

LITURGY OF THE WORD
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph B

First Reading *Sir 3:2-6. 12-14*
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.
The Word of the Lord
R Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8
(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.
(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading *Col 3:12-21*
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Concerning the Christian life in the world.
You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these

clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord
R Thanks be to God


Gospel Acclamation *Col 3:15. 16*
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 2:22-40*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.
When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: ‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.’ As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’ There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and

began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.
The Gospel of the Lord
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
The Liberation of Women
In today’s Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was ‘purified’. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy. No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence. This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God’s plan for humankind by birthing us into the world. We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary’s soul.





ST BERNARD'S PARISH BATEMANS BAY

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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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR B

We celebrate this weekend, the Feast of the Holy Family, of Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

From the beginning, God designed the human family as a school of love and communion, where members can grow strong and wise in favour with him. As the Catechism has it (CCC 2207), “The family is the *original cell of social life*. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society.”

Also, in ‘The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World’ (*Famillaris Consortio*), Pope John Paul II emphasised the importance of the family both to the vitality of the Church and the good of society. “The family, which is founded and given life by love, is a community of persons: of husband and wife, of parents and children, of relatives... [The family’s] inner principle is love. Without love the family cannot live, grow and perfect itself... without love man remains incomprehensible to himself, his life is senseless if love is not revealed in him” (FC #18).

What has this to do with the Feast of the Holy Family of Mary, Jesus, and Joseph? Well, it was for humanity’s sake that Jesus emptied himself, humbling himself to the limitations of human nature by choosing a poor, simple family to be born into. The Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, the Incarnate Son of God, came to dwell in a small town in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. As a son of this human family, He experienced everything about being human, taking on our nature to consecrate it to the Father – and Mary and Joseph were part of this mission.

Whilst they were not on the headline, they were poor – ordinary, and there was nothing extravagant about their lives. Joseph, a carpenter, and Mary a common handmaid, had no need to consecrate their first-born son to the Lord in the Temple, yet they were obedient to the Jewish Law of Moses, thus finding their obedience in Scripture. We should remember that Jesus was a Jew, and Joseph and Mary were also Jews. (“Spiritually we are all Semites.” Thus spoke Pius XI on the eve of World War II.)

Poor families offered two pigeons as part of this ritual consecration ceremony, for hidden behind this simple offering of the two pigeons the entire plan of salvation was revealed to Simeon and Anna, who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem, represent the hopes and expectations of faithful and devout Jews who at this time were looking forward to the restoration of God’s rule in Israel. It had been long said the Messiah would one day come and save not only the Jews, but also the Gentiles, not only for the people of Israel, but for the nations of the world as well. The birth of Jesus brings these hopes to fulfillment.

Yet, in addition to this prophecy of glory and messianic identity, Simeon utters the ominous prophecy to Mary that the child is set for the fall and rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected because, although Jesus is going to save his people, he is not going to do it without the cross. Already in the presentation in the Temple, where Christ is consecrated in a symbolic way, the shadow of the cross is looming. On the cross will be Christ as a real sacrifice to God, when Christ will offer himself to the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, as a true sacrifice for the sins of the world – for the forgiveness of people’s sins.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends...These things I command you, that ye love one another.” (Jn 15:13,17)

May the blessings of the Holy family pour forth on every human family.

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions
January 2021**

Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 29: 5.30 Mass
Wed 30: 9am Mass
Thurs 31: 9am Mass
Fri 1: 9.15am Mass
Sat 2: 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 3: 9am Mass 5pm Mass

ROSTERS 26/27 DECEMBER

Church Cleaning
B Favetta/J O'Neill (28 Dec-1 Jan)
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

2nd/ 3rd January 2021

Church Cleaning
D & L May (4-8 Jan 2021)
Welcomers
6pm K Conway
9am C Schor
5pm
Commentator
6pm A Jackson
9am N Beatty
5pm K O'Sullivan
Readers:
6pm J Mackay
9am A Brown
5pm M Devine
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm P Billington
9am C Connell C Schor
5pm D Gorzalka
Computer Screen
6pm T Jackson
9am D May
5pm M O'Neill
REGISTRARS
6pm G & M Weatherall
9am G Norris
5pm J McCarthy

Thank you

Dear Parishioners,

Compliments of the Season.

I do hope you all have had a fulfilled Christmas celebration.

Using this platform, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your generosity in every way throughout this year 2020, from the pastoral to the practical demands of our parish. We could not have come this far without your ongoing support.

Many thanks for your financial contributions especially during this challenging year. These has enabled us to service the administrative and maintenance costs of our parish among other needs throughout this year.

Sincere thanks to all our staff, volunteers and all those who served in different ministries, working as individuals, and collaborating in a team spirit: the old and the new Parish Pastoral Council members, the Finance Council, the Pastoral Care Team, the Liturgy Team, Maintenance Team, Hospitality Team, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, the Choir-singalongs, Welcomers, Sacristans, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, IT support, the Cleaners, Faith Formation and scripture group, craft group, wrap with love, coffee clubbers and indeed, every parishioner. Many thanks to the team leaders and members. Your time, talents and energies are highly treasured. Your effort behind the scenes is much appreciated, even when it seemed unnoticed.

To the many visitors and holiday makers, thank you for spending your time with us in Batemans Bay. Your ongoing presence and support to our community is highly appreciated. Your feedback will continue to be a source of inspiration to us in our desire to be a better church.

Thanks to my brother Priest, Fr. John, Deacon Don, Sr. Marie, Seminarians Eden, and Mark. Thank you for your support, and for being a part of our parish team during this extra-ordinary year.

Many thanks to all for complying with the ongoing and ever-changing COVID-19 Protocols. We acknowledge the shared difficulties due to the COVID-19 restrictions. However, your co-operation and collaboration will help to continue to keep our community COVID safe.

Our hearts and prayers are with the members of our community who have lost their all to the fires, and those who have had their first Christmas without their loved ones due to death. We share in your loss and grief and pray for healing and recovery.

We have come through many challenges this year, let us hope for the best in 2021.

Wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year on this Feast of the holy Family.

Fr. Martins

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Loving God, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family help us to appreciate our own families. Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow. Teach us to see Jesus in each other, especially during the difficult times.

May we love one another as You love each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive us.



We pray to grow into being the best family we can be, always open to your grace in our lives.

Amen.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

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:

Dianne Mooy, 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: Jaysheree Rotumah, Murray Elliot 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



**COFFEE CLUB
WILL RESUME
IN FEBRUARY
2021**

THERE WILL BE A CROATIAN MASS CELEBRATED ON FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY AT 11AM.

<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 <i>ideaspeople</i> PRINTING GROUP — with a passion for print</p> <p>P 4472 1599 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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