

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary  
Time Year B

First Reading Jos 24:1-2. 15-18  
A reading from the book of Joshua  
*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: ‘If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.’

The people answered, ‘We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’  
*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm  
Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9  
**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.
  2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.
  3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
  4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.
  5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned
- (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Second Reading Eph 5:21-32  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation Jn 6:63. 68  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 6:60-69  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*  
After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, ‘This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?’ Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, ‘Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?’  
‘It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the

Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’  
*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**  
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REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant  
CSA

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose? The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer. If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, ‘to whom shall we go?’ Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.  
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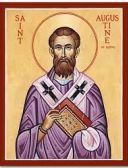
**SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

**Monday 23rd August**  
**St Rose of Lima**

**Tuesday 24th August**  
**St Bartholemew Apostle**

**Friday 27th August**  
**St Monica**

**Saturday 28th August**  
**St Augustine**





**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  
**Ast. 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**



**Singalong**  
postponed due to Covid restrictions

**Cenacle Prayer**  
Tues at 4.45pm Online

**Enjoy The Good News**  
postponed due to Covid restrictions

**Opal Mass** - Every 1st Wed 10.30am  
**Glen Mass** - Every 2nd Wed 10.30am .  
**Goodwin Manor Mass** Every 3rd Wed 2pm  
**Maranatha Mass** - Every 4th Wed 2pm

**Craft Group**-Thurs Not on due to Covid Rules

**Adoration-**  
Fri (27/8) 5:30pm Online

**Charismatic Prayer Group** - Friday (3/9) after morning mass.

**Cuppa with Mary MacKillop** - Postponed due to Covid19 restrictions

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**REFLECTION**

In my younger days I tended to pick my way through the Bible, especially the New Testament. I'd grab a few favourite verses or stories like a young lad might choose his favourite lollies. Just as the kid could develop a sweet tooth and so end up with poor dental health so too did I acquire a feel-good spirituality that didn't always measure up when life tossed some challenges in my path. I needed to make those parts of the Bible that I tended to avoid compulsory reading. This week's Sunday Readings are a case in point. Their message for me is: No matter the cost I must commit to doing the Will of God.

**Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b.**

Winston Churchill wrote "History is written by the victors." I couldn't help but think of this axiom as I read the exploits of Joshua, who succeeded Moses as the leader of the Israelites. I wondered what the losers, the Canaanites and other tribes. would have thought if they ever read the words of Joshua as he lay on his deathbed itemising all the victories the Lord God of Israel had given him and the Jewish people in order to take possession of the Promised Land?

Joshua reminded the Israelites they were blessed by God because they had been faithful to the One True God. Now that he was leaving them it was time for them to renew their Covenant with God. If they reneged on their special relationship with God He would have little patience with their betrayal. And of course over the following centuries we know they did betray the Lord. And God continued to appoint great leaders, like King David, to lead them back to acknowledging the One True God of Noah, Abraham and Moses. And they continued to lapse. Finally God sent His Only Son. Do we see any similarities with our personal faith? With our Church?

**Ephesians 5: 21-32.**

In these days of Women's Rights and Feminism Paul's exhortation in verse 22 may raise some hackles. "Wives be subject to your husbands, as you are to the Lord." Is Paul insisting that women recognise their lower position in the Ephesian (Greek) social order and act accordingly? Paul, it seems to me, accepts the social reality of first century Greece. He doesn't want a revolution in the kitchen. He urges a change of attitude by both husband and wife. Christ and Christ alone is their Lord. The values that are to permeate their marital relationship are not the values of their pagan society, but those of Christ. A very high standard indeed. But possible, if both partners renew on a regular basis the vows they made on their wedding day. A loving commitment.

**John 6: 60 - 69.**

As fewer and fewer people followed Jesus from the time he fed Five Thousand to when he was left alone with his twelve disciples, Jesus asked them: "And you - would you also like to leave?" Simon Peter answered: "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. And now we believe and know you are the Holy One, who has come from God." A forthright commitment!! But how long did Peter's courage last? What about ourselves? This question remains important especially at this time of isolation, of searching for meaning and for our deep spiritual longings. To whom shall we go to find satisfaction except Jesus. We pray that we may be inspired like Peter to recognise Jesus the true message of Eternal Life.

**Joe Quigley**



## Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

### AUGUST

#### The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

### WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Church and Parish Office are closed this week due to Covid Protocols.

