

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Second Sunday of Advent B

First Reading

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14, R. v.8

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper

and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

R.Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation

Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord. The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Two Gospels

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the *past*. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates ‘Someone’ (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark’s Gospel, we know that that ‘Someone’ is ‘Jesus Christ, Son of God’ who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term ‘gospel’ (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor’s birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the ‘Kingdom of God’, overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the ‘Name of the Father and of the Son and of the *Holy Spirit*.’

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



P. O. Box 3220, Batehaven, 2536.
Tel: 4472 4153
E: batemansbay@cg.org.au
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
Tuesday-Friday

Priest: Rev. Martins Aloga
Secretary: Roslynn Trompp
Finance Admin: Anne Jackson
PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall
Asst. PC Co-ord: Sr. Marie McAlister

Principal: Mrs. Jo Wain
St. Bernard’s Primary School, Batehaven
R.E.C.: Sharon Beashel
Principal: Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan
Carroll College, Broulee
R.E.C.: Erica Drewson

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

2020
PARISH
ADVENT THEME

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Preparations and waiting are two dominant elements in the season of advent. These were present at the very ‘*First Advent*’, in the narrative of St. Mark and are clearly stated in the preceding prophecies of Isaiah as seeing in the liturgy of the word this weekend.

Noticeably, this second Sunday of Advent, St. Mark began by shifting the focus to the first advent of Jesus, his precursor in the person of John the Baptist and the accompanying preparations in the very

beginning of his gospel. ‘*The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ the Son of God*’. Mark, implied Jesus to be the Good News, *the Word Made Flesh* and the *God-made-Man*, who has come to visit his people. A reality that requires preparations, getting ready and waiting.

Importantly, to get the people ready at the time of the first advent, Mark introduced John as the forerunner of Jesus and for the first century Jews John was a prophet especially of the new Exodus. Interestingly, he appears in the wilderness just as Israel itself had gone out into the wilderness at the time of the first Exodus 1500 BC., and he baptises the people in the River Jordan, where the first Exodus ended; with the twelve tribes of Israel crossing over the Jordan and entering the promised land (cf. Joshua 3:14-17).

John’s ministry in a way proclaimed the new Exodus beginning where the old Exodus ended. His voice was heard in the wilderness, ‘*prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight (Mk 1.3)*. This echoes Isaiah’s prophecy, ‘*let every valley be filled, and every mountain and hills be levelled (Is. 40.4)*. As the people responded, he gave them the baptism of repentance in preparations for the coming of God’s Son who would dwell among humanity.

This clarion call to get ready, to be prepared still features prominently in this season of advent two thousand years after the first advent. Listening to the voice of John the Baptist this weekend, and with the feast of the Nativity in the horizon, how prepared are we? We may not be short of Material preparations and decorations, but in the midst of the many distractions and social obligations, what are our spiritual preparation plans? What are the valleys to be filled? What are the mountains and hills to be levelled?

Pope Francis identifies the valleys with our sins of omission and the mountains with the sin of pride, arrogance, and insolence. Let us take time this week to identify our individual valleys, the mountains and hills to be levelled this advent.

As we ponder on the valleys and mountains, may we gain the grace to make our hearts ready and befitting like that of Mary in order to welcome the *God-made-Man* who comes to us daily at the table of the word, in the Eucharist, and at Christmas.

Fr. Martins

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions**

For a life of prayer
We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 08: 5.30 Mass
Wed 09: 9am Mass
Thurs 10: 9am Mass
Fri 11: 9.15am Mass
Sat 12: 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 13: 9am Mass 5pm Mass

ROSTERS 5/6 DECEMBER

Church Cleaning
M de Smet J Maher (7-11)
Welcomers
6pm Sr Marie McAlister
9am L Page
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm M Bridges
9am A Skinner
5pm P O'Kelly
Readers:
6pm J Mackay
9am T Jackson
5pm K O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm A Rogers
9am N Page
5pm Y Oerder
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Priest
5pm M O'Neill
REGISTRARS
6pm P Billington
9am B Basevi, G Norris
5pm N Beatty

ROSTERS 12/13 DECEMBER

Church Cleaning
B Coffey & M Paine (14-18)
Welcomers
6pm B Wilson
9am J McClelland
5pm D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm P O'Kelly
9am N Beatty
5pm S Ebejer
Readers:
6pm M Bridges
9am A Brown
5pm Volunteer
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm J Wain
9am C Schor
5pm L Favetta
Computer Screen
6pm T Priest
9am T Jackson
5pm J O'Sullivan
REGISTRARS
6pm J Wain/J McCarthy
9am B Basevi, G Norris
5pm M de Smet

VINNIES SAYS THANKS

Vinnies gathered for lunch on Tuesday in Malua Bay to say thanks to Kevin Conway for 19 years of service and to Pam & Jeff Thorpe for 7 years.

It was wonderful to also have long term members in whose foot-steps we follow join us for lunch. Such generosity by Kevin, Pam, Jeff and others, enables the needy in our community to be met with respect and love. If you would like to give time for others through Vinnies just contact Gary Norris on 0429774101



**COMBINED CHURCHES
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**

If you will be on your own or know others who might be, please invite them to Christmas Lunch at 12noon at St Bernard's Church.



Spaces are limited so please phone 44729644 to book by December 18 and advise if you would like to be picked up.



