

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year A

First Reading Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said: ‘I hear so many disparaging me, “Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, “Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!” But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.’  
*The Word of the Lord*  
*R. Thanks be to God*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

*R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.  
In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me.

3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.  
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

*R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

Second Reading

Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man’s fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
*R. Thanks be to God*

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’  
*The Gospel of the Lord*  
*R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

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Reflection

by Fr Michael Tate

Our Gospel reads: ‘... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.’ But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says ‘not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.’ Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator’s love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, *our* moment of death.

Now, that *would* be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the

first century.

One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today’s Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today.

How does ‘Do not be afraid’ really sound to them? So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today’s Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

mtate@bigpond.com

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Those who  
stand for  
nothing fall  
for anything.  
-Anon



ST BERNARD'S PARISH  
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Tuesday-Friday

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**Deacon:** Don Nguyen  
Sr. Marie McAlister 0429383333  
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**Principal:** Mrs. Jo Wain  
**St. Bernard's Primary School,**  
**Batehaven**  
**Principal:** Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan  
**Carroll College,**  
**Broulee**

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

**Tues 16 :** 5.30 Mass  
**Wed 17:** 9am Mass  
**Thurs 18:** 9am Mass  
**Fri 19:** 9.15am Mass  
**Sat 20:** 9am Mass  
9.30am Recon  
6pm Mass  
**Sun 21:** 9am Mass  
5pm Mass

ROSTERS  
THIS WEEKEND  
20/21 JUNE

**Church Cleaning**  
B Coffey/M Paine (22-26)  
**Welcomers 6pm** K Conway  
**9am** C Connell **5pm** L Favetta  
**Commentator**  
**6pm** M Bridges **9am** N Beatty  
**5pm** K O'Sullivan  
**Readers 6pm** P O'Kelly  
**9am** B Basevi  
**5pm** C Nicolleti  
**Computer Screen**  
**6pm** T Jackson **9am** T Priest  
**5pm** J O'Sullivan

ROSTERS NEXT  
WEEKEND  
27/28 JUNE

**Church Cleaning**  
R & K Ison (29/6-3/7)  
**Welcomers 6pm** B Wilson  
**9am** L Page **5pm** M deSmet  
**Commentator**  
**6pm** H Blake **9am** A Skinner  
**5pm** S Ebejer  
**Readers 6pm** C Jackson  
**9am** A Brown **5pm** Sr Marie McAlister  
**Computer Screen**  
**6pm** K Conway **9am** T Jackson  
**5pm** M O'Neill

Witnessing without Fear

The experience of fear is common to all humans, regardless of age, gender, background and social status. It can make or mar us, depending on our response to the subject or object of fear, known and unknown. Sometimes, we are afraid of the future and growing old. We dread losing our health, job security, family and relationships, house, money, and even life itself especially in the face of the bush-fires and the ongoing coronavirus. This weekend, our liturgy of the word invites us to respond to fear and challenges with courage and brevity.



Prophet Jeremiah in our first reading trusted in the power of God in the face of opposition in his prophetic ministry. He was intimidated and attacked by his opponents who conspired against him, but he was unafraid to speak out in the name of the Lord. And Like Jeremiah, the psalmist this weekend expressed trusts in God through the prayer of petition when misunderstood and ill-treated even by his own family members (psalm 67).

This is summed up in the Gospel text taken from the end of Jesus’ instruction to the disciples as he sends them forth to preach, teach and heal (Math. 10.26-33). He invited to them to uncover all hidden truths and to proclaim the gospel message from the housetops. This is not without pain, persecution, opposition and rejection. Aware of the fear of the unknown, Jesus encouraged them to stand firm. Three times he urged them, “Do not fear!” “Do not be afraid!”, “So there is no need to be afraid”. With the image of the sparrow, Jesus implore them to trust and hope in God’s providence and protection. Instead of shrinking from their mission, they are to proclaim the Gospel boldly, knowing that they will be protected like Jeremiah from adversary.

Fear can be debilitating. The grip of fear may have been responsible for many unachieved and unfulfilled plans, prospects and dreams. The fear of taking risk have kept many from reaching the height of their human potentials.

Similarly, the fear of losing our families and friends when we speak up for Jesus can prevent us from witnessing. We fear being called names, tagged, rejected and denigrated by those around us, especially in today’s world that regards religion as a private affair in public life. How do we live witnessing without the fear of losing the ones we love or concealing Jesus and the truth? Being faithful to Christ comes with a cost and the reward is more important than our fear of rejection and loss.

Also, by inviting His disciple to make known all hidden truths, Jesus called them to be honest and transparent. These elements are critical to the integrity of the ongoing mission of Christ and the future of the Church. It is also relevant to the world as we navigate through the current global crisis with consequences for diplomatic relationships, health and economies.

Relying on Gods’ providence, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us continue to be disciple-making followers of Jesus by bearing him witness without fear.

