

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’ And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps.

2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. ‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’

3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
God’s Works of Art

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God’s favourite ways of regarding us. ‘We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.’ Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don’t always look the way He intended! Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter. Now, if you and I are God’s work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light. Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ’s healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

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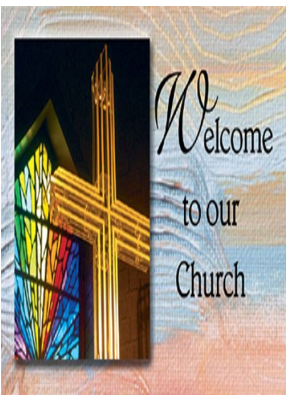
ST BERNARD’S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



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
Youth Minister: Liarna Miller

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 Drewsen



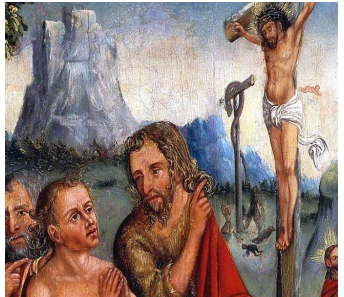
**For the
Celebration of
The Word and
The Eucharist**



Cenacle Prayer:
Tues at 4.45pm Church
Lenten Program:
After 9 am Mass every Wed.
Walk in the Spirit
Lenten Renewal—Thurs
18th March 7.30 pm -
Church Meeting Room
Opal Mass - Every 1st Wed
10.30am
Glen Mass - Every 2nd Wed
10.30am
Goodwin Manor Mass -
Every 3rd Wed 2pm (17th/3)
Maranatha Mass - Every
4th Wed 2pm
Cuppa with Mary
MacKillop - Tues 16th
March at 10am
PPC Meeting -Thurs 18th
5 pm Meeting Room
Feast of St Joseph Mass - 9
am Friday 19th Mar
Craft Group-Thursdays 10
am
Men Alive-1st & 3rd Wed
in March
Singalong- Mon 1pm
Adoration- Fri at 5pm.
Stations of the Cross/ Soup
Dinner Fri - 6pm.
Reconciliation- Sat 9.30
Wrap With Love- 31 Mar
11am

Fourth Sunday of Lent -YEAR B

This weekend, we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent also known as *Laetare* Sunday (Rejoice Sunday), indicating that we are half-way through the Lenten season, *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Therefore, this Sunday reminds us about the time that we need to take a break from our Lenten sacrifices, and we together rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be granted to us at Easter.



The readings today invite us to have a closer look at our relationship with God on the journey of life. From the beginning of time, God has been always showing his loving mercy to all people of all ages. In the first reading, “the Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messengers of God,” even though “they despised his words.” In the Gospel of St John, Jesus reminds us about the image in the Old testament of “Moses who lifted up the serpent in the desert”, prefiguring the Son of Man, who is Christ himself, who must be lifted up as a price for the sins of humanity, so that those who believe in Christ may “have eternal life in him.” Therefore, God has never betrayed his covenant with us. He is always there even in our darkest moment of life. He used the Crucifixion as a bridge for us to cross over those abysses of our life and come close to His merciful heart.

By looking at the cross upon the altar, our hearts are often overwhelmed with different thoughts, sometime thoughts of joy, of God’s love and mercy for humanity, and thoughts of suffering. Importantly, as we are invited this weekend to contemplate the image of the Cross and the One that hung upon it, we are challenged during this season of Lent to reflect on those thoughts especially that of love and suffering.

Firstly, we see the loving mercy that God, has expressed through the incarnation of His own beloved Son, Jesus Christ. He, who came to the world in flesh, saves us from the burden of our sins. St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: “God loved us so much that he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.” This is the meaning of the Cross: LOVE.

Secondly, we see tragic image of the crown of thorn on the head of Jesus and those nails fastening Christ’s body to the Cross. In those nails, we see God’s love for humanity and at the same time, we see in human’s sins Christ been recrucified. St Peter had a good insight on the image of the cross: ““He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” (1Pr 2,24)

Lastly, this season of Lent is a good time for each one of us to pause for a moment and ask ourselves this question: **as we continue to look at the cross, what do we see?**

We pray for the grace to respond to what we see.

