



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
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batemansbay

Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
Tuesday-Friday

Rev. Martins Aloga
Parish Priest
Don Nguyen
Parish Deacon
Sr. Marie McAlister
0429383333
Roslynn Trompp
Parish Secretary
Juliette Pierre
Youth Minister
Mrs. Jo Wain, Principal
St. Bernard's Prim. Sch.
Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan, Principal, Carroll College
Carroll College, Broulee

Mass Times
Tues 30: 5.30pm Mass
Wed 31 : 8:40am Rosary
9am Mass
Thurs 01: 9am Mass
Fri 02: 9am Stations of the Cross
9.15am Mass
5.30pm Adoration
Sat 03 : 9am Mass/Rosary
5pm Reconciliation
6pm Vigil Mass
Sun 04 : 9am Mass
5pm Mass
Sacristans
6pm: Craddy & Carmody
9am: Scicluna & Bemelman
5pm: D. & B. McCormack
ROSTERS 3-4 Aug
Church Cleaning:
D & L May (5-9)
Welcomers 6pm C Brownlie
9am M Law
5pm M deSmet
Readers
6pm H Blake, M Bridges
9am A Horsfall, N Beatty
5pm C Nicoletti, D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm J Quigley
9am R Bemelman
5pm J O'Sullivan
Extraordinary Ministers
6pm C Brownlie, C Burrows,
J Wain, M Weatherall
9am K Corbin, L & N Page, C Conell, C Schor
5pm McCormack, L Favetta
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Priest
Children's Liturgy M Britt
Morning Tea: O'Sullivan Family
Hospital Visitation
Maureen Brears Aug 4th

THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE IDEAL PRAYER In many Christian Traditions, prayer is the raising up of our minds and hearts to God: in *adoration, contrition, thanksgiving* and *praise* and in *supplication*. In this expression, we find four different forms of prayer sometimes described as ACTS, formed by taking the first letter of each type of prayer: A, adoration; C, contrition; T, thanksgiving; and S, supplication. This weekend, the liturgy of the word focuses on prayer and the necessity for persistence and perseverance in prayer, with trusting faith and boldness. This is summed up in the version of the Lord's prayer presented in Luke's Gospel. A version that is set in one of those occasions just after Jesus had been at prayer.

Generally, Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer is shorter than the more familiar version found in Matthew's Gospel. The prayer consists of two parts. In the first part, we adore and praise God saying: *"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"* and we express our ardent desire for His rule in human hearts, enabling us to do His will in the most perfect way. In the second part we present our contrition: *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"*. Then, we present our needs in supplication: *"Give us this day our daily bread"*, with filial love and trusting Faith. We offer before God our present (daily bread), our past (forgiveness of sins) and our future (protection against temptations). In the next petition, Jesus links the giving and receiving of forgiveness. If we expect God to forgive us, we must forgive one another ("Forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us"). The last petition- *"and do not subject us to the final test"*- covers future trials and temptations. Luke summed the Lord's prayer with a parable that invite Jesus' audience to pray persistently, with great perseverance.

Lessons: The Lords' Prayer is the ideal prayer, the *"summary of the whole Gospel"* (according to Tertulian) and it is the *"perfect prayer"* (according to St. Thomas Aquinas). *"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers...* In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired (St. Thomas Aquinas, as quoted in Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2763)

"Prayer does not change God; it changes me." A colleague once asked C.S. Lewis if he really thought he could change God with his prayer for the cure of his wife's cancer. Lewis replied: *"Prayer doesn't change God; it changes me."* William McGill summed it up this way. *"The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us but that we will finally hear God."* Keep in mind that Jesus has taught us to address God as Father. A loving Father listens to his child but does not blindly endorse every request. Instead, the loving Father provides what is needed, including discipline. Bishop Fulton Sheen has this comment on prayer: *"The man who thinks only of himself says prayers of petition. He who thinks of his neighbor says prayers of intercession. He who thinks only of loving and serving God says prayers of abandonment to God's will, and that is the prayer of the saints"*. To pray is not to impose our will on God but to ask God to make us open to His will; in other words, we pray not to change God's mind but for God to change ours.

