

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fourth Sunday of Advent B

First Reading
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’ But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.
2. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.

3. He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.
(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading
Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation
Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will

be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
‘Spirit Hovering’

St Luke’s account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: ‘There was darkness over the deep and *God’s Spirit hovered over the water*. God said: “Let there be light”, and there was light.’ (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.’ The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary’s womb. A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God’s will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God’s Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan. We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: ‘Be it done unto me according to your word.’

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*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."
- Pope Benedict XVI*



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
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Tuesday-Friday

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Secretary: Roslynnne 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

2020
PARISH
ADVENT THEME

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A Season of Love

This Sunday’s readings show beautifully the Biblical journey to Christmas Day!

During Advent we are on the journey of waiting patiently and longingly for the return of our Saviour Jesus... not only at Christmas but as Richard Rohr says:
...what we are waiting for is the welcoming of the universal, cosmic Christ... the Christ that is forever being born, (daily) in the human soul and history.

In Samuel, God, through Nathan the prophet, is preparing David that the House that he will leave is his dynasty not a building, and in the Gospel ... Mary, then the betrothed of ‘Joseph of the **House** (dynasty) **of David**’ will bear the Saviour. God promised that this reign, promised way back then, will never end!

The Psalm proclaims the joy of God’s **everlasting** love and support which is **faithful** and **enduring**.

Paul continues the journey, ‘the revelation of the mystery kept secret for many ages’. This proclamation is for **all peoples** and in today’s world there are many different races that are ready for our welcome. Let us see this time as a window to open our hearts and doors to our neighbours who may be **close by** and suffering in silence. There is a profound grief in our midst which lies unspoken in many hearts!

In fulfilment of the promise made centuries ago, with which we are familiar ...**‘The angel Gabriel came to Mary, Hail, full of grace!’** Let not this familiarity fade into the recesses of our minds as Christmas comes closer and the material is highlighted! So as we get closer to Christmas Day be mindful that ‘*Christmas isn’t automatic, it can’t be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world*’. Ron Rolheiser.

The whole season is about LOVE, FORGIVENESS and PEACE.

I wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and a New Year that will bring many blessings.

God bless

Sr Marie

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 22: 5.30 Mass
Wed 23: 9am Mass
Thurs 24: 9am Mass
Christmas Eve 6pm&9pm
Fri 25: Christmas Day
9.00am & 5pm Mass
Sat 26: 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 27: 9am Mass 5pm Mass

ROSTERS 19/20 DECEMBER

Church Cleaning
R & K Ison (21-26)
Welcomers
6pm Sr Marie McAlister
9am C Connell
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm J Quigley
9am M Lowe
5pm J O'Sullivan
Readers:
6pm M Weatherall
9am C Lowe
5pm K O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm M Bridges
9am L Stevens
5pm Volunteer
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Jackson/D May
5pm M O'Neill

REGISTRARS

6pm G & M Weatherall
9am B Basevi, G Norris
5pm J McCarthy

ROSTERS 26/27 DECEMBER

Church Cleaning
B Favetta/J O'Neill (28 Dec-1Jan)
Welcomers
6pm Sr Marie McAlister
9am C Connell
5pm D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm J Quigley
9am B Basevi
5pm S Ebejer
Readers:
6pm M Weatherall
9am T Jackson
5pm M Devine
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm M Bridges, P Billington
9am L Stevens, C Schor
5pm Volunteer
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am D May
5pm J O'Sullivan

REGISTRARS

6pm J McCarthy
9am B Basevi, G Norris
5pm N Beatty

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT ST BERNARD'S



Are you free for Christmas Lunch?

We would love some company at St Bernard's Church. Lunch starts at 12pm and all of you are very welcome to join with us.

