

## NORTHERN MISSION

incorporating Queanbeyan, Michalego, Bungendore and Braidwood Parishes.

<http://www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com>

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Father Troy Bobbin

**Associate Priest:** Father Peter Day (Braidwood & Bungendore)

**Deacons:** John Lim (Bungendore)

Chris Van Gessel (Queanbeyan)

**Pastoral Associate, Braidwood:** Br Brian Berg

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

**Braidwood Contact Numbers:** Ph. 4842 2444;

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**Br. Brian email:** [bcberg@edmundrice.org](mailto:bcberg@edmundrice.org)

**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Trish Ferlitsch Ph. 4842 2413

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Thurs 9.00am - 5.00pm.



### Mission Sunday Masses:

St Raphael's Q'bn 5.30pm Sat

9am & 5.30pm Sun

St Mary's Bung. 8.30am Sun

St Bede's B'wood 6.00pm Sat

# Northern Mission



**5TH SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME Yr. B**

**4 February 2018**

### Ministries for our Sunday Liturgy: Vigil @ 6.00pm

	3 February	10 February	17 February
Commentator:	H Hart	P Coady	H Hart
Reader:	T Ferlitsch	R Coady	C Ffrench
Reader:	K Toirkens	Wendy M-Bell	G Hannaford
Acolyte:	J Gunderson	F Schlager	L Hart
Sp. Ministers	W Hart	B Schlager	A Monkhouse
	H Bopping	H Pieper	volunteer
Welcomer:	H Pieper	G Sutton	C Ffrench
PowerPoint:	H Hart	D Flores	H Hart
Gifts:	Cathy	Marj & Norah	Geraldine & Natasha

### Ministries of Service: 9 February 16 February 23 February

Altar Decorating:	Cathy	Margaret	Fran
Cleaners:	Margaret & Barbara	Bobbie	Victor & Rosaria

**Sp. Min hospital:** 1st Sun: Eileen Dempsey. 2nd Sun: Helen Pieper.

3rd Sun: Brian Berg 4th Sun: Ann Monkhouse. 5th Sun: Jane Gardner.

**Counters:** 1st Sun: K & M Toirkens. 2nd Sunday: G Kain. 3rd Sunday: Wendy Hart.  
4th Sunday: E Hannaford. 5th Sunday: H Bopping.

**World Community for Christian Meditation is held Thursdays** at 10.30am at St Bede's Presbytery. For information please contact Br. Brian on 4842 2444. Newcomers are always welcome. Check out the websites: [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org) or [www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)

### St Vincent de Paul Society Braidwood Conference:

*"Giving a helping hand up"*

**Office Hours: Fridays 11am to 1pm.**



### Readings:

**This week** 1st: Job 7:1-4,6-7. 2nd: 1 Cor. 9:16-19,22-23. Gospel: Mark 1:29-39.

**Next week** 1st: Lev. 13:1-2,44-66. 2nd: 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1. Gospel Mk 1 40:40-45.

### Join Us in Prayer

#### Entrance Antiphon:

O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the one who made us,  
who is our God.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

**Response: Praise our God who heals the broken-hearted.**

All: Let us sing praises to our good and loving God.  
let us sing praise.

All: God builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
Our God heals the broken-hearted,  
and binds up all their wounds.  
God fixes the number of the stars;  
and calls each one by its name.

All: Almighty God,  
Whose wisdom can never be measured;  
raises the lowly;  
and humbles the wicked to the dust.

**Response: Praise our God who heals the broken-hearted.**

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

#### Communion Antiphon:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall have their fill.

**Next weekend Mass time:** Vigil Saturday at 6pm in St Bede's Church.  
**Weekday Mass: Mass of Christian Burial** for Catherine Gilbert Tuesday 6th February at 2.00pm.  
**Opening School Mass:** Tuesday 20th February at 10am in the Church.  
**Meditation:** Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.  
**Braidwood AA** meets each Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Centre.  
**Social Justice Group** meets first Sunday of the month at 10.30am.  
**Vinnies Meeting:** 9 February at 1.30pm.  
**NB: MASS TIME WILL BE VIGIL AT 6.00PM UNTIL THE END OF JUNE**

**DRINKS AND NIBBLIES AFTER MASS TONIGHT** to welcome in the New Year.

**CTC "Call to Connect"** women's ministry will hold open prayer meetings & coffee on Friday 16th Feb at 10 am at the Presbytery ( Bronnie 0432257622) and Tuesday 20th Feb at 10.30am at the Presbytery( Cathy 4842 2398).

