to be stewards of our common home, echoing the message of '*Laudate Deum*' in our actions and advocacy.

*Edited extract Majellan Media*

**Contrasts** Jesus' description of the Pharisees' behaviour offers a stark contrast to his own way of bringing about the Kingdom of God. By their actions, the Pharisees place burdens on the shoulders of others – burdens of guilt, shame, duty and punishment.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus acted to lift such burdens from the shoulders of the downtrodden and marginalised. Jesus accuses the Pharisees of being motivated by drawing attention to themselves – the way they dress, the way they like to be addressed, even where they sit in the synagogues. In contrast, Jesus' ministry was typified by his humility and focus on others.

*Liturgy Help*

Many  
Congratulations  
to

*Dorothy Neville*  
who celebrated her  
**100th Birthday**  
On October 30th



There have been periods in the church's history where the burdens placed on the shoulders of people—particularly an exaggerated sense of guilt for certain sins—truly weighed people down, creating a terrible sense of unworthiness, leading to the living of distorted lives.

Our Lord makes it clear that leaders cannot evade responsibility for this by hiding behind honorific titles.

In the Gospels, we find the ONE who said: 'Come to me all you who toil and are burdened and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matt 11:28-30)

If people don't find that the burden laid by Church leaders (who often long to be greeted obsequiously) leads to refreshment and rest for souls, then it is right to question the burden, and to question the leaders who impose such burdens.

Perhaps we could pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis whose favoured titles are simply: 'Bishop of Rome', 'Servant of the Servants of God'.

*Fr Michael Tate*

## LIFEBOAT GEELONG FOUNDATION – CLIENT SUPPORT OFFICER POSITION (Part-time)

The "LIFEBOAT GEELONG FOUNDATION" has been established for ten years and provides practical and pastoral support for victims of church-related sexual abuse. We wish to employ a part-time "Client Support Officer" (12 hours per week) to provide personal support to individual clients in Geelong and regional Victoria – through both personal contact and by phone. The appointee will need to have an appreciation of the plight of those who have suffered sexual abuse from church personnel, and its many harmful, lifelong negative effects such as PTSD, compromised education and employment potential, self-esteem issues etc. Applicants should indicate any professional or experience-based qualifications, availability, and motivation for this particular work. Hourly-based remuneration, by agreement, in accord with Human Resources practice. Applications by email, with supporting information and referees: to [cath@lifeboatgeelong.com.au](mailto:cath@lifeboatgeelong.com.au), by November 8th. Enquiries: 0439 199 400

## Pope Francis Prayer Intention for November

*We pray for the Holy Father: as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

### Pope asks faithful to pray for him this month

In *'The Pope Video'* for November, Pope Francis asks the faithful to *'Pray to the Lord that He will bless me'*, saying, *'Your prayer gives me strength and helps me to discern and to accompany the Church, listening to the Holy Spirit'*.



Source: Vatican News.

Pope Francis reminds the faithful in this month's video that *'The fact that someone is Pope doesn't mean they lose their humanity. On the contrary, my humanity grows each day with God's holy and faithful people.'*

He adds, *'Being Pope is also a process. The person becomes aware of what it means to be a pastor. And in this process, he learns how to be more charitable, more merciful, and, above all, more patient, like God our Father, who is so patient.'*

Knowing that popes are often *'judged harshly'* and will have to render *'a serious account'* of their ministry to God, Pope Francis asks his listeners *'to judge benevolently'* and *'pray that the Pope, whoever he might be – today it is my turn – may receive the help of the Holy Spirit, that he may be docile to that help.'*

Specifically, he asks for prayers for the Pope *'so that in the exercise of his mission, he may continue to accompany in the faith the flock entrusted to him by Jesus, always with the help of the Holy Spirit'*.

Edited extract Cathnews

## Christian Leadership

The Christian model of leadership often flies in the face of societal concepts of leadership. Many of the models of leadership we witness in society focus on exerting power over others. People are praised for showing *'strong'* leadership when they manipulate situations, bully less powerful people and bulldoze their way through others' opinions. Whilst this model of leadership may have a certain effectiveness in the short term, there is certainly nothing *'Christian'* about its operation and ultimately it forces a wedge between the leader and the led. *Christian leadership focuses on empowering all parties and rather than power over others, it embraces power through and with others.*

Liturgy Help

## National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) calls for new way forward after Voice outcome.

An unsuccessful outcome to the Voice to Parliament referendum is just another challenge that will be faced with dignity, respect and without losing hope, a statement from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council says.



Throughout this journey we, the members of NATSICC, have placed an emphasis on fostering respectful dialogue and providing Catholics with information to help them make their decision. We are proud to have maintained the stance that all people are created equal in the image of God and thus deserve to be respectfully treated, regardless of their stance on the referendum question.

Guided by the Catholic social teaching principle of subsidiarity, we (along with most First Australians) saw the value in a mechanism for our voice, and the voices of our children and grandchildren to be heard in Parliament and the potential for tangible outcomes to improve the day to day lives of our people. We also acknowledged that this was not the only way forward, but a step on the journey of Reconciliation.

We accept that, for a variety of reasons, the Australian people have decided that an enshrined Voice is not the way to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Constitution, or see it as useful to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples gain an equal footing on metrics such as life expectancy, health and socio economics.

What we must not accept is that this signals the end of the journey.

Statistics from the Closing the Gap strategy show that we cannot maintain the status quo. We now call on those that espoused alternatives to champion Indigenous-led ideas and initiatives that will address these practical issues, and for all people in this country to work for reconciliation.

Cathnews

## We pray for Mohammad

Mohammad continues to wait for a Visa (11 years); please continue your prayers for him.

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

May there be peaceful resolutions.

**St Bernard's community ....**

**2024 Columban Calendars** are now available for purchase from the Book Nook \$10 each.

## St Bernard's annual Book Fair

We welcome books, DVD's, CD's, Games, Toys & Puzzles **all year round**, so if you are having a clean out please call and they can be collected (ph Peter 0409 969 648), or deliver to the Parish office. Thank you. (no textbooks, encyclopedia or magazines)

**The Geelong Community**

Tuesday, 14 November, 6.00pm Geelong

**Catholic Diners Club**, The Bistro, Belmont Hotel, cnr High St & Mt Pleasant Rd, Belmont  
Cost: Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost. RSVP please phone or text Joan 0429215111 or Michael 0431959584 by Friday, 10 November

**The Wider Community.....**

## 3rd Annual Charity Golf Day raffle to support the Bayleaf.

By purchasing tickets, you will directly help families in need. Please refer to poster on the noticeboard at the church for QR Code to purchase tickets



## 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

## Our Humble Servant

Jesus said, 'Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you're content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty'. (Matthew 23: 11 - 12)

Jesus sees things much differently. Though perfection is not required from those in power, humility is. Humbled servants are who Jesus calls to leadership. Anyone else less is not worthy of the public trust. *GPBSeNews*



## 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.**



\* **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

'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.'

**Readings this week :** Malachi1: 14-2:2.8-10; Ps130; 1 Thessalonians 1:7-9.13; Matthew 23:1-12

## Next Week's Readings :

Wisdom 6:12-16 ; Ps 62:2-8 ; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ; Matthew 25:1-13