Feast of Immaculate Conception

Tues 8th December 5.30pm Mass preceded by Holy Hour from 4.30pm All are welcome

Cenacle Prayer: Tues at 4.45pm in Church
Bible Study/Faith Formation—Wed 9.30am
Craft Group—Thurs 10am-12pm
Men Alive—1st & 3rd Wed 8 am
Adoration—Friday 5.3—pm
Reconciliation—Saturday 9.30am
Singalong—Mondays 1 pm in the Church + Zoom



Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare a Way for the Lord

Advent has begun and lest we get too busy with everyday things, Mark's Gospel reminds us to PREPARE! We are reminded to make time to prepare our hearts by taking some time to be still and listen for God's voice in the quiet and responding by witnessing to God by the way we live and how we treat each other.

Perhaps it is a time to make peace - to be reconciled with others and perhaps ourselves as we accept who we are and the gift we are - God's image in our world.

Loving God, help us to prepare for your coming by being still, prayerful and open to your PRESENCE

Holy Spirit, open us to God's reconciling love in our lives and in the lives of others.

Lord Jesus, we are preparing a way for you. Open our hearts and the hearts of all people to renew our love, trust and hope in you and each other. Amen.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

- Monday 7th —St Ambrose
- Tues 8th—Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
- Wed 9th— St Juan Deigo
- Thurs 10th—Servant of God Bernard of Quintavalle
- Fri 11th—St Damascus I, Pope
- Sat 12th—Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Sun 13th—St Lucy of Syracuse, virgin and martyr



THE JESSE TREE IS GROWING!!

This week students from St Bernard's have added symbols and Scripture Quotes to the Jesse Tree - the journey to Christmas has begun - how are we preparing?
The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

PARISH ADVENT PROGRAM 2020

The Parish Advent Program will commence in the Church meeting room on Wednesday 25th November and continue on the following three Wednesdays: **2nd December, 9th December, 16th December.**
Sessions: Morning—9.30 am Evening 7.00pm
The program will be based on a booklet produced by the Wollongong Diocese called *Adore—Advent & Christmas Reflections.*
Co-ordinator: Joe Quigley (0404 357 744)

The Piety stall has Christmas cards, Columban and Mary MacKillop Calendars(\$8) and children's books for sale. Archbishop Carroll's book "From Ganmain to Rome and Back" is also available to purchase.

GRADUATION MASS:

There will be a graduation mass held at the church on Friday 11th December at 9.15am. All are welcome.
CHURCH MASS:
On Friday 11th December 9.15 am Mass will be held at the Convent Chapel

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve
6 pm Family/Children's Mass (outdoors)
9 pm Christmas Vigil
Christmas Day
9am Christmas Mass
5pm Christmas Mass



The parish extends a warm welcome to Seminarian Mark Ha

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

From 1st October 2020 there will only be one collection which will be deposited in the Parish Operating Account this will include existing Credit Card transactions, Direct Debits, collection box and Tap machine. The collection will then be apportioned with a percentage forwarded to the Archdiocese for the Central Presbytery Fund each month.
If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving, the details are as follows:
Acc. Name: St Bernard's Operating Account BSB: 062-786
Bank Acc:000012939 Ref: Family Name
Please note: For banking at any bank but not the Commonwealth Bank
If you currently have a direct debit to the Central Presbytery Fund a suggestion is that it be cancelled

Remembering the Sick:

Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, Trish Hamilton, Daniel Coffey, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, James Lee, Mary Henderson, George Fitzgerald, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Bill Giust, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

Death Anniversaries:

John Gallagher, Stephen Sly, Peter Baird, Gizella Bowmaker, Adalbert Planinsic, Sean Griffin
We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Dario Panes, Cathy Leoszko, Elizabeth Gallagher, Kenneth Torkington, Shirley Keir, Ken Bow, Steven Thomas, Maureen Kinross, Nora Trompp, Peter Varkulevicius, Ian McAdam, Jan Schor, Pio Liberale, Glenda Gallagher, Ivy Rootsey, Evert Ordelman Regina Mass, Mato Katic, Anacorita Villanueva Senci, Philip Lewis P. Bernasconi



CHURCH WORKING BEE

Monday 14th December 2.00pm
Tasks will include: straighten pews, dusting, vacuuming, cleaning windows, weeding and general cleanup.
All are Welcome

Bring some Joy to a family at Christmas

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, due to Covid-19, will be different this year. **From Nov 29 -Dec 14** we are asking for gifts of money to help us purchase food and gifts vouchers for those who need assistance at Christmas. You can place your donation in the SVDP box placed near the Christmas Tree in the foyer of the Church. Note: we are unable to accept food or toy donations this year.
Thankyou for your support

That Catholic Shop is an exciting development for Aid to the Church in Need Australia. This year, do some Christmas shopping on the online store and support the works of the ACN to keep the faith alive Please visit <https://thatcatholicshop.com/>

<p>Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma District Funerals Mark Hewson JP Funeral Director Phone 02 4472 8886 Moruya 02 4474 3555 Narooma 02 4476 3888</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS 1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay Buy fuel any time EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</p>
<p>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY Fish & Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches & Coffee 100% BEEF BURGER 248 Beach Road Bateman Bay NSW 2536 02 4472 1802</p>	<p>ST BERNARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW Ph 4472 4446 Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>

<p>CARROLL COLLEGE ENROLLING NOW Ph 4471 5600 Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>	<p>excelpoint Ideaspeople with a passion for print P 4472 1599 E batemansbay@excelpoint.com.au www.excelpoint.com.au Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p>
<p>Ray and Anne Brown COASTAL CONCRETE & QUARRY 02 4474 0320</p>	<p>Kate & Tara your vets at Surf Beach EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre 4471 3400</p>