



**5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME YEAR A**

5 February 2023

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 prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)
2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

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

When I came to you, sisters and brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 5:13-16 by Greg Sunter

Today, when we describe a person as being the 'salt of the earth' it's generally meant in a way that says the person is hard working, straight talking and pretty down to earth. It's usually meant as a compliment but sometimes can come across as a bit condescending when used inappropriately. When Jesus tells the disciples that they are salt of the earth and

the light of the world he is really saying 'You are to *be* the salt of the earth; you are to *be* the light of the world.' It is more of a directive than an affirmation of them.

Today's first reading from Isaiah helps to shed light on Jesus' meaning in the gospel passage: 'Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn.' It sounds a lot like the message from the last judgment in Matthew 25 when the king says 'whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' It's a message of justice and right relationship not only with God but with one another also.

To be salt of the earth and light of the world means to be the one who puts their hand up and steps forward to speak for, work for and act for those who are the least in this world. To have the potential and resources to be a force for good in the world and not act on it is to be like salt that's used for salting the streets or a lamp that's under a tub.

Today's gospel passage is one that is quite commonly quoted and relatively well known. When it is taken in isolation, it's very easy to forget that these words immediately follow the Beatitudes that we heard in last week's gospel. The imperative for justice in the images of salt and light of the world becomes even clearer when we remember that these words follow the blessings on those

who are poor; who mourn; who are merciful and fight for justice. Jesus has blessed all these who are least in the world and then charges the disciples to be salt and light for them.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the poor of the world and all who suffer injustice, that the call of the ancient prophets for true justice will never be silenced. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all the baptised, that they will be faithful hearers of God's Word and bearers of its light. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the bishops of Oceania, that their assembly this week to prepare for the Synod on Synodality (5-10 February) will be charged with the Holy Spirit. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the First Peoples of Australia, that their appeal for a Voice to Parliament will unite, and not divide, the nation. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For communities in all flood-affected areas around the country, that they will receive the immediate and long-term assistance they need. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all students commencing tertiary studies this month, that they will have every opportunity to grow in knowledge, wisdom and life-enriching skills. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are suffering ill health, especially Val Biggers, Ann MacDougall, Ross Lawless, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers; that this week's World Day of the Sick (11 February) will assure them of the community's care and prayerful support. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal George Pell, Walter Stutchbury, . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will live forever in the light of heavenly glory. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

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

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

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10am in the church. Opening School Mass on 7th February.

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 1 March 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Call to Connect Women's Prayer Group: Bronnie's Group – Friday 17 February 10am in the Presbytery; Cathy's Group – Tuesday 21 February 10am in the Church.

Dear Parishioners,

First Thursdays Community Lunch at the Servicemen's Club 2nd February.

From 11.30am. \$10 per person; choice of 5 dishes & dessert; **Keith Potger performing**; courtesy bus available – please book; Bookings helpful but not essential. Contact the Club on 4842 2108

It is with personal sadness, yet with gratitude to God for a long life and 68 years of devoted priestly service to the Church, that I announce the death of Fr Neville Drinkwater OAM. Fr Neville died peacefully this morning, 29 January, at Calvary Haydon Village.

- Born 11 November 1924 in Hamilton NSW
- Parents: Harold and Kathleen
- Siblings: Keith, Douglas, Warren, Michael and Marie-Therese and Kevin. Kevin is the only living sibling.
- Education: St Columba’s Primary, Adamstown and Marist Brothers Hamilton
- Seminaries: St Columba’s College, Springwood [1946-1949] – St Patrick’s College, Manly [1949 – 1954]
- Ordained Deacon: 26 November 1953 at St Patrick’s College, Manly, by Cardinal Norman T Gilroy
- Ordained a Priest: 24 July 1954 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton, by Bishop John Toohey, Coadjutor Bishop of Maitland.
- Parishes served in: Queanbeyan [1954]; Gundagai and Bega [1955]; Gunning [1958]; Boorowa [1960]; Curtin [1966]; Ardlethan [1969]; Ungarie [1970]; Charnwood [1974 to retirement in May 2019]
- Recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, 2016 – *for services to the Catholic Church*.
- Fr Neville will be buried at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Charnwood ACT, and interment will be in the clergy section of Woden Cemetery. Details will be released in due course.

On behalf of the Archdiocese, I particularly thank Sr Colleen Howe RSJ and the parishioners of St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood for their unstinting love and support of Fr Neville over so many years. May he now rest in peace and rise in glory. The Funeral will be celebrated 1100 on Tuesday 7 February 2023 at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Lhotsky Street, Charnwood ACT.

Fr Richard VG

Readings for Mass: 1st: Isaiah 58:7-10. 2nd: 1 Cor. 2:1-5. Gospel: Matt. 5:13-16.

Readings for next week: 1st: Sirach 15:15-20. 2nd: 1 Cor. 2:6-10. Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers
4 Feb		Helen P	Wendy H/Germaine
11 Feb	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy M-B/Ann T
18 Feb		Helen P	Michael/Cathy F
28 Jan	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy

Ministries of service:	3 Feb	10 Feb	17Feb	24 Feb
Altar Decorating:	Cathy F	Helen P	Joy	Margaret
Cleaning:	Pauline & Wendy M-B		Bronnie & Felix	

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H
 3rd Sunday: volunteer please 4th: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other
 Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede’s Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin and people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.