



**5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B**

7 February 2021

Liturgy and Bulletin

OPENING PRAYER

Father,
watch over your family
and keep us safe in your care
for all our hope is in you.
Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. (R.)

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. (R.)

3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

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

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Divine Touch

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was sick in bed with a raging fever. When Jesus learned about her distressed state, he 'took her by the hand and helped her up'. He broke the taboo about physical contact with a woman not his relative because he wanted to holistically heal her dis-ease. Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand reassuring her of sociable relationships. Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a physical gesture at the greeting of Peace. This quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease with a family member or just with the neighbour in the pew. We need to take that symbolic action into the world. For somebody, it may be the most touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify that person who needs us to reach out, to take their hand and help them up.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: On this Word of God Sunday may we come to appreciate the scriptures more fully.
(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who work with victims of violence will relieve hopelessness and instil peace and calm. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those struggling with their faith will call on Christ and find relief from their sorrow.
(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will show charity and compassion in our visits to the bereaved and the lonely. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick and housebound will find healing joy in Christ, especially Jim O'Connell, Ted Hart, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermert, Ann McDougall, Val Biggers and Celia Roach. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will be called by name and live forever with the Lord, especially Reece Grant and our own deceased relatives and friends. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*God our Father,
make us one in Christ
and help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world.
Amen.*

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

Welcome to the first Liturgy and bulletin for 2021.

Mass last Saturday evening was attended by 50 parishioners. Social distancing, hygiene requirements and recording attendance procedures are still being observed. **Please try to arrive in good time** as all these regulations and requirements will take time. The protocols are being slowly relaxed, singing is now allowed and distancing is now 2 square metres inside the church.

Weekday Masses: No weekday Masses until further notice.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: commences Friday 5th February 9-10am. All welcome at any time during this period.

Araluen Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm First Friday of every month. All welcome.

Lent begins on Wednesday 17 February 2021.

18 February – 25 March 7.30pm to 9.00pm "Walk in the Spirit, Lenten Renewal Experience"

Led by Archbishop Prowse via livestreaming every Thursday during Lent, *Walk in the Spirit* is open to all desiring a new Lenten renewal experience. Talks, prayer, sharing and Encounter Nights. Register and find our more at <https://cgatholic.org.au/walk-in-the-spirit/>

The Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis and to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, (in Australia, the 1st Sunday in February) reminds us, pastors and faithful alike, of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy: "As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness".

Year of St Joseph: to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

Please find attached and a link to the new Apostolic Letter entitled [*Patris corde*](#) ("With a Father's Heart"),



Cleaners: the group decided that fortnightly cleaning should be sufficient as the church is still only open for services. If anyone would like to join the "Clean Team", please contact Helen for details.

Readings for next week: 1st: Lev. 13:1-2,44-46. 2nd: 1 Cor. 10:31-1:1. Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Offerings received acknowledged with thanks: Envelopes \$78; Loose: \$125.

It is also important to acknowledge those who give online and by Tap Machine. Thank you for your continued support of our parish and our priests.

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

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

Masks are not yet mandatory but recommended. Please feel free to wear one to Mass if you wish.

Take care and keep safe
Helen Hart