



**7TH SUNDAY ORDINARY
TIME YEAR C**

20 February 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Father,

Keep before us the wisdom and love you have revealed in your Son.

Help us to be like him in word and deed.

Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the first book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

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

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'



REFLECTION on the Gospel from GPBS 15/2/2022

Judgment Vacated

Dolores looked out her kitchen window at the apartment building across the street. She could tell by the beat-up cars in the driveway and the sounds of frequent arguing that the young couples with children living there were stressed both financially and emotionally. She wondered if her neighbour down the street was right when he speculated that there might be illegal goings-on in the building.

One day she looked out and noticed that one of the young women was having trouble with her car. Though slightly hesitant, Dolores walked across the street to see if she could help. The young woman, Rachael, was crying when she got there, and the child in the back seat looked scared. "I have to get my kid to the doctor," Rachael wept, "and then I have to get to work or I'll lose my job.

And the car won't start". Dolores took out her mobile phone and called the local garage. In no time at all, the old car was running, and Rachael was now crying with gratitude. She gave Dolores a smile and a wave as she drove off. A simple act of kindness changed Dolores' judgments and brought her a new friend.

The Commissioning

Rejoice! You are Golden Rule people. We will pray unceasingly. We will forgive generously. We will live adventurously. We will abandon anxiety. We will share gracefully. We will meet suffering compassionately. We will love beyond limits. And God will be your constant companion along the way.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for nations, communities and individuals driven by resentment and vengefulness. May the Spirit of God move them to mercy. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for peoples whose mother language is in danger of disappearance. May the custodians of their culture keep their language alive. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for integrity in public office. May all in positions of public trust uphold the highest standards of honesty and responsibility. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the residents and staff of aged care facilities. May the urgent reforms needed for effective care and just working conditions be put in place. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for staff and students returning to tertiary institutes for this academic year. May they make up for the losses of recent years with a renewed love of learning. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our parish community. May it be a place of forgiveness, compassion and gratitude. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Bob Haigh, Bob Fletcher, Richie Simpson, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet and Val Biggers and all who need our prayers; that they will be comforted by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased Joy Vanzimen, Father Laurie Blake, Joyce Grant, Paul Bishop, Matthew Casey. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be enfolded in the loving arms of God forever. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Almighty God,
help us to live the example of love as shown by your Son.
Amen.*

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

Next weekend Mass time: 6pm in the school hall.

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays, 10am at the Presbytery.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 10.30am, at the Presbytery

World Day of Prayer: date in March to be advised

Dear Parishioners,

The church is closed to the public for the duration of the roof repairs. Mass is currently being held in the school hall. Masks are still mandatory for us, as is signing in with the QR code. Currently there aren't any density limits for churches.

The roofers have said they will be finished relaying the slates by this Friday. They will then move onto the downpipes and guttering, which will not involve using the scaffolding so our church will look finished, even if it isn't quite. We have three weddings being celebrated in St Bede's in March -1st, 22nd and 30th (all weekdays) so this news is very welcome. All we need now is the cleaning company.

Mass at Nerriga 20th February at 11am: There around 30 people attending, from Nowra, Nerriga, Bungendore and Braidwood. We look forward to celebrating Mass and having lunch with others from our region. Bookings are now closed.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 8am - 2pm next Saturday

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle; Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Jenni Miller on 0436 339293



Readings for next week: 8th Sunday Ordinary Time Year C

1st: Sirach 27:4-7. 2nd: 1 Cor. 15:54-58. Gospel: Luke 6:39-45.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	Music/PP
19 Feb	James	Cathy F	Rod/Bobbie	Helen H
26 Feb	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy H/Germaine	Helen H
5 Mar	James	Helen P	Wendy M-B/Brian	Helen H
12 Mar	Felix	Helen P	Michael/Cathy F	Helen H

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

Take care, Helen Hart

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE THIRTIETH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK February 11, 2022 Part 2

Dear brothers and sisters,

4. Centres of care as "houses of mercy"

The World Day of the Sick is also a good occasion to focus our attention on centres of care. Down the centuries, showing mercy to the sick led the Christian community to open innumerable "inns of the good Samaritan", where love and care can be given to people with various kinds of sickness, especially those whose health needs are not being met due to poverty or social exclusion or to the difficulties associated with treating certain pathologies. In these situations, it is children, the elderly and those who are most frail who most often pay the price. Merciful like the Father, countless missionaries have combined the preaching of the Gospel with the construction of hospitals, dispensaries and care homes. These are precious means whereby Christian charity has taken visible shape and the love of Christ, witnessed by that of his disciples, has become more credible. I think especially of people in the poorest areas of our planet, where it is sometimes necessary to travel long distances to find treatment centres that, albeit with limited resources, offer what is available. We still have a long way to go; in some countries, access to adequate care remains a luxury. We see this, for example, in the scarcity of available vaccines against Covid-19 in poor countries; but even more in the lack of treatment for illnesses that require much simpler medicines.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions: they are a precious treasure to be protected and preserved; their presence has distinguished the history of the Church, showing her closeness to the sick and the poor, and to situations overlooked by others. How many founders of religious families have listened to the cry of their brothers and sisters who lack access to care or are poorly cared for, and have given their utmost in their service! Today too, even in the most

developed countries, their presence is a blessing, since in addition to caring for the body with all necessary expertise, they can always offer the gift of charity, which focuses on the sick themselves and their families. At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like "houses of mercy", can be exemplary in protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end.

5. Pastoral mercy: presence and proximity

In the past thirty years, pastoral health care has also seen its indispensable service increasingly recognized. If the worst discrimination suffered by the poor – including the sick, who are poor in health – is the lack of spiritual attention, we cannot fail to offer them God's closeness, his blessing and his word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments and the opportunity for a journey of growth and maturation in faith. In this regard, I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: "I was sick and you visited me" (*Mt 25:36*).

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

Francis

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 December 2021, Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto.

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