Please see Parish Website for updated Archdiocese Covid Protocol

#### ROSTERS

If restrictions are lifted on Saturday 28th August

**28/29 AUG 2021**

**Church Cleaning**

M deSmet, J Maher & N Spaven (30

Aug -2 Sept)

**Welcomers**

6pm C Brownlie

9am T van den Broek

5pm D Ebejer

**Commentator**

6pm D Robinson

9am A Gerson

5pm N Gorzalka

**Readers:**

6pm M Bridges

9am B Basevi

5pm S Ebejer

**Eucharistic Ministers**

6pm L Favetta

9am C Schor

5pm M Devine

**Computer Screen**

6pm K Conway

9am T Jackson

5pm J O'Sullivan

**REGISTRARS**

6pm J McCarthy & P O Kelly

9am P Jobs

5pm D Gorzalka

**MORNING TEA**

No morning tea due to COVID19

### PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving, at the start of the new financial year, the details are as follows:

**Acc. Name:**  
St Bernard's  
**Operating Account**  
**BSB: 062-786**  
**Bank**  
**Acc:000012939**  
**Ref: Family Name**

## LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY



### GOD'S FINGER IN OUR LIVES

The events of the past week both in Australia and across the world, especially in Afghanistan, prompt us to take stock of who we are personally and as a community of faith. We know we are called to respond to the foundational call of Jesus to **'love your neighbour'**. However, these events and the ongoing pandemic can have us wondering where is God in all of this?

The following reflection by Ron Rolheiser OMI 'God's finger in our lives' may assist.

*The idea isn't so much that we look to every kind of social, political, and religious analysis to try to understand what's going on in the world, but rather that we look at every event in our lives, personal or global, and ask ourselves: What's God saying to me this event? What's God saying to us in this event?*

*An older generation understood this as trying to attune itself to the workings of "divine providence". That practice goes back to biblical times. When we read the bible, we see that for God's people nothing happened that was understood as being purely secular or religiously neutral. Rather in every event, be it ever so accidental and secular, they saw the finger of God.*

*Now it's easy to misunderstand this because frequently the sacred authors give the impression that God actively caused the event. That's their wording, though not their intent or meaning.*

*The bible does not intend to teach us that God causes wars or stops the heavens from raining; it accepts that they're the result of natural contingency. The lesson is only that God speaks through them.*

*Author and theologian Frederick Buechner commented: "This does not mean that God makes events happen to us which move us in certain directions like chess pieces. Instead, events happen under their own steam as random as rain, which means that God is present in them not as their cause but as the one who even in the hardest and most hair-raising of them offers us the possibility of that new life and healing which I believe is what salvation is."*

*God is always speaking to us in every event in our lives. For a Christian, there's no such a thing as a purely secular experience. The event may be the result of purely secular and contingent forces but it contains a religious message for us, always. Our task is to read that message.*

(ronrolheiser.com)

**We pray that our hearts be open to the finger of God in our lives, especially in these challenging times.**

## AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC COALITION FOR CHURCH REFORM (ACCCR) is holding the second of

three online convocations,

**'Outcomes and Actions for the Plenary Council'**, Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30-9pm. To be opened by Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann (Senior Australian of the Year 2021) – with Speakers Dr Jesse Rogers, Ms Debra Zanella, Mr Robert Fitzgerald, and Prof John Warhurst. All welcome. Further info and register at [accr.com.au](http://accr.com.au)

## CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. BERNARD, A MAN OF SOLITUDE (20<sup>th</sup> August)

It has been two years since our last communal celebration of the feast of our Patron Saint, Bernard of Clairvaux, born in 1090, near Dijon, in France of a Burgundian landowning aristocracy. He had five brothers and one sister raised by parents who were exceptional models of virtue. Bernard was a Cistercian monk and mystic, founder and Abbot of the Abbey of Clairvaux and our Parish Patron Saint who is recognised to be one of the most influential churchmen of his time. He died August 20, 1153, at Clairvaux and was canonised a saint in 1174.

Meanwhile, during the last Parish Feast celebration in 2019 we focused on the family, bringing together generations of many families who have been part of the parish of St Bernard, Batemans Bay to reflect the many efforts of St. Bernard, summed up in our Motto: *"That all may be one"*.

