

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**The Baptism of the Lord Year C**  
**First Reading**

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 28:1-4, 9-10. R. v.11

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood: the Lord sits as king for ever.

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace**

**Second Reading** Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now

come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

**REFLECTION** by Fr Michael Tate

**Jesus' Baptism is Ours**

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity. His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you." Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a powerful impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

**SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

THURSDAY 13TH - St Hilary

SATURDAY 15TH - Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary



**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  
**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

H  
A  
P  
P  
Y  
  
S  
U  
M  
M  
E  
R

HOLIDAY



**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD- Year C**

**Great Expectations!**

Many of us would have read 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens. The story follows the childhood and young adulthood years of Pip, a Black Smith's apprentice, in a country village, who suddenly comes into a large fortune – his great expectation – from a mysterious benefactor.

**Great expectations have always been part of the human story.** In Luke's Gospel today 'a feeling of expectancy had grown among the people' – they have been waiting for a Messiah and wondered if John the Baptist would be he.

As we read this Gospel all human expectations are redefined in this Gospel. John replies to the first expectation of the people. He tells them someone greater than he is coming: '**someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the straps of his sandals and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and Fire.**' [Luke3:16-17]

As John baptises Jesus, the Spirit's decent upon the 'un'-expected one, confirms Jesus' identity: 'You are my son the Beloved, my favour rests on you.' [Luke3 v. 22 ] The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of a new era that of the serving and saving ministry of Jesus.

**Our Expectations:**

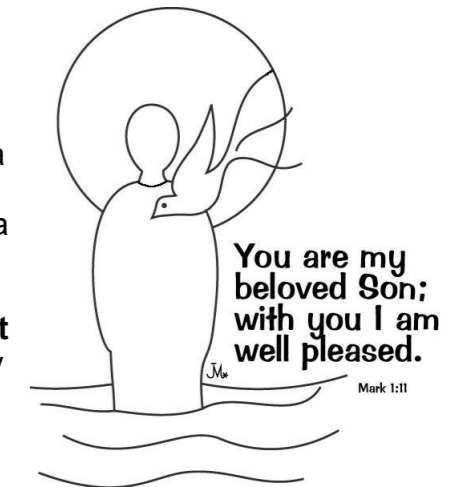
As we reflect on this Gospel today let us ponder: **what are your expectations for yourself and family; for others in your life; for your faith community?** Are these expectations reasonable and realistic? Do your expectations bring you life and hope or are they a burden to you?

In the second reading St Paul 'urges us to give up everything that does not lead to God while waiting in hope ... have no ambition except to do good'

Pip in 'Great Expectations' comes to realise that social standing and wealth are less important than loyalty, compassion and what truly love is. Like Pip once we become 'enlightened', whatever changes, whatever we lose in life, we lose nothing at all because 'things' are not what control us.

**St. Teresa of Avila offers these words of enlightenment and wisdom:** 'Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are changing. God alone is changeless. Patience attains the good. One who has God lacks nothing. God alone fills all our needs.' May these words wash over you this week and strengthen you in all your endeavours.

*Marie Weatherall*



*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 11th:** 5.30pm Mass

**Wed 12th:** 9am Mass

**Thurs 13th:** 9.00 am  
Mass

**Fri 14th:** 9.15am Mass

**Sat 15th:** 9am Mass  
9.30am Reconciliation  
6pm Mass

**Sunday 16th:** 9am Mass  
5pm Family & Youth  
Mass

**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.*

**LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY**

**Praying for our brothers and sisters**

**By Andrew Hamilton**

Whatever our differences as people, we are all part of the human family and are entitled to support, and receive support from, one another.

When we hear the word 'true' put in front of an attractive quality we know that it has other forms which the speaker considers false. Sometimes, as when some people speak of true ecumenism or of true compassion, we would be excused for thinking that what they consider the true quality is the opposite of what ordinary people mean by it.

This, however, is not the case when Pope Francis refers to true human fraternity in his prayer intention for January. By it he means the vision that all people as our brothers and sisters and the determination to relate to them so. Fraternity breaks down the apathy or hostility that can attach to the difference between acquaintances and strangers, families and outsiders, citizens and aliens, native born Australians and migrants. Whatever the differences between us all people command our respect because we share a common humanity. Each has a unique human dignity. We are part of the human family and are entitled to support from one another. We are also committed to support one another.

The importance of fraternity was recognised in the slogans of the French Revolution, which called for a society based on liberty, equality and fraternity. The three qualities rest on one another – take one away and the other two fall over. Fraternity is the cement that binds liberty and equality together. Without fraternity, liberty and equality will be rivals which will fight to the death. If we seek complete freedom, our desires will inevitably come into conflict with other people and we shall infringe on the freedom of others. We shall no longer be equal. Similarly, equality will stifle freedom. In both cases people who wish to be free and to be equal must respect one another as family and see one another as precious. Then they can negotiate a freedom and equality that respect one another

Pope Francis prays especially for people who are persecuted and suffer discrimination because of their religious difference. Such treatment shows that one group of people sees others as different, as enemies, and not as brothers and sisters. Because they lack fraternity persecutors regard others in society as unequal, inferior. They then deprive them of their liberty to pray, to gather and to express their faith or political beliefs. Fraternity is the key to ensuring that people who are different are equal and free in society.

In all societies some people who are different from the majority will suffer discrimination on religious, political, racial, national, gender, economic and many other grounds. In Australia discrimination is often half-hidden and not acknowledged. People who have suffered from it have shown us how wounding apparently jocular remarks about people's race, colour or religion can be. People in the dominant group have had to be forced to see that their ways of relating and speaking with others humiliate them.

In Australia there is no systematic, violent religious persecution of the kind found in many other societies. In these people in majority groups often beat and treat violently people from minority religious groups, drive them from their homes, and pass laws against their religious practice. In the Middle East, where religion and politics often run together, they have had to leave their homelands. It is doubly important for them to be welcomed for who they are in other nations.

As Christians we pray especially for our Christian brothers and sisters who are our close family. But we also keep in our prayers the people from Muslim, Buddhist and other communities who are also persecuted. They too are our brothers and sisters, persons whom God loves and for whom Jesus gave his life.  
**(Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ)**

*Welcome*

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

*We hope you enjoy our church and our town.*

**THANK YOU:**

St Vincent de Paul Bateman's Bay Conference would like to thank all who were able to contribute and bring some kindness to the disadvantaged in our local community over Christmas. The following donations helped us gift individuals and families [85] with Christmas hampers and 100 gift vouchers for children. We received from:

*Parishioners:* \$2,470 – 15 cash and \$1,150-00 worth of Gift cards.  
*Carroll College:* \$1,190 –60.

*Ray White:* 'Little ray of sunshine Christmas Tree: many toys for children. Your generosity was astounding. Many thanks and blessings.

**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.

**FROM THE PARISH OFFICE**

**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**

**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

**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**



**Resumes 2022**

**BATEMANS BAY & MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS**  
Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years  
Batemans Bay 44728886  
Moruya 4474 3555 Narooma 4476 3888

**INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS**  
1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay  
Buy fuel any time  
EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD

**OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY**  
Fish & Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches & Coffee  
**100% BEEF BURGER**  
248 Beach Road  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536  
**02 4472 1802**

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE**

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE**

**excell** Ideaspeople  
PRINTING GROUP  
— with a passion for print  
P 4472 1599  
E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au  
www.excellprint.com.au  
Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Ray and Anne Brown  
**COASTAL CONCRETE & QUARRY**  
**02 4474 0320**

**Kate & Tara your vets at Surf Beach**  
**EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre**  
**4471 3400**