



31st SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR A

5 November 2023

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 prophet Malachi

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: In you, Lord, I have found my peace.**

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. (R.)

2. Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. (R.)

3. O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. (R.)

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

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;  
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'



## **Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 23:1-12 by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Since Vatican II the responsibilities of leadership have been spread throughout the community. This has not happened simply because there are fewer priests and religious. It has occurred primarily because the Council itself insisted that by virtue of their baptism all Christians are called to discipleship, which includes active participation in the mission of the church. While those who are ordained continue in specialised forms of leadership, other people have stepped forward to assume their newly recognised responsibilities. Sometimes they have more influence in the church than do the ordained.

We derive the connection between pharisaical and hypocritical from Jesus' description of the Pharisees found in today's reading. His condemnation, along with the condemnation of the priests in the first reading, should be a warning to all who in any way exercise leadership. We must always be on our guard lest the trappings of leadership ensnare us and we fail in our responsibilities toward God and the community we serve.

There is a mode of leadership that reflects the very meaning of authority. This way of leadership authors life. It is characterised by the striking image of a nursing mother who both gives and sustains life. Those who exercise leadership in this way create a community where life is fostered, not stifled, where talents serve all of the members, and the talents of all of the members are invited to serve. Such a community not only nurtures its members, it is itself the author of life in the world.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for all who sow seeds of peace in hearts, homes, communities and nations, that their ministry of mercy will quench the flames of hate and anger. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Jews and Palestinians living around the world, in their anguish at the terrible war in Israel and Gaza. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all nations observing Remembrance Day this week; that honouring those who have died in armed conflict or peacekeeping will strengthen their resolve to work ceaselessly for peace. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the world-wide church, that the deliberations of the Synod will inspire the whole people of God to realise their common dignity as sisters and brothers in Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our children preparing for the sacrament of First Communion, Nina, Tilly, Charlie, Jake, Jay, Mason, Sam and Teddy. May they come to know Jesus more intimately. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for ourselves, that we will gladly accept God's message as a living power among us. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Des Pollard (Geoff's brother), Rex Sutherland, 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, that they may be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for those who have died recently, John Hockey and Frances Minogue . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time; that they will take their place in the communion of saints and rejoice in God forever. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Lord, you give us new hope and may the power of your love continue its saving work among us.  
Amen*

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**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Tony Percy M. 0431 225 574**

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**Parish Website: <http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aasp>**

**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**

**First Communion: 18<sup>th</sup> November in 6pm Mass.**

**"Come Holy Spirit!** You are warmly invited to the Archbishop's Teaching Day for Charismatic Renewal on Saturday 4 November from 8:30am to 2pm at Haydon Hall, Franklin Street, Manuka ACT. Speakers are Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Lalith Perera (founder of Community of the Risen Lord, Sri Lanka). Holy Mass, worship, preaching, prayer ministry and free BBQ lunch. To register, <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1133486>. For more information call/text Susanna 0419 902 293 or Tim 0404 805 082."

**Bungendore Rodeo** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Juniors from 8am and main event from 12 noon. Tickets available online or at the gate on day: adults \$25, Kids 12-16 \$15, Under 12 free

**Farewell lunch for Eileen Dempsey** at Vanilla Cafe on Thursday 9 November at 12 noon. RSVP Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November to Germaine 0418 422 277 or Helen Hart on 0430 169 849

**Braidwood Open Gardens** November 4 & 5.

**Book Launch of selected poems by Jeremy Lockhart Nelson** Thus Passes the Glory of the World on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 2.30pm at the former church, 153 Sawyer's Ridge Road, Reidsdale. Book: \$20 at launch. (AMAZON, 200PP. \$25.00)  
 RSVP to John Fulcher. Phone 0423 749 464 Email: [jfulcher@gmail.com](mailto:jfulcher@gmail.com)

**The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch Commemoration Dinner** is on again this year at the National Theatre -11 Nov. Bookings close 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. <https://www.trybooking.com/CMDIF>

**Are You Bugged Mate?** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm in the Servicemen's Club is all about helping country blokes talk about mental health and suicide while spreading awareness about depression in the bush. Lucky door prizes and giveaways and a chance to win a chainsaw. BB dinner.

**Braidwood Quilt Event 2023** 25/26 November Contact [braidwoodquilterstextiles@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodquilterstextiles@gmail.com)

**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.

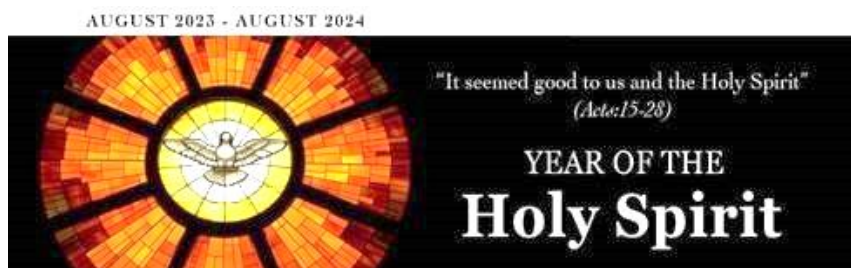
**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Mal. 1:14-2:2, 8-10. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Thess. 2:7-9, 13. Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12.

**Next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Wisdom 6: 12-16. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13.

**Radio Church:** Sundays at 6pm on FM 88.9

<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>4 Nov</b>	<b>11 Nov</b>	<b>18 Nov</b>	<b>25 Nov</b>	<b>2 Dec</b>
Welcomer:	Helen P	Cathy F	Geraldine	Helen P	Cathy F
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)				
Reader 1:	Cathy F	Tommy	Germaine	Ann T	
Reader 2:	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Wendy H	
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>10 Nov</b>	<b>17 Nov</b>	<b>24 Nov</b>	<b>1 Dec</b>	<b>8 Dec</b>
Altar Decorating:	Cathy	Joy	Margaret	Helen P	Cathy F
Cleaning:	Pauline & Wendy				
Counters: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday:	Pauline & Bobbie.		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Wendy H		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday:	Brenda		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.

**St Bede's**

**Invites all women to an Ecumenical Advent  
Prayer Breakfast**



**On: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 8am-9.30am,  
Old Sunday School Hall, Wilson St.**

**Cost: \$12 in a marked envelope with your  
name and exact cash to James' coffee  
window.**

We are unable to give refunds due to purchasing costs.

**RSVP with money by 27<sup>th</sup> November**