

LITURGY OF THE WORD
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus
Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.
The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins
The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1
(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Concerning the Christian life in the world.
You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one

body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.
The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15. 16
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.
Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day’s journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, ‘My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.’ ‘Why were you looking for me?’ he replied. ‘Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father’s affairs?’ But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother

stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Adolescent impatience

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: ‘Did you not know I must be about my Father’s business?’ Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt. By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: ‘Did you not know I must be about my Father’s business?’ What was his ‘Father’s business’ which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys. But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say ‘My Father’. We say ‘Our Father’. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church. We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray ‘Our Father’.

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SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 27th - St John
Tuesday 28th - The Holy Innocents
Wednesday 29th - St Thomas Becket
Friday 31st - St Sylvester



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



P.O. Box 3220, Batehaven, 2536.
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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

Wishing you a

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Farewell Morning Tea for
Seminarian Mark - Sunday
26th @ 10am

CROATIAN MASS
MONDAY 27TH @ 11AM

Church
Cenacle Prayer Tues @ 4.45



Adoration/ End of Year
Praise & Worship Friday
@5.30pm



Bench Ministry By Request

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH -YEAR C

Feast of the Holy Family

IT is a good time the day after Christmas to do an **evaluation** on how our families are going! This is because many of us would have spent some time with family recently; but on the other hand, there are many who are disengaged from family, for a variety of reasons. So how do we look at today’s readings and get some sense of what God is trying to say to us whether we are in the first category or the second!

There is no doubt that in the First Reading, God is giving us instructions to honour, respect and obey our parents. Paul in speaking to the Colossians gives us a beautiful lesson on how as Christians we must act. This reading alone is a **blueprint for life**. We try, we fail, and we try again. That is life but we must never give up on what our ideals are! We are loved, forgiven and yearn for peace in our lives.

The gospel relates to us the finding in the Temple after 3 days of searching for Jesus. *Jesus seems to have grown up in a day!* There may be symbolism in this but the loss of a child temporarily or permanently is the fear of many parents. We all **prayed as a nation** when little Cleo was missing... our hearts went out to the family...more recently the 6 children tragically died in Tasmania.

We must be careful that we don’t have Mary and Joseph on such a pedestal that we lose sight of their **worry and grief**. The **anxiety** they felt was real. The astonishing scene in the Temple where Jesus was found, caught both parents by surprise. It is often remarked at times, that our young people show a surprising **maturity** when we allow ourselves to **listen** to them. We must give our youth a **voice** particularly during this Synodal Journey.

It is difficult talking about this Feast so close to Christmas Day because the association with the *Holy Family* is inevitable and the focus of our attention on this family that looks perfect, can sometimes leave people feeling bereft.

‘.. there is something deeply spiritual about the family that none of us can **escape**. Indeed, I believe, the one thing that we all have in common, regardless of the strength of our family experience – whether we’ve just been celebrating our families in recent weeks or doing our best not to think about them – one thing that unites us is that we all **yearn for home**’ (Fr Dave Smith) ..and Richard Rohr suggests that the only way to explain this is to recognise that behind our yearning for a home, is a deeper yearning for our **true home**. We came from God and we know that we are ultimately heading back to God, who is continually telling us that **we are loved!**

God bless

Sr Marie



**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions
January**

For true human fraternity
We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 28th: 5.30pm Mass
Wed 29th: 9am Mass
Thurs 30th: 9.00 am Mass
Fri 31st: 9.15am Mass/Rosary 9.30am Reconciliation 6pm Mass
Sat 1st: 9am Mass 6pm Mass
Sunday 2nd: 9am Mass 5pm Family & Youth Mass

**ROSTERS
HOLY FAMILY 25/26
DECEMBER
6.00PM MASS**

Commentator : **Volunteer**
Reader: ...M O'Neill.
Eucharistic Ministers: Y Oerder
Computer Screen: K Conway
REGISTRAR: **Volunteer**
9.00 AM MASS:
Commentator: P O; Kelly
Reader: N Beatty..
Eucharistic Ministers: L Stevens, C Schor
Computer Screen: T Priest
REGISTRAR: **Volunteer**
5.00PM MASS:
Commentator: N Gorzalka
Reader: J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers: D Gorzalka
Computer
Screen : Volunteer
REGISTRAR: M Devine

Rosters will not be issued for Masses the weekends January 1/2, 8/9, 15/16. If you are attending any weekend Mass in that time can you please check if you may be needed. Rosters will resume 22/23 January. Thank you to everyone who has assisted this year.

