



1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
YEAR B

3 December 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

#### OPENING PRAYER

*Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love.  
Give us the strength to grow in love  
that we may rejoice in Christ's coming  
Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)



2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

**SECOND READING:** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.  
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



### **Reflection on the Gospel of Mark – GPBS 28/11/2023**

Advent begins with the encouragement to stay awake and be ready for the coming of our saviour. There are no short cuts or artificial ways to do this. And we have only four weeks (actually three this year!) to prepare ourselves. It's a short period of time, especially when we are ironically so busy with all the preparations for what we are trying to celebrate.

So what are we to do? We need to take the time to remember why we have all these traditions: the tree, ornaments, presents, parties – all of this must be put in their context. We can either walk through them like we are asleep, or become frantic and overstimulated by it all. Or we can make the conscious choice as Advent begins to pray and reflect on what the birth of Jesus means to us and to our world and how we can make the presence of Jesus more real for ourselves, our loved ones, and people of good will. Today we have the time. But we know how quickly this time will pass.

## The Commissioning

Go from here, as people ready to follow God's way.  
We are ready to welcome a faithful change in our daily routine.  
We are ready to see local families reflected in the image  
of the struggling holy family.  
We are ready to say, "It can be done".  
We are ready to overcome prejudice with acceptance.  
We are ready to live as if the coming few days  
were the biblical last days.  
You are ready!  
God bless your active Advent.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for our war-torn and fractured world. May all in positions of authority and power do their utmost to end bloodshed and kindle new hope for peace. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the church around the world. May Christian communities everywhere welcome this new year of grace with joy and thanksgiving. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for fire-fighters and emergency service personnel as summer approaches. May they stay safe themselves as they labour to protect the community from dangerous events. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who have experienced loss, disappointment or difficulties in the course of this year. May the season of Advent promise them healing and hope. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Des Pollard, Dennis Dempsey, Fr. Mick, Peter Gillan, Penny Crawford, Tony Riley, Jenny Bodman, Ross Lawless, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers. May they not suffer alone but be assured of the love and care of the whole community. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased, Deb Stinson, Elizabeth Whittaker & Joan Henry . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they be called by name on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Father, we rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us as man.  
When he comes again in glory, may He reward us with endless life. Amen*

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**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Mass: Saturdays at 6.00pm. No weekday Masses for now.**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

**Christmas Mass: 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.**

**Parish Christmas get-together: Drinks and Nibbles under the bell 16<sup>th</sup> December after Mass.**

**Attention Readers:** I have purchased a book titled "Break Open the Word" which may assist you in your preparation for proclaiming the Gospel during Year B. It will be kept in the left side drawer of the Offertory table.

**Ecumenical Advent Women's' Breakfast, 2nd December 8-9.30am Old Sunday School hall.** Hosted by St Bede's Prayer Groups. \$12 (exact cash amount) in envelope with your name to James' coffee window please. RSVP: 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Braidwood Community Christmas Party and Shopping Night** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec from 3-7pm

**Readings for Mass: Yr B:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Cor. 1:3-9. Mark 13:33-37.

**Next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2 Peter 3:8-14. Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

**Radio Church:** Sundays at 6pm

<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>2 Dec</b>	<b>9 Dec</b>	<b>16 Dec</b>	<b>23 Dec</b>	<b>24 Dec 5pm</b>
Welcomer:	Helen P	Geraldine	Helen P	Cathy F	Helen P
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)				
Reader 1:	Cathy F	Tommy	Germaine	Ann T	Michael
Reader 2:	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Wendy H	Germaine
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>1 Dec</b>	<b>8 Dec</b>	<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>24 Dec</b>	
Altar Decorating:	Helen P	Cathy F	Joy	All please	
Cleaning:		Bunny & Ella		Pauline & Bobbie	
Counters:	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Brenda		2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H 4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen	5 <sup>th</sup> Helen Bopping	

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster or get a substitute from the list on the reverse side of the roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other,

Helen

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.