Blessings,
Mark Ha

First Reconciliation Retreat Day will be held on Friday 19th March at Carroll College. We continue to keep the boys and girls in our prayers.

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions
March 2021**

Sacrament of reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 16th 5.30 Mass
Wed 17th 9am Mass , & 5.30pm,
Goodwin Manor Mass 2pm
Thurs 18th 9am Mass
Fri 19th 9.15am Mass
Sat 20th 9am Rosary/Mass
9.30am Recon 6pm Mass
Sun 21st 9am Mass 5pm Mass
5pm Family & Youth-

**Mass
ROSTERS**

13/14 March 2021
Church Cleaning
D & L May (8-12)
Welcomers
6pm C Brownlie
9am L Page
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm M Bridges
9am B Basevi
5pm J O'Sullivan
Readers
6pm J Mackay
9am A Jackson
5pm L Miller
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm J Wain
9am K Corbin
5pm Y Oeder..
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Jackson
5pm M O'Neill

REGISTRARS
6pm J McCarthy & helper
9am G Norris/ B Basevi
5pm Volunteer

20/21 March 2021
Church Cleaning
M deSmet/J Maher (15-19)
Welcomers
6pm Sr Marie
9am C Connell
5pm D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm P O'Kelly
9am C Lowe
5pm M O'Neill
Readers:
6pm M Weatherall
9am M Lowe
5pm S Ebejer
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm J Wain
9am L Stevens
5pm A Horsfall
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Priest
5pm J O'Sullivan

REGISTRARS
6pm G & M Weatherall
9am G Norris/ B Basevi
5pm M Devine

**PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE**

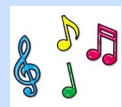
**PROJECT
COMPASSION 2021:
ASPIRE NOT TO HAVE
MORE BUT TO BE
MORE (St Oscar
Romero)**



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet, so he and his family always had to walk into the forest to an open defecation area. His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save for toilets. Now Arsad's family is healthier. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to **Be More**



*Please feel free to take
one of the charity boxes
home*



**A reminder
about Singing
Practice for
Holy Week and Easter on
Mondays at 1-2 in the
Church.
All are welcome**



LENTEN REFLECTION: WEEK 4

**REACHING OUT IN HOPE ~
'WE ARE GOD'S WORK OF ART'**

*St Paul's letter to the Corinthians this week
tells us that 'we are God's work of art,
created in Christ Jesus to live the good life
as from the beginning he had meant us to live it'.*

Being God's work of art and being called to live the good life, means to reach out and live for others - To bring hope. Sometimes this will be in the form Of forgiveness ~ asking forgiveness and being forgiving. This is challenging and calls for humility in both giving and asking for forgiveness ~ God's mercy and grace. God's hope in us enables us to live more fully for others.

During Lent we are called to reflect and become more prayerful - to renew our relationship with God.
*'The spiritual task of life is to feed hope.
Hope is not something to be found outside us.
It lies in the spiritual life within.'*
(Joan Chittister)



...Our Prayer for the Week...
**Loving God, your gracious love for us is so immense,
we cannot even begin to comprehend it, but we can
gratefully receive it, and the hope it brings us.
Open our hearts and grant us the grace to
persevere in our Lenten commitments.
(inspired by Chris Monaghan CP)**

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

Celebrating the Feast of St Joseph in the Year dedicated to St Joseph. All are welcome to the 9.15am Mass on Friday 19th March.
There will be a Soup dinner after Stations of the Cross on Friday 19th March at 6pm. *All are welcome*

RENEWAL OF LITURGY MINISTRIES

Liturgy is enriched by the 'full and active participation of all gathered'.

We are renewing the ministries of:
Special Ministers of the Eucharist
Lectors/Readers & Commentators
Welcomers & Collectors & Counters

You are invited to consider volunteering for one or more of these ministries.

A Renewal Session will be held on SATURDAY MARCH 27: 10am - 11.00am in the Church. Please add your details to the Expression of Interest Form in the Foyer.
Any queries please contact Phil Billington, Anne Jackson or Bernie Basevi

Our Parish needs the 'VARIETY & UNITY OF GIFTS OF ALL' (St Paul to the Corinthians).