**Roster for cleaning the Presbytery:** anyone who could assist by going on a roster for a monthly vacuum and dust of the Presbytery please contact Helen Hart. The parish really cannot afford to pay a cleaner as well as the housekeeper, Mary, who does the other work but cannot vacuum because of a bad back. So far we have one new volunteer.

**Please pray for the sick:** Anna Hough, Ron Cochrane, Derek Kelly, Diana Wiley, Tony Ryan, Luke Ward, Len Kanowski, Ted Younger, Paul Conaghan, Tony Riley, Dave Kelly, Robin Marsden, Patricia Golotta, Barbara Monaghan, John Sheldon, Sarah Lewis, Richie Simpson, Mark Sissian, Sarah Cree, the residents of Narbethong & the aged care unit and all who need prayers.

**Please pray for those who have died in recent days:** Teresa Neilson, John Ryall, (Mandy O'Brien's cousin), Catherine Gilbert, Marie Fletcher, Frank Berg and our own deceased relatives and friends.

### **Reflection on the Gospel: The Divine Touch**

I recall that when Romania was liberated from Communist rule, the television showed heart-breaking scenes of malnourished children and young adolescents in orphanages. Generally, they lay listless on their beds or simply rocked backwards and forwards: isolated, solitary in a crowded dormitory. It soon emerged that these youngsters were suffering from what we might call 'touch deprivation'. No-one had ever cuddled them, placed a comforting hand on their shoulder, caressed them.

It was only when these things were done that they began to be healed, made human, brought to life because somebody said: 'Your body is precious, let

me hug you'. The persons who cuddled them were imitating Jesus in a profound and contemporary manner.

What was the situation in today's Gospel?

Jesus had just recruited Simon and his brother, Andrew, to follow him as an itinerant preacher roaming around the countryside and towns of Galilee.

They had abandoned the family business of fishing. When they paid a visit to Simon's home, they found Simon's mother-in-law sick in bed with such a fever she could be given up for dead. We read that Jesus, learning about her distressed state, went to her and 'took her by the hand'. '*Took her by the hand*' – our Lord broke the taboo which forbade physical contact between a woman and a male who is not an immediate relative.

Why? Because he knew what she needed. Not 'an aspirin and a good lie down', but she needed to be reassured that she was not quarantined, isolated from family and friends.

In reaching out and taking her by the hand and lifting her up, Jesus not only cured a pathology, but healed a dis-ease. She was ill at ease, feeling cut off from human society. Once healed, she got back to bustling around the house.

Almost certainly you have seen Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It has as its centrepiece the act of the creation of humanity. It depicts two great hovering figures. God is stretching out his hand and just touching the outstretched hand of Adam. The Divine touch brings the earth-creature, 'Adam' in the Hebrew, into a humanised relationship with God.

Jesus, the Divine person in the midst of the mess of human history, stretched out his hand and took Peter's mother-in-law by her hand, restoring her to a fully human sociable life, a life of relationships. How is the Divine touch to be made real today?

Through the companions of those orphans in Romania.

Through you, Through me. He has no other way.

You and I have to offer him our hands to reach out and heal.

We practise it symbolically at Mass at the greeting of Peace – and sometimes more than symbolically! There has been a bit of a fight in the family, some silly dispute which could fester. With a peck on the cheek or a half-embarrassed handshake along with 'Peace be with you', the isolating distance is overcome.

We need to take that symbolic action out into the world.

Through your outstretched hand. Extending your hand can make someone more fully human. *You* know who needs that healing touch. *You know* who is within your reach. Do it, and it may be the most touching thing you ever do. In that person's life, it may be the touch of Heaven.

Fr Michael Tate