

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C
First Reading Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah
Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.
The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name
(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
I am coming to do your will.
This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, ‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’ Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming

to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.
The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?
Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.’
The Gospel of the Lord
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Life in the Womb

This little gospel story tells us that ‘the baby in Elizabeth’s womb leaped’ and not merely leaped, but leaped ‘for joy’. Is this just poetic hyperbole? We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations. From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and

we receive that visit as Original Blessing. There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord’s presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven. We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

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“At this Christmas, when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the Season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.”

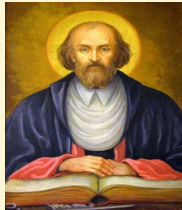
– Mother Teresa



SAINTS OF THE WEEK

TUESDAY 21ST - St Peter Canisius

Thursday 23rd - St John of Kanty



Saturday 25th - The Nativity of the Lord



ST BERNARD’S PARISH
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Tuesday-Friday

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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



&
HOSPITALITY

Upcoming Events:

Convent
Cenacle Prayer Tues at 4.45pm



Bench Ministry By Request

Parish Christmas
Thank You
Morning Tea
Sunday 19th 10am



All day
Monday 20th
Moving Mulch,
cobweb removal,
windows,
cleaning ,
gardening -
Come when you can

Rite II Advent
Reconciliation
Wednesday 22nd
6pm Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

MARY AND ELIZABETH EMBRACE

I remember well the time my wife told me she was pregnant with our first child. She surprised me by turning up at my work place to drive me home. “Why have you done this?” I asked, as we approached our car. Turning to me she said. “I’ve been to see Dr Lee this morning. We are going to have a baby. And I wanted to tell you first, face to face.” All I could do was hug her. It was an unforgettable moment of joy in our lives.



Today in the Liturgy of the Word, we read Luke’s story of Mary’s visit to her elderly cousin Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea - several days journey from Nazareth in Galilee.
In his Gospel Luke strives to pass on Jesus’s message of salvation for Israel and all nations but within that message he emphasises Jesus’s concern for the outcasts, the poor and the disreputable. Women in particular are showcased throughout, despite their otherwise low social standing in society at that time.

We see this in the way Luke reports how Mary became pregnant. The archangel Gabriel visited Mary and with a few words overturned any plans Mary and her betrothed partner, Joseph, the village carpenter, might have had for their married life. Gabriel salutes her, allays her fears, does not ask whether she consents, but tells her she will bear a son, and yet remain a virgin. As proof she is told her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already six months pregnant (which was news to Mary!) “For there is nothing that God cannot do.”

Mary’s immediate reaction is to visit her cousin to tell her face to face the Good News of God’s intervention in her life. That is something my wife & I would understand. To my mind there is no way a man of Joseph’s calibre would let his pregnant bride-to-be go off alone. I suggest we travel with them in our imagination until they arrive (Unexpected) at Elizabeth’s house.

It is Mary, as the primary visitor, who utters first the Jewish greeting **Shalom Aleichem** (Peace be unto you!). Instead of replying with the reverse formula, **Aleichem Shalom** (Unto you be Peace!) Elizabeth exclaims in a loud voice. “You are the most blessed of all women. Blessed is the child that you bear. ... For as soon as I heard your greeting the baby in my womb jumped with joy.”
“Peace and Joy” are what the two pregnant women bring to one another. In due course their respective sons will become prophets of the Kingdom of God.

Nearly nine months later Mary and Joseph will be travelling through Judea again. Only this time they are heading towards Bethlehem. As they get nearer their destination they may have wondered what sort of welcome awaited them in Bethlehem. Whatever happens they will accept it as God’s Will. Things had worked out well when they were last in Judea. Elizabeth produced her blessed boy. John, and Zechariah got his voice back.

Mary and Joseph, help us to get to know and embrace God’s Will in our daily lives. Obtain for us the grace and strength to carry it out with a joyful spirit.
Amen.

Joe Quigley

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions**

**December
Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 21st: 5.30pm Mass (Convent)
Wed 22nd: 9am Mass (Convent)
Thurs 23rd: 9.00 am Mass (Convent)
Fri 24th: 9.15a.m Mass (Convent)
Christmas Eve:
6pm Family Mass
8.30pm Carols 9pm Mass
Sat 25th: 9am Mass
4pm Mass
6pm Mass
Sunday 26th: 9am Mass
5pm Family & Youth Mass
18/19 December
Church Cleaning
D & L May(20-24)
Commentator
6pm M Weatherall
9am A Skinner
5pm B Maynard
Readers:
6pm P Nolan
9am M Lowe
5pm J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
6pm Y Oerder
9am L Stevens
5pm M Devine
Computer Screen
6pm T Jackson
9am D May
5pm M O'Neill
REGISTRARS
6pm P Jobes
9am G Norris
5pm M Devine

Rosters for Christmas and Holy Family will be sent when completed.

