

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
First Reading Is 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.
The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm
 Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
 2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.
 3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading Jas 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James
Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my

foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation cf. Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Ephphatha

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our

hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

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Mass online from
 St Christophers Cathedral in
 Canberra is available daily
<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday 8th September- Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Thursday 9th September- Saint Peter Claver, Priest



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



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 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: Roslynne 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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

FATHERS, LIKE ST JOSEPH

Fatherhood is a special vocation. And early September every year, a weekend is dedicated to celebrating Father's Day. This year's celebration will be noted for not only occurring at a time of extended lockdowns and isolation, but also for ushering -in the Season of Spring, after a cold winter season. Coincidentally, it is a year dedicated to St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, the Foster Father of Jesus, and the Patron of the whole Church.

The annual Father's Day celebration recalls the co-creative potential in all fathers who collaborate with God through acts of procreation and fostering. The event reminds us of the endless role and place of fathers and father-figures in the life of the family, children, the community, and the wider society. As a kid, dad told me, 'Son, always work hard, laugh often, and remember to keep your words'. Fathers are often the first teachers, role models, mentors, heroes, and best buddies. They go above and beyond to inspire their children to aspire towards life fulfilling goals. Children perform their first ever hands-on jobs under the guide of fathers and father figures, with the common expression, 'my dad taught me how to...'

This would have been the experience of Jesus in the carpentry shop of his foster father Joseph to whom Pope Francis has dedicated this liturgical year in his Apostolic Letter, "Patris Corde" ("With a father's heart" Dec. 8, 2020). In the letter, Pope Francis acknowledged St. Joseph who often went unnoticed, like many fathers. For Francis, St Joseph was, "a father in the shadows"; "a working father"; "a creatively courageous father, "an accepting father"; "an obedient father"; "a tender loving father"; and "a beloved father". Joseph's greatness results from being the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus," and a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood of God.

We noticed these qualities shown by St. Joseph in many fathers, hidden by the ongoing COVID lockdowns, yet juggling between hard work and home-schooling children. Many fathers under the current circumstances have been pushed beyond their human limits, yet like Joseph, they continue to be *accepting, tender and loving* fathers, courageously pulling their weight behind the demands of the vocation of fatherhood without formal orientation and manuals in the face of unprecedented challenges. Thank you, fathers, and father figures, for your tireless contributions even when it goes unnoticed.

It may feel very scary to embrace the vocation of fatherhood, but for me, nothing transforms an individual compared to being a father or mother, biological and spiritual. Our jobs, careers and professions may describe us, but parenting changes and defines us in an indelible way. Joseph is remembered for being Jesus' foster father more than his carpentry trade. As we celebrate the 2021 Father's Day in Isolation, we pray that we may gain the strength to continue to be fathers like St. Joseph.

Fr Martins

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 (10/9) 5:30pm Online

Charismatic Prayer Group - Friday (10/9) after morning mass.

Cuppa with Mary MacKillop -
 Postponed due to Covid19 restrictions advised.

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions**

September

**An Environmentally
Sustainable Lifestyle**

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this. .

PARISH WEEKLY MASS

Online - Link to be sent by email.

**Please contact the Parish
Office on 4472 4153**

Covid-19 Update

Please see Parish

**Website for the latest
protocols with church
closure until 11.59pm
Friday 10th September
2021**

ROSTERS

Due to the extension of the lockdown to 10th September, 2021 the rosters will not be issued this week. Once we know what is happening the roster will be emailed out to you.

**We encourage all
Ministries/Team & Group
Leaders to keep in touch
through the 'Phone Tree' at
this time of isolation.
All private prayer intentions
should be directed to Fr
Martins who is also
available for home visits to
the sick.**

**PARISH
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

**If you would like to
join the Parish
e-platform giving
for both the Priest
and the Church,
the details are as
follows:**

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

Happy Fathers Day 2021

Fatherhood

How do you learn to be a father when your own died before you were born? Observe others in your neighborhood and school environs, work, and social groups? But can you see the many aspects required of the role? Never completely. Being fatherless was my norm and the role of a father was the future I had never considered until my first of four arrived. What I finally learned was that Fatherhood is the worry, sadness, doubt, and heartache that I would not wish on any man but the security, joy, pride, and love that I would wish on **every** man. My youngest gave me a much-treasured coffee mug upon which is the uplifting message. "My favourite people call me Dad". A role I still feel I am unworthy of but enjoy, nevertheless. **Terry**

Fathering

I am father to six married children, who have given us 21 grandchildren. I have taught many newly married couples and engaged couples "your children will cause you pain when they hurt and disappoint you; but they will be the source of more joy than you will get anywhere else, from anyone else." The only joy greater than fatherhood is marriage, without which I would not have the joy of fatherhood. Mind you, the joy of being Pa is great too, and if necessary, you can hand the grandchildren back to your children. **Vince**

Fatherhood, what a gift?

