

STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS: A very warm welcome to teachers to the **Staff Commissioning Mass** this Saturday, 11 February at 6pm at Sacred Heart Church. St Mary's **Whole School Opening Mass** will be held on Thursday, 16 February at Sacred Heart Church at 12:30pm (followed by a picnic and assembly at School). Parents, Grandparents and parishioners are most welcome to attend. If you would like to be involved more at St Mary's, they welcome all volunteers. Please email Gen Schofield: genevieve.schofield@cg.catholic.edu.au



RECONCILIATION: Please see important dates for Reconciliation this year:

1st Reconciliation	Enrolment Letter sent home	16 Feb	5:00 pm	St Mary's Primary
1st Reconciliation	Commitment Mass	4-5 March	6:00 pm 10:00 am	St Bernard's Church Sacred Heart Church
1st Reconciliation	Year 3 Sacramental Retreat Day	10 March	9:30 am - 2:00 pm	Carroll College Facilitated by Yr 9 YM Class
1st Reconciliation	Celebration	28 March	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Church

OTHER NOTICES:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Anglican Church, with help from other churches and community members, has resumed serving breakfast at Moruya Public School. They are in need of more volunteers, particularly in March on Wednesdays from 8am-9:30am. If you can help or would like more information, please phone Shirley Piper on 0435 449 042.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES—FEAST DAY 11 FEBRUARY: *The story of Lourdes is well known. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in that small town located in the foothills of the Pyrene mountains of southern France.*

Her attention was drawn to the noise of rustling bushes near the Grotto of Massabielle, from the French vieille masse meaning ancient mass. Then Bernadette saw a beautiful young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She described this girl as "dressed in a white robe, girded at the waist with a blue ribbon. She wore upon her head a white veil which gave just a glimpse of hair. Her feet were bare but covered by the last folds of her robe and a yellow rose was upon each of them. She held on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses on her feet." Bernadette knelt and began to pray the rosary. At the end of the five decades the woman smiled and disappeared. The young visionary returned and on February 18 Our Lady began her message telling young Bernadette, "I do not promise to make you happy in this life but in the next." On February 24, Mary asked for penance and prayer for the conversion of sinners and the following day, she instructed Bernadette to dig the ground near the grotto. From that a spring came forth which to this day is used for the bath by pilgrims to Lourdes. At the apparition of March 2, Bernadette was instructed by Our Lady to "tell the priests that people should come here in procession and that a chapel should be built on the site." On the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, the Blessed Virgin told Bernadette in the dialect of Lourdes, "I am the Immaculate Conception." This dogma had been defined by Pope Pius IX just a few years earlier on December 8, 1854. The Basilica at Lourdes was consecrated in 1876 and the faithful, countless in number, flock in pious pilgrimage to the holy grotto. It is there that their faith and devotion are aroused, and they recommit themselves to conform their lives to the Christian message. There, miraculous favors are granted and healings, both physical and spiritual, have taken place.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK—11 FEBRUARY

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
 Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au
 Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
 Priest: Fr Anthony Riosa, SSS
 Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
 Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6:00pm Sun: 10:00am
 Tue: 5.30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: 8:00am Sunday **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm
Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass
 5:15pm-5:45pm before Mass
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A - February 11 & 12 2023

Jesus, the new Lawgiver gives the Torah it's full meaning

'I have not come to abolish them but to complete them'

Jesus challenges us to choose freely and wisely to observe the laws given by a loving and caring God

God revealed His laws to His chosen people through Moses and the Prophets in the Old Testament, and through His own Son, Jesus, in the New Testament. For the Israelites, the Torah was not a set of laws but the instruction or *teaching* intended to promote the holiness and wholeness of each believer. It was the revealed will of a caring God, for the people with whom He made His covenant.

The **first reading** from Sirach contains the clearest statement in the Old Testament concerning the God-given freedom of the human will. It exonerates God from all responsibility for evil in the world. "If you choose, you can keep the commandments ... before you are life and death, whichever you choose shall be given you."

In the **second reading**, Paul challenges his Corinthian believers to appreciate the wisdom of God's saving plan for His people, a plan hidden for ages but now revealed by the Spirit.

In the selection from the Sermon on the Mount in today's **gospel**, while challenging his disciples to live a life of justice and righteousness which should exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus, as the new lawgiver, sets forth his own position with regard to the Law given through Moses, by providing new interpretation and meaning for the old laws. In today's **gospel** passage, Jesus explains the real meaning of three Mosaic laws concerning murder, adultery and false oaths.



Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**
2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **(R.)**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **(R.)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what

scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) We need to obey God's laws appreciating its basic principles: In obeying God's law and Church law, let us remember the two basic principles on which these laws are based, namely, the principle of reverence and the principle of respect. In the first four of the Ten Commandments, we are asked to reverence God, reverence his holy name, reverence His holy day and reverence for our father and mother. The next set of commandments instruct us to respect life, one's personal integrity and good name, the legal system, another's property and one's spouse. Our obedience to these laws must be prompted by love of God and gratitude to God for His blessings.

2) We need to forgive, forget and move towards reconciliation as soon as possible: St Paul advises us "Be angry (righteous anger) but do not sin" (Eph 4:26). When we keep anger in our mind, we are inviting physical illnesses like hypertension and mental illnesses like depression. Let us relax and keep silent when we are angry, wait before acting on our anger, give it time to detoxify and cool off, pray for God's strength for self-control, and give the Holy Spirit time to help us to see the event through Jesus' eyes instead of through anger's eyes.

3) We need to be true to God, to ourselves and others: Let us allow God's word of truth to penetrate our minds and hearts and to form our consciences, making us men and women of integrity.

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, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysen, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette Moore, Annette and John Nader, John Harnett, Ross Hay, Bernard Carroll, Taine Woodford, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Lyn Timms, Rick Christensen, Pat Anderson and Emma Spinks.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE LIST

CONDOLENCES: Kevin Beer, the brother of Graham, passed away last week in Tasmania and Charles Morris passed away on 3 February. May Kevin and Charles rest in peace and please keep their families in your prayers..

BODALLA MASS: Masses at Bodalla will recommence on **Sunday, 26 February at 3pm.** Masses will be held every **4th Sunday of each month.**

IRT MORUYA AND BANKSIA MASSES: Masses have recommenced at **IRT Moruya** and will be held every **2nd Thursday of each month.** **Banksia** Masses will recommence on Thursday, **16 February at 11am** and every **3rd Thursday of the month thereafter.**

BULLETIN: Please feel free to take home the Bulletin and share with your family and friends.