



**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME YEAR A**

**12 February 2023**

**LITURGY AND BULLETIN**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

*God our Father,*

*You have promised to remain forever with those who do what is just and right.*

*Help us to live in your presence.*

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.

His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)

2. You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes. (R.)

3. Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. (R.)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'



### **Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 5:17-37 by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Jesus continues to instruct the disciples in the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The readings for today focus our attention on the nature of true wisdom. It is this true wisdom which prompts us to choose the right course of action. It is true wisdom that directs us in our interpretation of the law.

The longer we live, the more we realise that life experiences open up for us a series of choices. With these choices we chart the path that we will take. Circumstances might be thrust on us, but we can still make choices about how we will deal with them. Obedient people do what they are told; wise people choose what good they will do. True wisdom calls us to choose life and whatever enhances life. If we are truly wise, we will come to realise that what was acceptable and life-

enhancing in one situation may not be appropriate in another. Life is fluid, and our thinking and acting must be flexible enough to adapt when necessary.

True wisdom, which comes to us through the Spirit, will enrich us with insight into life in ways we never thought possible. We will realise where and how we fit into the vast and interrelated ecosystems of the universe, and we will be overawed with the majesty and intricacy of its workings. We will understand once and for all that the value of anything is determined by its capacity to enrich life, and we will commit ourselves to and cherish every manifestation of that life.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

For all who have been baptised in Christ and graced with the Spirit of wisdom, that they will use their gifts to create a truly synodal church. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who live in the land of Israel and Palestine, that they will renounce violence and implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the generations of First Nations children stolen from their families, that they will fully reconnect with their kin, their culture and the land. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the two violent earthquakes; that they will be supported by the many countries who have offered assistance. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For state and federal legislators, that they will thoroughly reform the gambling industry and end the exploitation of the vulnerable. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who feel trapped in violent or abusive relationships, that they will find their way to resources that can support and free them. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are suffering ill health, especially Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will inherit all that God has prepared for them. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Lord, you give us your love and care,  
may we always long for your protection.*

*Amen.*

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

**Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10am in the church.**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

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

**Dear Parishioners,**

**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.

**Lent** is fast approaching, with Ash Wednesday falling on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. There will be a Mass that day at 10.00am.

**Radio Church this Sunday** – Brian will be on next Sunday 12 February at 6pm. Tune into 88.9FM.

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Sirach 15:15-20. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Cor. 2:6-10. Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37.

**Readings for next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Lev. 19:1-2,17-18. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Cor. 3:16-23. Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48.

### **Ministry Rosters for our Masses**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Readers</b>
11 Feb	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy M-B/Ann T
18 Feb		Helen P	Michael/Cathy F
28 Feb	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy
3 Mar		Helen P	Wendy H/Germaine

<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b><u>10 Feb</u></b>	<b><u>17Feb</u></b>	<b><u>22 Feb Ash Wednesday</u></b>
Altar Decorating:	Helen P	Joy	no flowers during Lent
Cleaning:		Bronnie & Felix	

Counters: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday: Wendy H  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please 4<sup>th</sup>: 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

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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.