PARISH LIVESTREAM MASS

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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



We extend a very warm welcome to those who may be visiting our Parish over the Summer.

We hope you enjoy our Parish Community and our town.



FAREWELL AND THANKYOU TO SEMINARIAN MARK



Thank you and FAREWELL to our Seminarian Mark Ha who is leaving the parish to continue his studies in Sydney for the priesthood.



We thank Mark for all his contributions to our parish during the last year. Mark has been a generous and thoughtful presence, always happy to listen and help others. He has made the life in the parish, particularly in the office, so much easier with his tech-savvy knowledge and photographic skills.



We wish Mark the very best with his studies and hope that his formation time with us will be remembered as fondly as we will remember him.

The morning tea is hosted by the Filipino Community and we thank them for their generous hospitality.

Pease come along to Morning Tea at the church after Mass Sunday 26th December to send Mark off. All are welcome.

HELP NEEDED.

We have an elderly lady living in Denhams's Beach and a couple in Lilli Pilli who are needing visitation and Holy Communion. If you are interested please contact Marie Weatherall on 0405 028 057. If you are new to the ministry 1:1 guidance is available and all resources will be given to you. You would be on a roster with others.

Many Thanks

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

From all the staff at the parish Office, we wish to thank Parishioners for their generous support and contributions made during the year.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May 2022 bring you great joy.

The office will be closed from close of business Friday 24th December until Wednesday 12th January 2022

Fr Martins & Deacon Eden will be available for any enquiries..



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

Dear Parishioners,

Compliments of the Season.

I do hope you all have had a joyful Christmas of re-union.

Using this platform, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your generosity in every way throughout this year 2021, from the pastoral to the practical demands of our parish. We could not have come this far without your ongoing support.

Many thanks for your financial contributions especially during this very challenging year. These funds have enabled us to service the administrative and maintenance costs of the parish among other needs throughout this year.

Sincere thanks to all our staff, volunteers and all those who served in different ministries, working as individuals, and collaborating in a synodal spirit. The Parish Pastoral Council Members, the Finance Council, the Pastoral Care Team, the Liturgy Team, Maintenance Team, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, the Choir, Welcomers, Sacristans, IT support, the Cleaners, the scripture group, coffee clubbers, prayer groups, those who dedicated their time and resources to the Garden Ministry, those who contribute to our Parish bulletin and indeed, every parishioner. Many thanks to the team leaders and members. Your time, talents and energies are highly treasured. Your effort behind the scenes is much appreciated, even when it seemed unnoticed.

To the many visitors and holiday makers, thank you for spending your time with us in Batemans Bay. Your ongoing presence and support to our community is highly appreciated. Your feedback will continue to be a source of inspiration to us in our desire to be a synodal church and remember to follow our Facebook page.

My brother Priest, Fr. John, Sr. Marie, Seminarian Mark, Youth Minister Liarna Miller, and the PC Coordinator Marie Weatherall, thank you for your support, and for being a part of our parish team during this extra-ordinary year.

Many thanks to all for complying with the ever-changing COVID Protocols, for your flexibility and for supporting our pastoral responses through the online Platforms- Facebook Page, Faith Life Site, the virtual masses, and Bench Ministry. Special thanks to Seminarian Mark for his ingenuity. We acknowledge the shared difficulties due to the COVID restrictions. However, your cooperation and collaboration has been helpful in keeping everyone COVID safe.

Our hearts and prayers are with the members of our community who have been most isolated by the extended lockdown and those who have had their first Christmas without their loved ones due to death and other inevitable challenges. We are in this together.

We have come through many challenges this year, 2021, relying on hope and the intercession of St. Joseph. We look forward to 2022, a year of **Renewal**, through **Synodality** with fresh hope and optimism.

Wishing one and all a joyful yuletide and a happy new year on this Feast of the holy Family.

Fr Martins



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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Death Anniversaries: Sylvia Penberthy, Dorothy O'Hara, Patricia McLennan, Thomas Nagle, Malgorzata Colebrook, Edwin Lewis, Sue-Anne Clarke,
We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:
Dermott, 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:
Lola, 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 Odium, 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