

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
Twenty-sixth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time Year B  
First Reading Nm 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers  
*Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?*  
The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, ‘Look’, he said, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, ‘My Lord Moses, stop them!’ Moses answered him, ‘Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!’  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
*Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9*  
**(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**  
1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.  
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.  
3. So in them your servant finds instructions; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me.  
4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me. Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin.  
**(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

**Second Reading** Jas 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James  
*Your wealth is rotting.*  
An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the

same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart’s content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** See Jn 17:17  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mk 9:38-43. 45. 47-48  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
*Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.*  
John said to Jesus, ‘Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.’ But Jesus said, ‘You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. ‘If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. ‘But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.’  
*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**  
**Beyond the Boundaries**

An easy way to deal with this Gospel: ‘anyone who is not against us is for us,’ would be to emphasise the transformation of the relationship of Catholics with Protestants. Too easy. But what about our relationship with the Muslims? There is a huge gulf between Muslims and us about Jesus Christ. Muslims do not even believe that he was killed on the cross, let alone raised to life. *We* hold to the testimony and the faith of the Apostles. But Catholics also believe that the Divine Wind blows where it pleases amongst all people of all religious traditions (and of none). In the early Church this was expressed by saying that the Seeds of the Word were sown by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all human beings. We need to recognise the Seed of the Word in Islam – our shared belief in the one God, Creator of the cosmos, Lord of history, merciful and just. The task of the Church is to bring that Seed closer to the illumination of Divine Light so that it may eventually grow in belief that God is indeed One in the loving relationship of Triune life. The world is holding its breath over the encounter of the Catholic Church and Islam. There is a history of mutual violence and contemporary barbarities which are inhumane and blasphemous. But, in the face of indifference and hostility to religion, at least in the West, it is good to acknowledge what we share in common. We may take a moment to pray for the grace to relate to those Muslims whom we know in our own society in light of our faith that the Divine Wind has sown and is nurturing the Seed of the Word amongst them.

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**SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

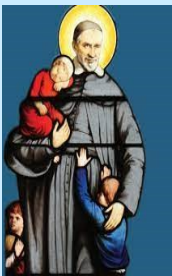
**Sunday 26th - St.**  
Cosmas & St.  
Damian

**Monday 27th -**  
St. Vincent de Paul

**Tuesday 28th -**  
St. Wenceslaus

**Wednesday 29th-**  
The Archangels (St.  
Michael, St. Gabriel, Raphael)

**Thursday 30th-** St Jerome



**ST BERNARD'S PARISH**  
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**R.E.C:** Erica Drewsen

**MIGRANT  
+ REFUGEE  
SUNDAY**

**Upcoming  
Events:**

**Online:**  
**Cenacle Prayer**  
**Tues at 4.45pm**

*The Marian  
Movement*  
  
*of Priests*

**Adoration: Friday at  
5:30pm**



**Bench Ministry:**  
**Tuesday to Sunday**  
**9:30-10:30am.**



**In front of the Church**  
**All are welcome.**

**TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**D**o I feel privileged to belong to the Catholic Church and doubt the goodness and good intentions of all those who are not?

Listen to today's Readings! Even in OT times the people had a sense of **entitlement!** ‘Those others weren’t with us and yet they are prophesying.’ (Numbers) **They didn’t belong!** They were not present when the Spirit descended on the elders.

In the Gospel the disciples took offence that someone, not of their ‘tribe’, was performing miracles. A real sense of keeping it **in house!** We need to be very open to the possibility that our God keeps surprising us and any genuine person who does good in the world is helping us to a better place.

Yes, our love of the Scriptures, the Sacraments and all our Traditions have been there for us and helped us to be who we are and led us to where we are today. Everyone’s journey is special and individual. Our God doesn’t judge anyone!

So today’s readings challenge us to pay attention to **our attitude** and our **inner motivation**.

In the later part of the Gospel, Jesus sounds harsh but we must remember that He is not to be taken literally. What I believe he is trying to tell us is that our example must always lead to the building up of our community and not give scandal, or ‘*be an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones.*’

Jesus’s reference to children of course, takes in all those who are powerless, voiceless, the under privileged, the downtrodden, the outcasts, refugees and migrants seeking shelters, safety, security and life. If we reflect on those categories we can surely find an area to self-examine our actions. Pope Francis asks us ‘*to be aware, to discern and to act*’ “*Let us Dream*”.

James, in the second reading, warns us not to exploit the poor with our inordinate affection for riches. ‘Blessed are the poor.’ Mt 5:3

Let us give thanks for all the gifts we have and ask our God to lead us to use them with discretion and love. In praying the **Psalm** we are reminded ‘that the precepts of the Lord gladden the heart’. Is that true for us?

**God bless,  
Sr Marie**





## 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 DAILY MASS

Online -

9AM Tuesday to Sunday  
BB Parish link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89462634718?pwd=UGhwWFhlWkZUQWZ0bmhRMUZYUUpXZz09>

## ROSTERS

Due to the extension of the lockdown pending the advice from Service NSW the rosters will not be issued this week. Once we know what is happening the roster will be emailed out to you.

## Ministry Connect

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

## 2021 Fathers Day Appeal for Retired Priests

September each year we celebrate Fathers Day and undertake Fathers Day Appeal during the month in support of the Clergy Retirement Foundation which cares for 28 retired priests of the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn. We live in such a difficult time, however, your ongoing contribution will be of immense help in providing accommodation, financial assistance and health care.