My greatest gift in my life was becoming a father. Watching our children grow and become good people, and how they became good parents to their children. How they respect me as their dad and the love they give back means everything. **Ron**

Fatherhood...

Never take it for granted. After being away from my children due to illness it hit home how much the little things matter, that goodnight cuddle, kicking the footy around or just sharing a laugh. Give thanks to God for every little moment, no matter how old your children are. **Dan**

The Blessing of Fatherhood

I have been blessed with three wonderful children and am immensely grateful for the loving and caring young adults they have grown up to be ' **Rob**

Being a father

Fathers like mothers, are pillars in the development of a child's emotional well-being. Children look to their fathers to provide a feeling of security, both physical and emotional. Children want to make their fathers proud, and an involved father promotes inner growth and strength. I'm grateful to be a father. **Brian**

Becoming a Father

It is often surprising that the vital role of being a father (and mother) comes without any formal training such as we receive prior to joining the workforce. And yet the influence we exert on our children is infinite. It is said that a Dad is a boy's first hero and a girl's first love. The most enduring lessons a child learns is from our actions, our responses to life's daily challenges rather than from lectures. However, the most significant influences that a Dad can have on his children are integrity and unconditional love. **Ken**



BULLETIN The Parish bulletin is uploaded to the Parish Website each week. It can be viewed at. www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
The bulletin will continue to be emailed out or you may wish to pick up copies from the front of the church when you are in town.

LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT 2021

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

REFLECTION BY THE BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA

Pope Francis reminds us that encounter, dialogue, and listening with an open heart enable God's transforming love to move more powerfully in the world. Yet when faced with complex interrelated crises – the pandemic, the ecological crisis, the economic crisis, hunger, threats to peace and security – we can find ourselves overwhelmed by information or bogged down in disagreements about details.

In the annual Social Justice Statements, we seek to discern the signs of the times and, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, to recognise how God is calling us to respond. As The Bishops task is to bring the light of the Gospel to bear as we seek to respond to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. With Pope Francis, we avoid getting "mired in theoretical discussions" and instead seek to "hear the true stories" of people's experience, look at reality through the eyes of those most affected, and "listen with an open heart to the stories that they tell".

Our task is to listen to people, to the earth, and to all of God's creation, since every created thing is interconnected, speaks of the wellbeing of each part and of the whole, and reveals something of the Creator.

This 2021 Statement draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic social justice teachings and from the wisdom of the world, including insights of the First Nations peoples. All these are placed in dialogue with human experience. This year we offer some theological foundations for a genuinely Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor: creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life.

Our hope is that these will ground and inspire comprehensive and effective responses not only from the Catholic community but from all who want to care for our common home in this time of great need.

The virtual (Zoom) launch:

"A CHURCH FOR ALL: a Guide to the Australian Plenary Council ...and Beyond" – 7pm next Thursday, Sept 9th. Join Plenary Council Members: Francis Sullivan, Claire Victory, and John Warhurst in discussion. Register at accr.com.au Wednesday Sept 8th. Enquire: Kevin.liston1@gmail.com

Death Anniversaries: Gill Post, Kata Katic, Emilia Marszalek, Ivy Rootsey, Glenda Gallagher, Pio Liberale, Ian McAdam

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish

Community: George Fitzgerald, Gloria Campbell, Jeanette Urbanik, Robyn Lynette Mundy, Shirley Barber, Patricia Sweeney, Lorna Gunn, Savannah Leane, Maree Gregory, Bill Guist,

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 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

Loving Creator,
We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong.
We asked for wisdom and you gave us problems to solve.
We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome.
We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait.

We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help.
We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and lead with integrity.
Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted.
And yet, we received everything that we needed.

For this we give thanks.
Amen

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH



**"Make him [St. Joseph] the patron of your family and you will soon have tangible proof of his protecting hand."
St. Peter Julian Eymard**

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