**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

PARISH LIVESTREAM MASS

Sunday 9am Mass:
https://www.facebook.com/StBernardBatemansbaychurch/live_videos/



WE WISH OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS A HAPPY AND RESTFUL SUMMER BREAK AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN IN THE NEW YEAR



**YOUR USED
STAMPS ARE
VALUABLE**

On behalf of Mary MacKillop Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.

We have had another wonderful year, raising approximately \$34,600. A great effort from many, many people!

From 2021 until now the total raised is \$443,500. It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

- Sr Helen Saunders, For Sisters of St Joseph

Sr Marie wishes you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year and thank you for all your love and support throughout the year.



**RITE II ADVENT
RECONCILIATION**
Will be held on
Wednesday 22nd
December @ 6pm.
All are welcome

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Friday December 24th
6pm Children & Family Mass
8.30pm Christmas Carols
9pm Mass
Christmas Day Saturday Dec 25th
9am Mass
4pm Mass

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday Night Vigil Mass Dec 25th
6pm Mass
Sunday December 26th
9am Mass
5pm Mass



This Christmas

Give Time
Remember an old friend
Share a meal with someone lonely

Give Hope
Live joyfully
Raise the spirits of a child

Give Peace
Forgive an enemy
Set differences aside

Give of Yourself
Perform acts of kindness
Give Love-

And Christmas will be forever
Give Time

Today eternity enters into time
and time, sanctified, is caught up
into eternity.



- Thomas Merton

Thankyou and Farewell
This Sunday 19th December @ 10am
we say Thankyou and Farewell to our 2021 Youth Minister Liarna Miller.

Liarna has been a refreshing and enthusiastic member of our parish this last year and next year will be continuing her studies in Canberra.



Thankyou for all that you have done Liarna and we wish you the very best for your future.

LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY



Anticipating the Birth of the Christ-Child

Today we hear the account of the Visitation of Mary to her relative, Elizabeth. This event anticipates the birth of Jesus. Mary's journey to Elizabeth immediately followed the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, when she learned that she would give birth to the Messiah.

Scripture tells us that she went "in haste" to see Elizabeth, who was in her sixth month of pregnancy with John the Baptist. It is incredible to think of what this encounter must have been like. Here are two women who have been called by God to bring forth children into the world who would transform history. John would lead the way for the Messiah, Jesus, who would save us from our sins.

Upon Mary's arrival, John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb as an expression of acknowledgement of the presence of the Lord, Jesus, in Mary's womb. Elizabeth articulates this with the familiar words we say in the "Hail, Mary": "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." She also referred to Mary as "the mother of my Lord."

Thus, Elizabeth expressed faith that Jesus was the Messiah. And she honoured Mary for her role in bringing the Messiah into this world. This leads us to an important reflection on Mary's role in God's bringing of salvation to the world. God invited Mary to be the mother of the Messiah. And because she said 'yes,' God became incarnate. Therefore, we can echo the words of Elizabeth in saying, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary trusted God, even though what she was entrusted with was beyond comprehension. Because of her great faith in welcoming Jesus into this world, we proclaim with Elizabeth that Mary is "blessed among women," and most of all, give thanks for the amazing gift of our Lord, Jesus, coming into this world.

May the quiet yes of that young woman resonate with you and bring you every blessing of this holy season.



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 neighbours.
Amen.

Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church

Coffee Club



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Archdiocesan Protocols COVID-19 as at 17th December 2021 -NSW Parishes Only

The latest directives from NSW Health

* Anyone can attend a wedding, funeral or place of worship.	* Face masks are not required.
* You are not required to be fully vaccinated or carry vaccination evidence.	* COVID-19 Safe Check-in is required at places of worship, funerals, memorial services, or gatherings afterwards.
* Collections will resume being taken up from Christmas Day	* Density limits no longer apply to weddings, funerals or memorials.

Death Anniversaries: James McArdle, Votja Schor, Mary & Jim Boque, John Gallagher, Stephen Sly, Adalbert Planinsic, Sean Griffin, Maureen Noyeaux, Susan McNamara

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:
Joan Herne, Dr Bryan Chester, Lorraine Grace, Waine Williamson, Pat Cooper, Theresa Humphrey, Linda Weatherall, John Mula, Eva Maria Easton, Allan Mitchell, Margaret Harris, Wayne O'Toole, George Fitzgerald, Robyn Lynette Mundy, Lorna Gunn, Savannah Leane, Bill Guist, Kevin Allen, Evelyn Young, Isobel Evans, Michaeline Hatton, Ingeborg Fissler, Danielle Kempton,

Remembering the Sick:

Wendy Bowell, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Eileen Hogg, Antony and Andrew, Lois White, Rita Condon, 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 Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, Kathryn King and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital