



**21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME YEAR B**

22 August 2021

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*Father,
Help to seek the values that will bring us lasting joy
in this changing world.
Make us one in mind and heart.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)

5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?' 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' (sorry about the brown folks. I don't know where it comes from)



REFLECTION on the Gospel of John 6:60-69 by Dianne Bergant CSA

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the

one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for Pope Francis. May he be a true successor of Peter and keep leading the church faithfully to Jesus, the Holy One of God. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who have lost faith and no longer walk with Jesus. May they rediscover the joy of the Gospel. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for every leader in government, commerce and industry. May they heed the warnings of the world's scientists and act now to deal with the climate crisis. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for health workers in poorer countries struggling to cope with the COVID pandemic. May they be given a just share in the resources they need. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the people of Lebanon, Tigray, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and every nation in distress. May they not lose hope in the promise of peace and justice. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for young children. May parents and teachers inspire them to love reading and enjoy the wonderful world of books. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, including Karen Suitor, Bob Haigh, Teonie McMahon, Jeremy Nelson, Helen Campbell-Davys, Ian Vardanega, John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet, Val Biggers and Celia Roach. . May they be encouraged and well supported by their families, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased William Gunderson, Allan Henry and Sister Marie Jeanne Graham rsjand for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May their faith in Jesus lead them to everlasting life. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING BLESSING

Lord,

May the healing power of your love

guide and direct our efforts to please you in all things.

Amen.

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

The church will be closed to the public for the duration of the NSW lockdown. All other groups and meetings are also cancelled until further notice, including the Krawarree Mass set down for 29 August and the monthly markets on 28th.



While our churches are closed, Archbishop Christopher would like to invite all to pray the Rosary via Zoom **starting today at 4 pm**. If you don't have internet, you could join by saying the Rosary by yourselves.

All you need are your Rosary beads and your intentions.

TIME: Every Wednesday and Friday at 4 pm sharp!
(Archbishop Christopher will lead us today in the Glorious Mysteries)

ZOOM DETAILS: Simply click on the

link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022458332?pwd=MDZ4ODFhNjlvdnFkd21aVDQzWnAydz09>

Or enter in the details below after opening the Zoom app

Meeting ID: 850 2245 8332

Passcode: 543675



The Catholic Bishops' Conference and various other churches encourage you to join with them for a day of prayer and fasting in the light of the Covid crisis. Click on the link below to register.

<http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Don't forget you can watch Mass 11am on Sundays and weekdays at 12.15pm

Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

Readings for 22nd Sunday: 1st: Deut. 4:1-2,6-8. 2nd James 1:17-18,21-22,27.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23.

Take care, keep safe and look out for each other,
Helen Hart