Contributions are tax deductible and can be made in the following ways:

- Electronically **BSB 062 786 Account 22557**  
Account Name: **Clergy Retirement Foundation**  
Reference: **"BateBay FDA"**
- For cheque or cash donations:

Envelopes are available at the front of the Church for posting.

**Thank you for contributing to the care of our priests in retirement.**

## The First Assembly of the Plenary Council begins next weekend.

Visit: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

During the first General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, key moments will be live-streamed between **October 3 and 10**, including;

- Daily Masses,
- Morning prayer for Plenary Council members, and
- Sharing the fruits of discernment.

The Opening Mass will be live-streamed from 2.00 pm on 3rd October. Visit the [Plenary Council website](#) for a calendar of live streams during the Assembly. We ask all to prayerfully support the members as we "open the windows to let the Holy Spirit move in our Church." You may wish to participate in the [Archdiocesan Plenary Novena](#)

Key documents, including articles, images, infographics, and multimedia content, will be available via [Google Drive](#). You may wish to bookmark the link for easy access.

In addition, each day during the Assembly, the national team will post content including media releases, the daily homily, a summary of the group sharing during the opening plenary session, and a podcast featuring interviews with Council members.

## Covid-19 Update:

**Stay at Home Order extended in the Eurobodalla shire till further notice. Please keep safe.**

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

**BULLETIN - The Parish Bulletin will be uploaded to our website: [www.cg.org.au/batemansbay](http://www.cg.org.au/batemansbay) and emailed out each week. Printed copies will be available at the front of the church, if you would like to pick up a copy when you are in town doing your shopping.**

## ONLINE PLAT FORM UPDATES

During this time of lockdown, we are trying to stay connected with our Parish Community via online platforms such as zoom, Facebook and our website.

It has been delightful to see and to welcome everyone as we gather together to celebrate the online Mass, Cenacle prayer and Adoration.

Last week we were able to connect with over 40 devices for Sunday Mass and over 20 for the weekday Masses.

We will continue to make every efforts to keep our Parish connected and invite you all to join with us as we journey together during this uncertain time. God bless!



Reach out. Give life.

As we prepare to enter the month of October – a time when the Church celebrates World Mission Month - let us turn our hearts, minds and even our financial affairs, to the missionary work that the Catholic Church does with, and for, children around the world including Thailand. Consider your capacity to either make a major gift in this life or an eternal legacy, through a gift in your will.

For more information about ways you can contribute to the vital, life-giving work supported by Catholic Mission, or for any information, please go to [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au) or contact our Diocesan Director in Canberra & Goulburn, Karen McKerrow on 0411 924 288 or email at [kmckerrow@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:kmckerrow@catholicmission.org.au)

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

**TO THE SON** Lord Jesus, You grew in wisdom and maturity as you lived in the family of Nazareth in daily communion with St Joseph and Mary your mother. From St Joseph you learned the dignity of human work. Give parents the wisdom to support their children and to guide them in the way and work of your Kingdom. *St Joseph, faithful parent and diligent worker, pray for us.*



## LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY

### OPEN TO THE SPIRIT – BEING A SYNODAL CHURCH



The Readings this week remind us that 'the Spirit of God is present and active in the world...wherever we see good we know that God's Spirit is at work...the Spirit works in surprising ways...sometimes it is through the least important member of a community that the Spirit speaks. (Preface to Lectionary for 26th Week – St Paul's Sunday Missal)

The Australian Church is on the cusp of the First Session of the Plenary Council (3-10 October). The Plenary Council is convened within a context of the whole Church being called to be Synodal at all levels of its existence. Synodality is intended to be a core inspiration for the Plenary Council.

### So what is Synodality?

Pope Francis is continually speaking of Synodality. It can be described simply as 'synodality means walking together along a common path and being a Church in which all the baptised work together.' Pope Francis reminds us that

*A synodal church is a listening church, knowing that listening 'is more than feeling'. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. Faithful people, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: we are one in listening to others; and all are listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth' (Jn 14:17)*

### What does Synodality mean for us the everyday?

Being synodal – listening in mutuality – is very challenging. We can grow into this way of being, this way of manifesting Church as the Body of Christ in our community through openness to the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged by the words of Richard Rohr ofm:

*The Holy Spirit is a liberating Spirit. Even when we experience lack of freedom in our daily lives, time in prayer can be an experience of full freedom in God's presence.*

*The early church surely knew the liberating effect of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the apostle Paul's teachings had so much impact because he restored human dignity in another time of widespread oppression, slavery, and injustice. Into the corrupt and corrupting Roman Empire, Paul shouts, "One and the same Spirit was given to us all to drink!" (1 Corinthians 12:13). He utterly levels the playing field: "You, all of you, are sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26). In Paul's estimation, the old world was forever gone and a new world was born in which everyone is free.*

**Loving God open our hearts to the wisdom and generosity of the Holy Spirit who inspires us to be open to listening to God present in our midst.**

**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:** Margaret Harris, Wayne O'Toole, George Fitzgerald, Gloria Gamble, Jeanette Urbanik, Robyn Lynette Mundy, Shirley Barber, Patricia Sweeney, Lorna Gunn, Savannah Leane, Bill Guist, Gwen Lavin, Kevin Allen, Evelyn Young.

### 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, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Daniel Coffey, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Even-don, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

### 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 lov-  
ing embrace of God to our neigh-  
bours.



Amen.

*Ursuline Sisters of Louisville  
Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church*

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