

LITURGY OF THE WORD Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

First Reading

Dt 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in, let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

1 Cor 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking

each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Evil Spirits versus the Holy One of God

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups. 'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul. We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

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**For The
Celebration of
the Word and
The
Eucharist**

**We give
thanks
to all
who
shared
the
summer
with us
and
welcome
the boys
and girls
back to
school
for
2021**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—YEAR B

He Teaches and Liberates with Authority

In this weekend's psalm we are warned: "*If only you would listen to him today! Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as at the time of Messiah in the desert.*" (Ps 95:8) Hence the need for us to first listen to Jesus primarily because of who he is i.e., the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy – the new Moses whom, the first century Jews were expecting – "*Yahweh your God will raise up a prophet like me; you will listen to him.*" (Dt 18:15)

The gospel records an early public appearance of Jesus. He teaches in the evening of the Sabbath, at the synagogue (*a small building where Jews gathered to pray, read the Scriptures, then to preach and teach*) in Capernaum by the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus' teaching astonishes the listeners because he speaks with "authority." Moreover, he performs a miracle there by casting out an unclean spirit (a demon) from a possessed man. If Jesus has authority over an unclean spirit (a spiritual being with allegiance to Satan), then could he overcome Satan himself?

The demon speaking through the man certainly thinks so, even if the people in the synagogue did not understand! 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' This recalls the prophecy recorded in Genesis 3:15, after the fall of Adam and Eve: '*I shall put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; it will bruise your head and you will strike its heel.*' Jesus is God's incarnational fulfilment of that prophecy, so the demon likely recognises the One who will destroy them to save us. But, as his time has not yet come to show himself as Messiah and king of the Jews (and would not fully come until his crucifixion), Jesus silences the demon.

The second reading records Paul's call to the Corinthians to recognise, for their own good, the time they are living in is the time of salvation. They must not be distracted by this world's issues and so fail to recognise the time: "*I am saying this only to help you, not to put a bridle on you, but so that everything is as it should be, and you are able to give your undivided attention to the Lord.*" (1 Cor 7:35)

In our own time however painful with Covid, the ongoing economic downturn and prolonged uncertainty as confusing as it may be, is not a reason to despair; nor, enticing as it may seem, to escape in so much distraction, or give in to those temptations and sin; or, simply to ignore what's happening around us – those motions of darkness arising from the human heart – are not options because God always calls us forth. Our only real response is faith and repentance because the kingdom of God (the rule of God) is at hand now!

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: The coming of God's kingdom means the defeat of Satan's: "*If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*" Jesus' exorcisms free some individuals from the domination of demons. They anticipate Jesus' great victory over "the ruler of this world". The kingdom of God will be definitively established through Christ's cross: "God reigned from the wood." (CCC 550)

Fr Martins

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions
February 2021**

Violence Against Women
We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 2nd: 5.30 Mass
Wed 3rd: 9am Mass
Thurs 4th: 9am Mass
Fri 5th: 9.15am Mass
Sat 6th: 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 7th: 9am Mass 5pm Mass

ROSTERS

30/31 January 2021
Church Cleaning
B Favetta/J O'Neil (Feb 1-5)

Welcomers

6pm B Wilson
9am C Schor
5pm D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm P O'Kelly
9am A Skinner
5pm S Ebejer
Readers:
6pm J Quigley
9am L Page
5pm K O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm M Bridges
9am N Page
5pm J O'Sullivan.

Computer Screen

6pm K Conway
9am T Priest
5pm M O'Neill.
REGISTRARS
6pm G & M Weatherall
9am B Basevi G Norris
5pm J McCarthy

6/7 February 2021

Church Cleaning
D & L May (8-12)

Welcomers

6pm Sr Marie
9am J McClelland
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm M Weatherall
9am N Beatty
5pm M Devine
Readers:
6pm J Mackay
9am C Jackson
5pm A Horsfall
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm P Billington
9am K Corbin
5pm D Gorzalka.

Computer Screen

6pm K Conway
9am T Jackson
5pm J O'Sullivan.
REGISTRARS
6pm P Billington
9am G Norris/ B Basevi
5pm D & N Gorzalka

SOME INSIGHTS ON PRAYER AND PRAYERFULNESS...

Mindful of the Sacred Scriptures at the heart of how we understand God's Call in our lives, our response and our relationship with God, the following wisdom is offered...

'Openness is essential for prayerfulness ... one of these necessities is that of paying attention to our spiritual blinders, those personality traits that bushwhack us at such times when we are overly busy, caught in a darkness of mind or heart, unaware, or non-receptive...prayerfulness requires a change in attitude and a deliberate choice to act with love' (Joyce Rupp in Foreword, p. x).

The key elements of spiritual intimacy in the time allotted to us on earth are fairly straightforward. They are, in order of importance:

Love God deeply Do what you can for others And take good care of yourself.

Such a life requires a heart filled with the cardinal virtue of humility and a growing desire for self-awareness. A full life also involves a willingness to serve others, rather than simply being wrapped up in ourselves, and – most importantly – a sense of spiritual mindfulness in our daily encounters so we can be open to the new lessons with which God continually graces us. Prayerfulness, in its purest form, is true receptivity to the essential lessons needed to live a full life...we can be surprised by Grace.

