



**31ST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

31 October 2021

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*God of power and mercy,
only with your help
can we offer you fitting service and praise.
May we live the faith we profess
and trust your promise of eternal life.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

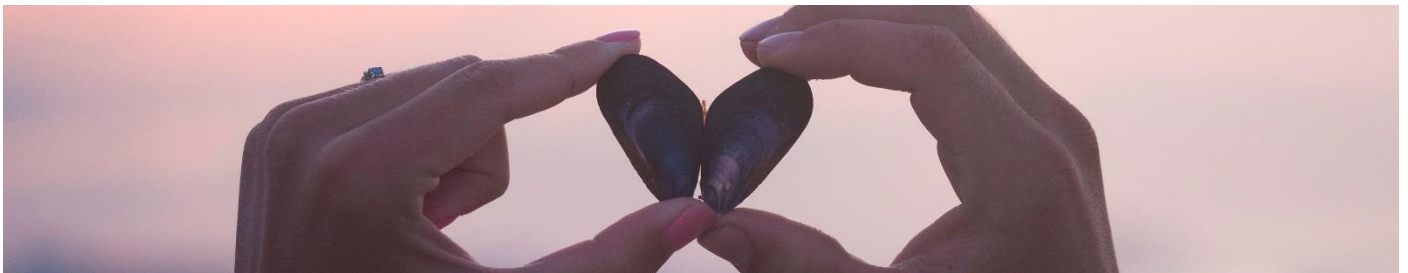
Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.



REFLECTION on Mark 12:28-34 from GPBS 22/10/2021

Close to the Kingdom

Play the Scripture game. Name a person in the gospels you would like to be. For me, the unnamed scribe in the gospel passage this week is a great choice. Of all the things that Jesus says to anyone in the four gospels, this is the one thing I want him to say to me: "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom".

This anonymous scribe hits the jackpot. Like so many people of his generation, he heard about this great teacher and decided to check out the story. Being a student of Scripture, he wanted to see if Jesus was more learned than he was. Scholarship makes some people arrogant, but this man had come to be humbled by his education. If Jesus knew more about God than he did, he was ready to learn from him.

So he asks his question, which may well have been the guiding principle of his entire career. Which law is first among the commandments? What does God want most from us? If you have only one chance to ask a question, you want to be sure it's the most important one. And the man is so impressed by the clear answer Jesus gives, he responds with sincere praise. For his part, Jesus finds himself in the presence of a rare understanding disciple. So he in turn praises the man with those thrilling words: *you're almost there*. May each of us hear those words someday!

If you boiled down the mission of your life to one question, as the scribe in the gospel did, what would it be?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the earth and all its creatures, that world leaders attending the Glasgow climate conference will adopt effective measures to limit global warming. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Pope Francis, that his prophetic appeals for a new human solidarity and for loving care of the earth will be heeded. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan and all places of great suffering, that the world community will come to their aid. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for parents, teachers and children in COVID-affected states, that the resumption of in-school education will be a blessing for all. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for parish communities facing an uncertain future; that the challenge of change will draw them together and bring forth the gifts of the Spirit. () Lord, hear us.

We give thanks for all whose holy lives have inspired our faith, and pray that the feast of All Saints will deepen our communion with them. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, including Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Karen Suitor, Bob Haigh, Teonie McMahon, Jeremy Nelson, Helen Campbell-Davys, Ian Vardanega, John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet, Val Biggers and Celia Roach. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

As we approach All Souls days, we pray for the recently deceased, Allan Stewart, Dan Costello and Norma Flack for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, and for all who have gone before us, that they will live in the love of God for ever. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,
May the power of your love
continue its saving work among us
and bring us to the joy you promise.
Amen.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
November is a special time to pray for the dead. One of the great gifts of our faith is belief in the Communion of Saints, a constant reminder we are in union as a pilgrim people with those who have been faithful to God's call for them. There will be Mass at St. Mary's Bungendore this coming Monday at 9AM, All Saints Day. Mass will be held at the presbytery in Braidwood on Tuesday at 10AM, All Souls Day.

Terry, Laurie, Ray and myself had a meeting with Pip Giovanelli (Heritage Architect) to see progress on the roof at Braidwood. There was a concern that a wall had moved but Pip isn't concerned because it probably happened years ago and isn't a problem. I would be surprised if the roof is finished by Christmas. First Holy Communion to be held on the 21st November will be at the school hall at 10.30AM.

I am truly grateful to those who have mowed grass on our land; Greg Buckley (Gundaroo), Greg Durr (Hoskinstown), Garry & Helen Pieper, Felix Schlager, Michael Crosby and Phil Owen (Braidwood), David Webster, Chris Van Gessel and Glenn Toscan (Bungendore). This extraordinary season has required the grass to be cut nearly every week.

During the month of November you may like the community to pray for your deceased relatives and friends, for their names to be on the bulletin contact Julie-Ann (Bungendore) or Helen (Braidwood). Whilst I pray for these people at Mass, offerings are given to priests in Timor Leste. Please pray for successful outcomes at the COP 26 in Glasgow.

Yours in Christ,
Mick Burke

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Next weekend Mass time: Vigil Saturday at 6pm in St Bede's School Hall.

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays commencing 26th October at 10am in the Presbytery courtyard.

Meditation: recommences Thursday 21st October in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 9 November at the Presbytery

Krawarree Mass for this month is cancelled.

October markets are cancelled.

Dear Parishioners,

The church will be closed to the public for the duration of the roof repairs. Mass will now be held in the St Bede's school hall, Saturdays at 6pm. The hall can accommodate 40 people under the 4sqm rule so I would appreciate, if you intend to join us, your letting us know so that seating can be arranged accordingly. **From now on all are welcome, regardless of vaccination status.** Masks are still mandatory and communion will be distributed as before. Phone 4842 2444; Helen 0430 169 849 or Brian 0408 687 915. The 2 collections will once again be taken up during Mass.

Cbm (Christian Blind Mission) are once again offering Meaningful Christmas Gifts through their catalogue. It is on the table at the back of the hall, along with order forms and an envelope with the reply paid address.

Far East magazines are also on the table for interested parishioners.

1st Collection: BSB: 062-786

Account: 00029248

Account Name: St Bedes Braidwood CPF

Reference: BRAIDWOOD & SURNAME

For 2nd collection: BSB: 062-786

Account No: 00017755

Name: St Bedes Parish Braidwood.

Reference: name or giving number if you have one.

Readings for next week: 32nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year B:

1st: 1 Kings 17:10-16. 2nd: Hebrews 9:24-28. Gospel: Mark 12:38-44.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	Music
31 Oct	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy M-B/Ann	Helen H
6 Nov	James/Les	Helen P	Michael/Cathy F	Helen H
13 Nov	Geoff	Cathy F	Rod/Bobbie	Helen H
20 Nov	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy H/Germaine	Helen H
27 Nov	James/Les	Helen P	Wendy M-B/Ann	Helen H

Enjoy the lovely spring weather and the freedoms we now have,
Helen Hart