

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Tony Percy
Mobile: 0431 225 574
Braidwood Contact Numbers: Ph. 4842 2444;
Mobile: 0430 169 849 (Helen)
Parish email: braidwood@cg.org.au
Parish Website: <http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aspx>
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413
PARISH OFFICE HOURS: resumes 6 February
Tuesdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm;
Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm



**6th Sunday in
 Ordinary Time
 Year B
 11 February 2024**

World Community for Christian Meditation is held Thursdays at 10.30am at St Bede's Presbytery. For information please contact Tim on 0427 422 661. Newcomers are always welcome. Check out the websites: www.wccm.org or www.christianmeditationaustralia.org

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers
10 Feb	Felix	Geraldine	Germaine; Wendy M-B
17 Feb	when avail	Helen P	Ann T; Wendy H
24 Feb		Geraldine	Cathy F; Michael
Ministries of service: <u>9 Feb</u> <u>16 Feb</u> <u>28 Feb</u>			
Altar Decorating:	Cathy F	No flowers during Lent.	
Cleaning:		Pauline & Bobbie	

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H
 3rd Sunday: volunteer please 4th: Phil Owen 5th: Helen B

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

Readings for Mass: 1st: Lev. 13:1-2,44-46. 2nd: 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1.
 Gospel: Mark 1:40-45.

Readings for next week: 1st Sunday Lent: 1st: Gen. 9:8-15.
 2nd: 1 Peter 3:18-22. Gospel: Mark 1:12-15.

St Vincent de Paul Society Braidwood Conference:

"Giving a helping hand up"



Office Hours: Fridays: 11am - 1pm.

Father Tony writes:

Dear Parishioners,

The Holy Season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday: 14 February 2024**

There will be liturgy at **10.30am** in our beautiful Church, including our parish school, with the blessing and distribution of ashes taking place after the homily (perhaps brief?).

On our heads – on each and every one of us – the ashes will be placed with one of the following invocations:

Repent, and believe in the Gospel

or

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The first invocation recalls the very first words spoken by Jesus in the gospel (Mark 1). Notice how repentance and belief are intimately intertwined.

The second invocation recalls the creative act of God (Genesis 2). God 'breathed' into us and we became 'living beings.' All beings in the **natural world** have a beginning and an end. We are being reminded of this truth, as well as the truth that we are also part of **the supernatural world**. There is life beyond the grave.

I do hope the 40 days are fruitful. Try not to over reach with what you propose to do or give up. Make it practical, so that by the end of the Lenten period we are a little different – with God's grace.

That's the key: **relying on God, not on ourselves.**

Every blessings to each one of you,

Father Tony

Next weekend Mass time: 6.00pm Vigil

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Social Justice Group: 6 February at 3pm in the Presbytery

Scripture: Tuesdays at 4pm in the Presbytery.

We welcome Father Dermid again this week while Father Tony is on leave. Dermid has agreed to celebrate Mass here in Braidwood on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Father Tony has asked us to consider changing the time of our Vigil Mass to 5pm. The general consensus is that, 5pm is best for the priests, is best for our older parishioners, would be beneficial for any baptisms and that we should agree to the change. Once Father Tony returns we can determine a starting date.

Braidwood Races on this Saturday 12 noon. Free bus pick up from Club and Royal Hotel from 11.30am.

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical, and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>
Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

Ash Wednesday: unbeknownst to the parish, the school have set their Opening school liturgy and Ash Wednesday ceremony to be held at St Bede's Church at 10:30am on Wednesday February 14 so we no longer need to arrange our own service. Parishioners, Parents, carers and grandparents are most welcome to join with the school to celebrate the liturgy.

The Braidwood Show Society needs volunteers to help on any days from Wednesday 28th to Sunday 3rd March. Many roles whereby you can help. Call Di on 4847 5095

Preschool Fair & Pig Races Saturday 16 March. Details to come.

The new rosters are available from the back of the church.

Please pray for the sick: Patrick Thomas, Val Goodsell, Des Pollard, Kerry Prothero, Dennis Dempsey, Penny Crawford, Tony Riley, Archbishop Frank Carroll, Jenny Bodman, Maurice Farley, Violet Davis, Ross Lawless, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers.

Please pray for those who have died in recent days:

Oliver Koch, June Jeffrey, David Fensom, Ted Hart, Gloria Collins, Kerry Croker and our own deceased relatives and friends.

Offerings acknowledged with thanks:

1st: \$690 (includes 1 annual) 2nd: envelopes: \$52. Loose: \$597 (includes 1 annual). Thanks also to those parishioners who contribute online and annually.

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'He was like a dead man walking', quipped Pope Francis. Not only did the leper in today's Gospel have a terrible disease, but he was excluded from wider society and 'marginalised by the civil and religious community'. The physical disease brought with it painful social consequences.

There was a sense at the time that such leprosy was punishment for sin; that somehow the lepers deserved what they were getting. But Jesus saw past these misunderstandings. He saw the person in front of him, responded to their cry, and felt compassion for them. 'Of course I want to!', Jesus says.

Tellingly, Pope Francis points out, Jesus 'does not stand at a safe distance and does not act by delegating, but places Himself in direct contact.' Like Jesus, therefore, we should be close to those in need. We should make contact with them. We should respond to them.

Jesus' response, the Pope points out, is thus essentially about compassion and contact. Firstly, it is important to feel the situations faced by other people. To empathise, sympathise, and understand what they might be feeling. Secondly, it is necessary to reach out and remove the stigma; to respond in some physical, practical way to the situation before us. Even Jesus did not cure social diseases by good intentions alone.

Join us in Prayer

Responsorial Psalm

Response: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

