

FUNERAL: Condolences to the family of Julie Kay who sadly passed away during the week. A Requiem Mass will be held next Wednesday, 7 February at 12 noon at Sacred Heart Church. Julie had been on our prayer list; may she rest in eternal peace.

ANNIVERSARY: Congratulations to Lorraine and Barry Stephens who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary this week. Congratulations on 55 years of marriage and we wish you both many more happy and healthy years together!

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD: Marg Croese received an award for Services to the Community and Humanity which was presented by the Local Rotary and Lions Cubs. Congratulations Marg and thank you for your continued service to our Parish and the wider Moruya community.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Tegan and Paul Croese who welcomed their son Frankie on 1 February. Big sister Reign and Nanna Marg are delighted with the new arrival.

PPC: The first Parish Pastoral Council meeting for 2024 will be held in the Presbytery on Wednesday, 7 February at 4:30pm. If there is an issue Parishioners would like raised, please notify the office.

GATHERING INVITATION: GRIEF, LOSS AND LIVING WITH DEMENTIA ... A PASTORAL RESPONSE: Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at St Bernard's Church Meeting Room, 2 David Ave, Batehaven. Time: 9:15am for 9:30am start—12 noon. Facilitator: Nicole Gorzalka, Hammond Care. Guest speakers: *Antoinette and Nancy will share their experiences of caring for their husbands living with Dementia*. This Gathering is open to: Pastoral Carers, Family Carers, Volunteers and Supporting Friends or those wanting to increase their awareness. There is no cost; BYO sharing morning tea. **NOTE: Bookings are essential by Monday, 5 February** by calling Marie 0405 028 057 or Carolyn 0400 021 119.



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



The Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis and to be held every year, reminds us, pastors and faithful alike, of the importance and value of Sacred scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the Word of God and the liturgy: "As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event, but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow

in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness.

Through the proclaimed biblical readings in the liturgy, God speaks to his people and Christ himself proclaims his Gospel; Christ is the centre and fullness of all Scripture, both the Old and the New Testaments. Listening to the Gospel, the high point of the Liturgy of the Word, is characterised by a special veneration, expressed not only by gestures and acclamations, but by the Book of the Gospels itself.

In the Homily, beginning with the biblical readings, the mysteries of faith and the norms of the Christian life are explained throughout the year. "Pastors are primarily responsible for explaining sacred Scripture and helping everyone to understand it. Since it is the people's book, those called to be ministers of the word must feel an urgent need to make it accessible to their community". Bishops, priests and deacons must develop a commitment to carry out this ministry with special dedication, making use of the means proposed by the Church. "God's word, listened to and celebrated, above all in the Eucharist, nourishes and inwardly strengthens Christians, enabling them to offer an authentic witness to the Gospel in daily life".

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



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Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am

Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass

1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



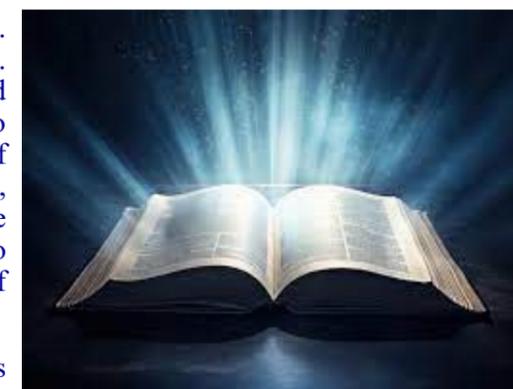
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR B - 3 & 4 February 2024

The Word of God Sunday

God has revealed his thoughts and ways, his mind and heart, his intensions, purposes and will to us through his revealed Word

"He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45). This was one of the final acts of the risen Lord before his Ascension. Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures. To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, he unveiled the meaning of the paschal mystery: that in accordance with the Father's eternal plan, he had to suffer and rise from the dead, in order to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins (cf Lk 24:26, 46-47). He then promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength to be witnesses of this saving mystery.

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, St Jerome could rightly claim "*Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ*". It is fitting, then, that the life of our people be constantly marked by his decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness. In the hearing of God's word the Church is built up and grows, and in the signs of the liturgical celebration God's wonderful, past works in the history of salvation are presented anew as mysterious realities. God in turn makes use of the congregation of the faithful that celebrates among the nations.



Whenever, therefore, the Church, gathered by the Holy Spirit for liturgical celebration, announces and proclaims the word of God, she is aware of being a new people in whom the covenant made in the past is perfected and is fulfilled. Baptism and Confirmation in the Spirit have made all Christ's faithful into messengers of God's word because of the grace of hearing they have received. They must, therefore, be the bearers of the same word in the Church and in the world, at least by the witness of their lives. "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts of God*" (Colossians 3:16).

May the Sunday of the Word of God help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. For as the sacred author taught of old: "*This word is very near to you: it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance*" (Dt 30:14).

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. **O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment Thine.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Job 7:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

(R) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving;
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All: Glory to you O Lord

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

The **readings** today challenge us to go courageously beyond people's expectations by doing good as Jesus did instead of brooding over pain and suffering in the world that we cannot end. They invite us to explore the importance of work in our lives and to learn a lesson in work ethics from Job, Paul, Mark and Jesus. While the **gospel** presents Jesus enthusiastically preparing for his second day's missionary work, the first reading details Job's attitude in striking contrast to Jesus'. In the list of his long sufferings, Job spoke of the tedium and futility of life. Job's words describe the miseries of human existence. Eventually, Job arrived at a place in his life where, in trust and in faith, he surrendered himself, his suffering, his work and everything he had had and had lost to the greater wisdom of God (Job 42:1-6).

The **second reading**, on the other hand, presents Paul as a true and dynamic follower of Jesus, ready to do something extra for his Lord. Paul's conviction about the good news and his commitment to Christ were so intense that preaching the gospel had become a compulsion for him. Knowing that he had been called to do more than just preach the Gospel, he resolved to preach it without recompense.

In the **gospel**: pointing out the spontaneous response of Peter's mother-in-law after she had been healed by Jesus—namely “waiting on them at table” - today's **gospel** teaches us that true discipleship means getting involved in giving selfless service to others. Jesus finished the first day of his public ministry at Capernaum on a Sabbath day. During the day, he had taken part in the synagogue worship, taught with authority, exorcised a demon and healed Simon's mother-in-law. After all that, in the evening, he “cured many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons”. Thus, Jesus spent himself and most of his time administering to the needs of others, giving healing, forgiveness and a new beginning to many. Yet he was well aware that even the most important work has to be continually refueled and evaluated before God his Father. Hence, Jesus rose early the next morning and went off “to a deserted place” to pray in order to assess his work for his Father's glory and to recharge his spiritual batteries.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysen, Pat Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave and David McWilliams.

Parish Safeguarding Commitment: Sacred Heart Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

Communicating Concerns: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have by emailing Fr George Azhakath or the Parish Office. Alternatively, please phone the Parish Office to arrange a time to talk with Fr George. Specific safeguarding issues can also be emailed to the **Parish Safeguarding Officers: Pauline Parnell** ronandpauline@yahoo.com; **Louise Strahlendorf** loumm214@gmail.com; or **Peter Hoban** peter.hoban@peters.com.au. Parishioners are also welcome to contact Maria Hicks, Manager for the Archdiocese's Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS) ipss@cg.org.au/6239 9806.