Beyond this feast of oneness in 2019 we looked forward to celebrating the growing diversity of the people in the parish community including the school in 2020 with the Theme: *Celebrating the Parish Diversity* to re-echo our collective mission and vision of unity in diversity. Unfortunately, with the global pandemic and the attending restrictions in place in 2020, the communal celebration of the feast was postponed to 2021 in hope of a COVID free world.

It has been twelve months, yet we are still in a COVID-filled world, marked with extended lockdowns with growing threats from the latest variant unsure of what happens next as the Public Health Order to 'stay at home' sinks. While it remains extremely impossible to plan a formal celebration of the Parish diversity during the Feast this year, and importantly at a time of great human diversity, with polarizing ideas on many topical subjects including the vaccine and the vision for the future of the Church and humanity and a longing for unity, a quick reflection on an aspect of St. Bernard's life of solitude might help us through this time of 'iso' (lotion).

With the death of his mum, Aleth in 1107, and hit by grief, St. Bernard turned away from the world to a life of solitude, embracing poverty and austerity. He knew deprivation, an ongoing experience in the pandemic world of today. During this time, Bernard prayed, worked hard to restore Benedictinism to a more primitive and austere pattern of life. He wrote many reflections including his canticle on Mary. Bernard struggled and learned to live with stress, tension and sometimes frustrations created by his desire to serve others in charity through obedience and his desire to cultivate his inner life by remaining in his monastic enclosure; his quest to combine a mystical life of absorption in God in the hermitage with his friendship for those in misery. Bernard remained in touch with nature as many of us are at this time especially when we garden. Bernard was noted have said, **"Believe me, for I know, you will find something far greater in the woods than in books. Stones and trees will teach you that which you cannot learn from the masters"**.

St Bernard's finds answers to his human experience of grief, stress, tensions and frustrations in solitude where he experienced God more deeply and found the peace that the world could not give. As we rely on the intercession of St Bernard's, may we be inspired by his life of solitude at this time of isolation.

**Happy Feast Day, one and all.**

**Fr Martins**

### PPC ONLINE MEETING IN BRIEF 19TH AUGUST 2021

-We wish all Parishioners Happy Feast of St. Bernard and invite all who can to join the Parish Connect Online on Sunday 22nd August 2021 at 4pm to mark the Parish Feast with a glass of a French Wine!

-With Extended Lockdown, we encourage all Team/Group Leaders to please, keep in touch with Team/Group members through 'Phone Tree' at this time of isolation.

-All private prayer intentions should be directed to Fr. Martins who continues to offer Mass each day for us all in the Presbytery Chapel.

-The Bulletin will continue to be posted by email, the Websites and through the Facebook page. You may wish to pick up copies for yourselves and others when you are in town to pick up groceries.

-The Parish Zoom Account is available for all groups for any Online Activities.

**Death Anniversaries:** Anthony Clift, Giuseppe Ferrante, Regina Mass, Denis Mayer, Jan Schor Pam Carriage, Robyn Moore, Des Beckhaus, Mato Katic, Evert Ordeman,

**We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:** Patricia Sweeney, Lorna Gunn, Bill Guist, Savannah Leane, Maree Gregory.

## Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money  
in the tumult of the economic market  
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country.  
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically  
wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace  
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

*Ursuline Sisters of Louisville*

Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

<p><b>BATEMANS BAY &amp; MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS</b></p> <p>Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years</p> <p>Batemans Bay 44728886 Moruya 4474 3555    Narooma 4476 3888</p>	<p><b>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS</b></p> <p>1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay</p> <p>Buy fuel any time</p> <p>EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</p>
<p><b>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY</b></p> <p>Fish &amp; Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches &amp; Coffee</p> <p><b>100% BEEF BURGER</b></p> <p>248 Beach Road Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p> <p><b>02 4472 1802</b></p>	<p><b>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE</b></p>
<p><b>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE</b></p>	<p><b>excell</b> <i>ideaspeople</i> with a passion for print</p> <p>P 4472 1599 E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au www.excellprint.com.au Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p>
<p>Ray and Anne Brown</p> <p><b>COASTAL</b> <b>CONCRETE &amp; QUARRY</b></p> <p><b>02 4474 0320</b></p>	<p><b>Kate &amp; Tara your vets</b> at Surf Beach</p> <p><b>EUROCOAST</b> Veterinary Centre <b>4471 3400</b></p>

### Remembering the Sick:

Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Eileen Hogg, Antony and Andrew, Lois White, Rita Condon, Teresa Humphrey, Catherine Mylott, 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, 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