St Charles Borromeo – *'be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing but live otherwise'*.

Thomas Merton was asked about offering others advice about their spiritual life, he responded, *'No one can give you a map ... your terrain is unique'*.

Inner formation is not a set of techniques to be mastered. Rather, it is an ethos to be absorbed, an attitude to be cultivated. An abbot once alerted candidates about to enter a monastery, 'there is no training here; it's just living the life so it gets 'into your bones, under your skin'. Prayerfulness is the openness to let life get 'into your bones, under your skin'.

Reflecting on our relationships with others and prayerfulness... 'people may forget what you said...but they will never forget how you made them feel' (Buechner). True spiritual awareness results from being in the present with 'our' eyes wide open to experiencing life and God in dynamic new ways. This process may be **formal** (centering prayer, contemplation, meditation – all inspired by the Scriptures) or **informal** (an attentive attitude that keeps us awake to the moment and open to God).

Wicks, R (2009) Prayerfulness – Awakening to the Fullness of Life. Sorin Books, Notre Dame, Indiana

Wanted: Parish couples interested in deepening their own relationship in order to help other couples deepen theirs.

The Archdiocese is offering *The Marriage Course* – a 7-week course delivered to you in the comfort of your own home via Zoom. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well. Couples will then be equipped and supported to assist in running the same course for the wider Parish community should the wish to. The Marriage Course starts Tues 9th February 2021 and costs \$70 per couple. For more details and to register visit <https://mailchi.mp/b4c3fdd09d6a/tmc21> or contact Steph Ransom steph.ransom@cg.org.au



Gathering: 'Resilience through Loss and Grief'

All Parishioners are invited to attend this Gathering on **Tues Feb 23, 2021**, 9am registration for 9-30am start – 12-30pm in St Bernard's Church. **Facilitator:** Bruce Chan BA [Psych].

Cost: Free. Funded by 'Mary MacKillop Today'

You must register to attend by Monday Feb 15 – Ring Marie Weatherall: 0405 028 057 or email: mariet51@bigpond.com or sign the sheet in the Foyer of the Church. Please bring plate if you are able. This Gathering is open to the general Community so don't miss out!

Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

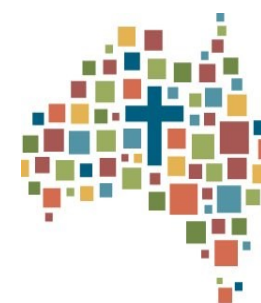
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.



SAINTS OF THE WEEK—FEBRUARY

Tues 2nd—Presentation of the Lord

Wed 3rd—St Blasé, bishop & martyr, St Ansgar, bishop

Fri 5th—St Agatha, virgin & martyr

Sat 6th—St Paul Miki, martyr

Sunday 7th—Blessed Pius IX



THE BOOK SALE LAST WEEK RAISED \$220 FOR THE BINH MINH SCHOOL. THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY WHO PARTICIPATED.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Tuesday February 2nd, 9.30-11.30am in the Church Meeting Room. **Guest Speaker:** Nicole Gozalka, Chaplain, The Glen.

Focus: Exploring emotional, socio-psychological and spiritual issues for residents in aged care/ageing in place. **All are welcome.** Please bring a plate if you are able.

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. Please contact Anne Jackson in the Parish Office on a Friday from 10am-2pm if you need any further information.

Remembering the Sick:

Kathryn King, Ben Copland, 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 Odum, Luke Ward, 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: Juliet Gador, Mirko Baresic, Mary Augustine, Mary Bogue, Dorothy O'Hara, Sylvia Penberthy, Robert Burtenshaw, Brian Fitzroy, Irene Post, Patricia McLennan, Thomas Nagle, Pasquale ImBriano

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish

Community: Sue-Anne Clarke, Maree Spillane, Rosemary Cooley, Malgorzata Colebrook, Te Otinga Te Kowhai Brennan, Pam O'Keefe, Maurice Connell, Susan McNamara, Dario Panes, Elizabeth Gallagher, Kenneth Torkington, Shirley Keir, Ken Bow, Steven Thomas, Maureen Kinross, Ian McAdam, Jan Schor, Pio Liberale, Glenda Gallagher, Ivy Rootsey,



COFFEE CLUB RESUMES
Thursday 4th February after
Mass Venue: Corrigan's Cove

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Cenacle Prayer: Tues at 4.45pm in Church

Bible Study/Faith Formation:

Resumes Jan 27th

Craft Group—Thursdays 10 am

Men Alive—Wed 3rd February

Finance Meeting—Wed 3rd 5.30pm

Liturgy Meeting—Thurs 4th—4pm

Singalong—Resumes 2021

Exposition/Adoration—

Every Friday at 5.30pm

Reconciliation—Saturday 9.30

Wrap With Love—Tues 9th

February, 10 am

Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma

District Funerals

Mark Hewson JP
Funeral Director

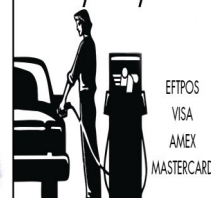
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