Fr Martins

## Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

### JUNE The Way of the Heart

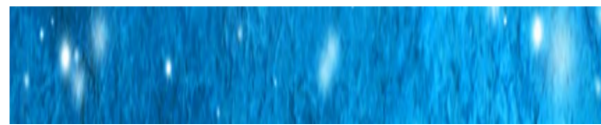
We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus



### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country. We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time. We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wrap With Love**  
Wed 24th June 11am  
**Bible Study/Faith Formation**—Wed 9.30am  
**Craft Group**—Thursday 10am--12pm  
**Adoration**—Friday 5.30pm



**Reconciliation**—Saturday 9.30 am

**E-Activities of the Week**  
Singalong Mon 1 pm



**FAREWELL  
FOR  
SEMINARIAN EDEN**  
**Takes place on Sunday  
28th June 2020 after the  
9 am Mass.**  
**All are welcome to join  
in appreciation of his  
long pastoral placement  
and generous presence in  
the community.**  
**Please bring a plate  
to share.**

**There will be a  
leaving collection  
taken next Sunday at**

**Farewell  
and  
Good Luck**

### BUSHFIRE SUPPORT COUNSELLING

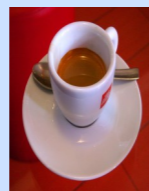
**Catholic Care** is offering a free counselling service to support all those impacted by bushfires. The service will offer strategies on moving forward after the trauma of the disaster. Sessions are available via telehealth services.

Please call 1800 068 698 to make an appointment or to find out more information.

**The Baptist Church** is offering a professional and free counselling service for people who are still adjusting to and recovering from the trauma of the recent fires. With the coronavirus adding additional strain on lives, people who may be feeling overwhelmed or simply needing someone to talk to, can access this free and confidential service.

**For appointments please ring Pastor Rob on 0414 577 500**

### **Parish Coffee Club**



You are invited for  
coffee and chat Thursdays  
after Mass

**VENUE: JJ's at the Marina**

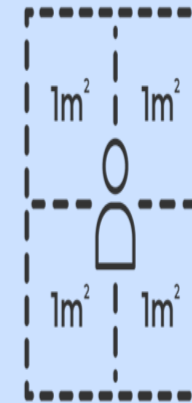
**CROATION  
COMMUNITY MASS**  
**WILL BE CELEBRATED  
ON SATURDAY  
JULY 4TH  
AT 11 AM.**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

### ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA-GOULBURN COVID-19 LATEST PROTOCOL

Restrictions for numbers of people attending funerals have been lifted effective Monday 15th June. However, the 4 square metre rule applies.

Also for masses, weddings, baptism, penance, prayer and social gatherings the 4 square metre per person rule applies effective from July 1st in NSW.

Hand hygiene practices, surface cleaning, record keeping and other practical protocols still apply.



### PLENARY COUNCIL UPDATES

The Plenary Council has been postponed a year due to COVID-19 with the First Session now being held in October 2021 and the Session Two in April 2022. However, the Discernment Papers for the Six Themes reflecting comments received from across Australia and recommendations arising have been released. You can access the documents at:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>.

### Parish Masses

The church is open for prayers every day and Masses in the Parish are ongoing. **There is no need to book a spot at Mass.** For those who cannot attend Mass Fr Martins and the Parish Pastoral Care Team will be available for Communion at Home. Call the office to arrange a time on 4472 4153



### PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thank you for your generous giving by direct debit and cash contributions through the Parish office. This is helping to sustain the Parish. If you would like to join the e-platform, the bank details are as follows:

**1st Collection** Acc. Name: Central  
Presbytery Fund Bank Acc: 000029248 BSB: 062-786

Ref: TOWN & SURNAME. Eg: Batebay Jones

**2nd Collection** Supports the running costs of the Parish  
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**

You may also contribute using this link.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA>.

### Remembering the Sick:

Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, James Lee, George Fitzgerald, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Bill Giust, Allan Odum, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Judy Betts, Ken Evendon, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Glenda Gallagher, Robert Craddy, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, Maureen Kinross and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

### Death Anniversaries:

Josephine Van Oosterhout, Sieglinde Bogdanovic, Henrietta De Graff, Ivan Pintar, Maria Syne, Kelvin Fleming

**We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:**

Eli Chatfield, Leonard O'Hara, Mary Carter, Joe Johnson, Noni Boyce, Rose Lambert, Tony Craddy

Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma

District Funerals

Mark Hewson JP  
Funeral Director

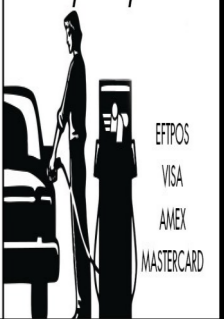
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Moruya 02 4474 3555  
Narooma 02 4476 3888

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