Phone 4472 9644 if you would like to book and please let us know if you need us to pick you up.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 21st
St Peter Canisius
Friday 25th
The Nativity of the Lord
Saturday 26th
St Stephen 1st Martyr



ADVENT RECONCILIATION
MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER @ 5.30 PM
All are welcome

Singalong—Monday 2pm in the Church
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85705526546?pwd=dDV0OXZKZjVGc1ISVG1NeXBVQWY5dz09>

Cenacle Prayer: Tues at 4.45pm in Church
Bible Study/Faith Formation Wed 9.30am
Craft Group—Resumes 2021
Men Alive—Resumes 2021
Reconciliation—Saturday 9.30am



ADVENT REFLECTION WEEK 4

YOUR WILL BE DONE!

Christmas is so close! Our preparation during this season of Advent is reaching its culmination as we prepare to welcome the Christ-Child.

In this final week of Advent in Year B we are reminded of the trust and generosity of heart of Mary as she said Yes to the Angel Gabriel. Mary completely gave herself over to God's will in her life – not knowing what it would mean for her life.

As we light our fourth and final candle let us reflect on how open we are to God's will in our lives – during 2020 we have been called to be more – we pray for the grace to continue openness and trust in God.

Loving God, during this fourth and final week of Advent, we open ourselves to your will. We pray for the grace to the sign of your love in our families and all we meet.

Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make so that we choose to do what shows our love of others and our commitment to others.

Lord Jesus, we wait with love and joyful expectation for you. Come into our hearts so that we will be ready and our lives will be transformed.

AMEN



THE JESSE TREE IS GROWING!!

Our students from St Bernard's continue to add Symbols and Scripture Quotes to the Jesse Tree – the journey to Christmas has begun – how are we preparing?
The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David.
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 history.

THERE WILL BE A MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK SUMMER FIRES

Thursday December 31st at 9 am.
Parishioners are invited to bring a symbol of the fires or a symbol of survival (reasonable size to fit on table near altar). This will be an opportunity to connect, remember, heal and pray for one another and our community.
All welcome.
Please bring a plate for morning tea.
Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

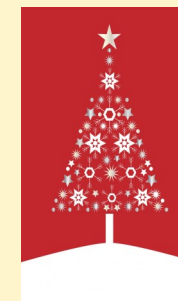


CHRISTMAS MASSES: Monday 21st December 5.30pm Advent Reconciliation—Second Rite

Christmas Eve
6 pm Family/Children's Mass
8.30 pm Christmas Carols
9 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Day
9am Christmas Day Mass
5pm Christmas Day Mass

All parishioners and visitors are requested to wear face masks at the Christmas Masses due to increased congregation sizes and many visitors over the Christmas and holiday period.
There will be seating outside at the 6pm and 9 am Masses.



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 and combined into the St Bernard's Operating Account in order to facilitate the continuity of funds.

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: Maurice Sullivan, Marian Owens, Susan McNamara, 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



Thank you to everyone who came along to the Working Bee on Monday. The church and grounds are looking good for Christmas.

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2020

is conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split supporting the Christmas Bowl Appeal and projects domestically and internationally including Diocese of Wilcannia and dioceses in Africa & India. For further information see the Catholic Voice.

<p>Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma</p> <p>District Funerals</p> <p>Mark Hewson JP Funeral Director Phone 02 4472 8886</p> <p>Moruya 02 4474 3555 Narooma 02 4476 3888</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS</p> <p>1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay</p> <p>Buy fuel any time</p> <p>EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</p>
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<p>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY</p> <p>Fish & Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches & Coffee</p> <p>100% BEEF BURGER</p> <p>248 Beach Road Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p> <p>02 4472 1802</p>	<p>ST BERNARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL</p> <p>ENROLLING NOW</p> <p>Ph 4472 4446</p> <p>Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>
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<p>CARROLL COLLEGE</p> <p>ENROLLING NOW</p> <p>Ph 4471 5600</p> <p>Member of the Eurobodalla K-12 Catholic Schools' Community</p>	<p>excell Ideaspeople PRINTING GROUP — with a passion for print</p> <p>P 4472 1599</p> <p>E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au www.excellprint.com.au</p> <p>Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p>
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<p>Ray and Anne Brown</p> <p>COASTAL CONCRETE & QUARRY</p> <p>02 4474 0320</p>	<p>Kate & Tara your vets at Surf Beach</p> <p>EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre</p> <p>4471 3400</p>
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