Prayer is essential for Christian family life. Fidelity is one of the original blessings of married life. To be truly faithful in marriage, spouses must pray, not only individually, but together. Married couples should come together before God every day as prayer partners, thanking God and offering intercessory prayers for each other, for their children and for their dear ones. Daily prayer will help married couples to celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality and to honour life from conception to natural death. Here is St. John Marie Vianney's advice to a couple who asked him how to pray: "Spend three minutes praising and thanking God for all you have. Spend three minutes asking God's pardon for your sins and presenting your needs before Him. Spend three minutes reading the Bible and listening to God in silence. And do this every day", knowing that, "the family that prays together, stays together."

We need to accept others as children of God and thereby brothers and sisters: Through the Our Father, Jesus is giving us a new vision of human relationships: that we all, irrespective of our colour, creed or social background, are the children of God and thereby brothers and sisters. When we learn this lesson - if we can learn this lesson, if we are able to treat God as our father and love Him accordingly, and if we are able to treat every other human being as our own dear brothers and sisters and love them accordingly -- then, and then only, shall we experience the Kingdom of God here on earth and enjoy this in the next life. When we love each other and forgive each other's failings, God also will love us and forgive us. This is the foundation of true faith.

Modern Christians sometimes offer four excuses for not praying. *a)* Too busy. The richer a culture is, the less time it has for prayer, because money and wealth provide distractions. Researchers say that the average Christian living in a wealthy country prays four minutes a day. Often the first thing given up by a busy Christian is the prayer life. *b)* Don't believe prayer does that much good, other than giving psychological motivation to be better people. But besides giving psychological motivation, prayer establishes and augments our relationship with God, the source of our power. *c)* A loving God should provide for us and protect us from the disasters of life, such as disease or accidents, without our asking Him. Prayer expresses our awareness of our need for God and our dependence on Him. *d)* Prayer is boring. People who use this excuse forget the fact that prayer is a conversation with God: listening to God speaking to us through the Bible and talking to God. You can't have a close relationship with anyone, including God, without persistent and intimate conversation. Four minutes a day is not much intimate conversation. Since our society concludes that prayer doesn't work, it turns to other alternatives: pleasure, violence and unhealthy addictions with the attending results.

Let us conclude with a story titled: *"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"* At a small dinner party in the home of a member, a pastor was invited to ask the blessing for the meal. Turning to the talkative six-year-old in the house, the pastor suggested she might like to do the blessing instead. The outgoing youngster now suddenly shy replied, "I wouldn't know what to say!" "Just say what you hear your Mommy say," said the pastor assuredly. With that the little girl folded her hands, bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?" Let us not only develop the habit of prayer, but teach our children to pray the ideal prayer.

Fr Martins

Weekly Events:
Singalong: Every Monday at 1pm in the Church.
RCIA Process/Faith Formation: Every Wed 7pm,
Rosary: Every Wednesday at 8:40am, Church
Stations of the Cross: Every Friday at 9am in the
Adoration/Vespers: Every Friday at 5:30pm
Craft: Every Thursday 10 –12pm Meeting Room
Wrap with Love: 2nd Tuesday & last Wednesday of the month in Church
Men Alive: Every 1st & 3rd Wed in Church
Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 5pm in Church
Cenacle Prayer: Every Tues at 4.45pm in Church

Monthly Events
First Saturday: 9am Mass
Opal Mass: Every 1st Wed at 10:30am
Glen Mass: Every 3rd Thurs at 10:30am
Maranatha Mass: Every 4th Wed at 2pm
Baptism Preparation: Last Wed at 6.30pm
Mass of the Sick: Every 1st Tue at 5.30pm
Weddings and Funerals by arrangement
Upcoming Events: AUGUST
19th PFC Meeting 5 pm Parish Office
22nd PPC Meeting 5 pm Meeting Room
30th PP/Principal/REC Day, Canberra


MAKING A HOME FOR EVERYONE IN OUR LAND

To highlight the plight of victims of human trafficking the United Nations holds a World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30th July. According to the UN, every country in the world is affected by these crimes. Let us come together as Australians, around the key issues of prevention and protection to build a future where people are valued, not exploited and those who are vulnerable, are protected. We pray this in your name, Lord Jesus.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO WENT THROUGH THE PARISH PASTORAL CARE COURSE.

THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATES BEGINS THIS WEEKEND!!!

SAVE THESE DATES



THE ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO EDEN is coming up on Saturday August 10th. Archbishop Christopher Prowse and the Pambula Catholic Parish welcome everyone to come along and make the pilgrimage to Eden Mary MacKillop Centre . Midday Mass will be held and lunch is provided. For further information please contact: pambula@cg.org.au or 02 645 1880.

THE ANNUAL PARISH LUNCHEON TO CELEBRATE ST BERNARDS FEAST DAY will be held at the church on Sunday 18th August at 12 midday. This year's theme is *"Family."* So GRANDPARENTS bring along your children and grandchildren. PARENTS bring along your children (no matter how old!) and CHILDREN bring along your parents, grandparents and siblings and ANYONE ELSE bring along a friend. ALL ARE WELCOME!! Cost is \$5 for adults and children are free. Tickets are on sale after mass, or from the parish office.

REPLACEMENT OF CHURCH OVERHEAD PROJECTORS: Thank you to everyone who has generously given donations to replace the church overhead projectors. We are still short \$4000 to reach our target of \$8000. Further donations will be gratefully accepted. Please contact the Parish Office for more information

PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEETING: All team members are invited to our meeting on Tuesday August 6th in the church meeting room. There will be a cuppa at 9 am and the meeting will begin at 9.30. Our guest speaker will be Sr. Marie McAllister

CROATIAN MASS: A Croatian Mass will be held on Saturday 3rd August at 11 am. All are welcome to attend

FIRST EUCHARIST INFORMATION NIGHT: An Information evening will be held for parents of children taking their 1st Eucharist, on Thursday 1st August at St Bernards School in the IT Centre at 5.30 pm.

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD: The Batemans Bay Baptist church invites you to attend a nine-week program based on the *True You* DVD series produced by *Focus on the Family*. Each session will be held at the church, 1 Tallgums Way, Surf Beach from 6-7.30pm Sunday nights, beginning on August 4th. Dr Stephen Meyer from Cambridge University will systematically explain the latest scientific evidence supporting the existence of God and why other theories or belief systems are inadequate. A light supper will be provided.

YOUNG WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT: Will be held on Saturday 10th August at the Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre in Mulgoa, NSW. RSVP: Monday 5th August to Sr Luka Junemann on 0439 537 843 or srmluka@schoenstatt.org.au

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR MEN: Called to Holiness—Will be held on Saturday 10th August and Sunday 11th August at the Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre in Mulgoa. Cost is \$165 for the weekend or \$55 per day. Contact Jim Jankiewicz on 0432 487 927 or email for further enquiries on info@schoenstatt.org.au

PARISH KEYS: Thank you to all those who have phoned the office and let us know what keys you have. Hopefully, we can keep the key register updated so everybody has access to the areas needed.

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We Remember the Sick: Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, James Lee, John Dillon, George Fitzgerald, Declan Holmes, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Timothy Gerrard, Patricia McLennan, Bill Giust, Allan Odlum, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Judy Betts, Ken Evendon, Ronan Bremner, Anne Jackson and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital.

Rest In Peace: Robyn Albert, Gregory Parsons, Mila Bandur, Maria Golak, Dawn Rash, Rowland Heycox, Maria Syne, Ivan Pintar, Kelvin Fleming, Bernie Wakeling, Sr Anne Derwin and Hazel Elliot

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intention
JULY
The Integrity of Justice

That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.



Parish Coffee Club All are welcome to join the Parish Coffee Club on Thursday after the 9am mass. Venue : Pancake Parlour in town Coffee, Connect and Chat

Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma

District Funerals

Mark Hewson JP
Funeral Director
Phone 02 4472 8886

Moruya 02 4474 3555
Narooma 02 4476 3888

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