2021 PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM

Wednesday morning, *Comfort Lenten Program*
Thursday evening 'Walk in the Spirit, Lenten Renewal Experience'

Led by Archbishop Prowse via livestreaming

<https://cgcatholic.org.au/walk-in-the-spirit/>

5th Session Thursday 18th March 7.30pm in the Church Meeting Room.

Bible Study ... 'Enjoy the Good News' will continue after Easter

Pope Francis' message for Lent 2021.

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/02/12/210212a.html>

PASTORAL CARE ONE DAY INTRODUCTORY COURSE

If you are interested in, or new to Pastoral Care or want to review your skills, please join us on **Saturday March 20** in the Parish Office at **9am-4pm**. Cost: **free**.

Morning tea supplied. BYO Pot Luck Lunch to share. All welcome. RSVP March 15 to Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057 or Sr Marie 0429 383 333

Gathering:

"A World Turned Upside Down - Let's Clear a Space"

23rd March 9am start

Resilience and balancing our emotional equilibrium **Facilitator:** Bruce Chan (Bach Psy) **Cost:** Free.

If able please bring a plate. Booking by March 15th to Sr Marie 0429 383 333 or sign sheet in foyer of church.

Saints Of The Week

Wed 17th - St Patrick, bishop

**Thurs 18th - St Cyril of
Jerusalem, bishop and doctor**

Fri- 19th - St Joseph



Tickets are on sale for the opening night , 9th April 7pm, of the Bay Theatre Players production of **"The Drowsy Chaperone."** Proceeds to Binh Minh school for disabled children in Vietnam. Tickets \$32 from Anne Scicluna 0402 465 603 or Carol Schor on 0450 775 067. Come along and enjoy a wonderful night!

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

From 1st October 2020 there is 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:

Michael Corbin, Antony and Andrew, 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 Odium, 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: Peter Burum, Joan Neems, William Holmes, Ruth Ryan, Margaret Toy, Ivan Hropic, Angeline Davis, Robert Loftus, Michael Doyle
We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Samuel Aloga, Francis Mines, June Eddie, Kathleen Buckley, Fr Kevin Barry-Cotter, Martin Ward, Marie Hann, Billy Borg, Pauline Chalkley, Anna Dang, Anna Ordeman, Joan Logue, Sue-Anne Clarke, Maree Spillane, Rosemary Cooley, Pam O'Keefe, Malgorzata Colebrook, Te Otinga Te Kowhai Brennan, Maurice Connell, Susan McNamara, Dario Panes, Elizabeth Gallagher, Ken Bow, Steven Thomas, Maureen Kinross, Jan Schor, Pio Liberale, Glenda Gallagher, Ivy Rootsey

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after the
9am Mass
Venue:
Corrigans Cove



Coffee N Chat

Vinnies "Knock on Effect"
campaign begins in March.
It has three areas of focus:

- To raise awareness about the work of St Vincent de Paul. .
- To recruit more Conference members. Contact Gary Norris: 0429 774 101 or email: garynorris07@gmail.com
- To raise funds for the Society's works. If able buy a raffle ticket at the weekend masses of 6/7 & 13/14 March. Prizes - *see notice in foyer*. \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Drawn March 14th.

Thank you for your support.

**YOU ARE ALL INVITED
TO "A CUPPA WITH
MARY"**

**(MacKillop) ON MARCH
16TH AT 10AM at Marie
& Greg Weatherall's Place**

0405 028 057

Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma
District Funerals
Mark Hewson JP
Funeral Director
Phone 02 4472 8886
Moruya 02 4474 3555
Narooma 02 4476 3888

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Sandwiches & Coffee
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excell
ideaspeople
PRINTING GROUP
P 4472 1599
E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au
www.excellprint.com.au
Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Ray and Anne Brown
COASTAL
**CONCRETE
& QUARRY**
02 4474 0320

Kate & Tara
your vets
at Surf Beach
EUROCOAST
Veterinary Centre
4471 3400