



**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME YEAR A**

19 February 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Father,

open our eyes to your deeds,

our ears to the sound of your call,

so that our every act may increase our sharing in the life you have offered us..

Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

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

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 5:38-48 by Fr Michael Tate

Warfare and the Church

'Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.' Is Jesus advocating rather static fault-less-ness? Not very appealing! No, the Greek word is closer to the idea of a perfect wine – one that has matured and has reached its full potential. So, Our Lord is saying, 'Be a person who is everything you are capable of being.'

Our Lord gives a striking example of the challenge. God does not withhold life-giving sun and rain from people because they are bad or dishonest, nor extinguish the life of human beings because they are evil, because they are enemies.

What are the implications for Church teaching on capital punishment or warfare? Note that Jesus' command: 'You must be ...' is directed to *You* in the plural. It is communal, social. The Church community must listen. Is the Holy Spirit moving us in a direction not experienced since its first three centuries?

We could pause for a moment to pray on behalf of those who want to do us harm, the better to hear: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria so tragically devastated by earthquake. May their terrible suffering be eased by prompt and large-scale humanitarian aid. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for governments and companies that profit from the arms trade. May they invest instead in industries that advance human well-being. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for lay Catholic leaders in the fields of education, health and welfare. May they be filled every day with the joy of the Gospel. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for youth workers serving in disadvantaged communities. May they be well supported in their efforts to engage with troubled young people. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for families and friends grieving a loved one's death by suicide. May they find a path of healing through their pain and anguish. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our parish community. May we commence our Lenten journey this Wednesday with a deep desire for newness of life. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are suffering ill health, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Eadadoin (pronounced Aideen) Corkeran, 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.

We pray for the recently deceased, David Nicholls, Anthony Kelly and Fr Neville Drinkwater. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they be blessed with everlasting peace and joy. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Almighty God,
help us to live the example of love,
that we may come to its fulfilment in your presence..
Amen.*

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

Weekday Mass: Ash Wednesday 22nd February at 10am. School present.

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 22nd February. There will be a Mass that day at 10.00am.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm 25th February.

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure;
Monthly Raffle Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table.
Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011



News from the Pews: Anthony Kelly's graveside service will be 1.30pm on Wednesday 1 March at 1pm in the Braidwood Lawn cemetery.

Cathie Owen tells me there is an interesting radio program on the ABC for music lovers – it is classical music that follows the liturgical year and it airs at 10.30pm on a Sunday evening.



Congratulations to Suzie Walsh and Geoff Pollard who were married earlier this month.

Readings for Mass: 1st: Lev. 19:1-2, 17-18. 2nd: 1 Cor. 3:16-23. Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48.

Readings for next week: 1st: Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7. 2nd: Romans 5:12-19. Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

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

Ministries of service:	<u>17 Feb</u>	<u>22 Feb Ash Wednesday</u>	<u>24 February</u>
Altar Decorating:	Joy	no flowers during Lent	
Cleaning:	Bronnie & Felix		Helen P & Sarah
Counters:	1 st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 3 rd Sunday: volunteer please	2 nd : Sunday: Wendy H 4 th : 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 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.