

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
First Reading *Neh 8:2-6, 8-10*
A reading from the book of Nehemiah
They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

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 precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.
4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock!

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life

Second Reading *1Cor 12:12-30*
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Together you are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,’ would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you,’ nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’ What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *See Lk 4:18*
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over

the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

The Gospel of the Lord
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Relax: You are Accepted

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth *is* divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would ‘set the downtrodden free’. But, in proclaiming ‘the Lord’s Year of *Acceptance*’, Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax*!! Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don’t gain our acceptance by God. How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus’ characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world.

It still is. We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in ‘the Lord’s Year of Acceptance’, that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

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R.E.C: Erica Drewsen

Happy
Australia
Day
2022
Reflect
Respect
Celebrate



Church
Cenacle Prayer Tues @ 4.45

Pastoral Care Team Meeting Tuesday 1st Feb 1-3pm Meeting Room

Finance Meeting Wed Feb 2nd @ 5.30 pm Meeting Room

Liturgy Team Meeting Thurs 3rd Feb 4pm Meeting Room

Adoration Friday @ 5.30pm



Bench Ministry By Request

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

In the Gospel this Sunday we are told that Jesus went up to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did and there he stood up to read the scriptures. We are given an insight here into the importance that the scriptures had in the life of Jesus and the love and familiarity he had with them.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has a beautiful quote which says: “In the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children and talks with them.” (CCC 104). Sometimes when we go to prayer we might find it difficult to know what to do or what to say, or perhaps the opposite is true, we might feel that when we pray, we do all the talking and wonder if anyone is really listening. Whatever our experience of prayer, one thing is for certain: we were created by God out of love and God desires to have a relationship of deep intimacy with each of us, not just as a collective body but also as a unique individual. Like any human relationship no one relationship is the same and this is just as true for us in our relationship with God. The way I relate to God, or more importantly, the way God relates to me is completely different to anyone else and this is true for all of us because we are all unique human beings with our own life experiences, sufferings, struggles, gifts and joys and God is interested in every part of our story.

A helpful way to enter into this dialogue with God, that Jesus himself did, is through the Scriptures. God is always wanting to “meet and talk with us” and the Scripture really is God’s word, not something spoken many years ago that is now irrelevant, but a living word capable of speaking into the very heart of our personal situations today.

In his book *The Better Part*, John Bartunek gives a simple 4 -step process of entering into this form of prayer which I commend to you this week:

CONCENTRATE: I enter into this time of prayer, aware that God is truly present, listening to me and has something to say to me today, something that I need to hear.

CONSIDER: I choose a text (the Mass readings of the day are a good place to begin), I read the text looking for the Holy Spirit’s highlights. I use my imagination to enter the scene noticing who is there, listening to the words and the actions of those in the text. If you’re like me and not good with your imagination, you might ask what strikes me about the text, what does it tell me about Christ, the Church, the meaning of life, the relevance to me and my particular situation?

CONVERSE: I find a point that moves me; I savour what God is telling me and I respond naturally with what comes to my heart: it could be praise, adoration, sorrow for my sins, thanksgiving, petition for my own needs or intercession for others.

COMMIT: Based on my dialogue with God I simply and sincerely renew my commitment to follow Christ unconditionally and I thank God for communicating with me today.

My experience is that when we enter into this type of intimate prayer with God our life changes, life begins to make more sense and we are better prepared for the challenges we face in our everyday life.

Deacon Eden

*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 25th: 5.30pm Mass
Wed 26th: 9am Mass
Thurs 27th: 9am Mass
Fri 28th: 9.15am Mass
5.30pm Adoration
Sat 29th: 9am Mass
9.30am Reconciliation
6pm Mass
Sunday 30th: 9am Mass
5pm Family & Youth Mass

ROSTERS

22/23 JANUARY

Cleaning 24-28 Jan D&L May
6.00PM MASS
Commentator: J Quigley
Reader: J Mackay.
Eucharistic Minister Y Oerder
Computer K Conway
REGISTRAR: P O'Kelly
9.00 AM MASS:
Commentator . C Lowe
Reader: N Beatty
Eucharistic Ministers
L Stevens, C Schor
Computer Screen T Jackson.
REGISTRAR M Lowe
5.00PM MASS:
Commentator M Devine
Reader: B Maynard
Eucharistic Minister M O'Neill
Computer: J O'Sullivan
REGISTRAR: D Robinson

29/30 JANUARY

Cleaning 31Jan-4 Feb
DeSmet Maher & Spaven
6.00PM MASS
Commentator: P O'Kelly
Reader: M Bridges
Eucharistic Minister K Lovering
Computer K Conway
REGISTRAR: D Robinson
9.00 AM MASS:
Commentator . M Lowe
Reader: A Brown
Eucharistic Minister A Scicluna
Computer T Priest.
REGISTRAR P Jobs
5.00PM MASS:
Commentator S Ebejer
Reader: J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Minister Volunteer
Computer Screen M O'Neill
REGISTRAR: M Devine

Please advise if you are available for February rosters to Anne on 0429 659 862. or email the Parish Office

LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY

Jesus' Debut

All eyes in the synagogue were fixed on Jesus. Then he began to speak to them, *This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening'* (Lk 14:20-21). This is Jesus' first public sermon as a Rabbi or teacher of the law. He's in the local synagogue on the Sabbath reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah (61:1-2) and Luke presents him as fulfilling Old Testament hopes and expectations (7:22); even Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection are done in fulfillment of the Scriptures (24:25-27, 44-46; Acts 3:18).

The second reading (1 Cor 12:12-14,27 short, or 12:12-30 long) can help us explain to others the necessity of the Church and counter arguments such as *"I am spiritual but not religious"* – which is a privatization of faith – becoming ever more common these days, even among the baptised. This means first, helping believers to view the Church, the Bride of Christ, through the eyes of faith, i.e., to see her as Christ sees her; for in this way will our faith exist and grow while in communion with others. Whilst you and I together form the Church, yet not by ourselves and not without the authority of the Church; otherwise, we're in opposition, each being his or her own theologian and interpreter of Sacred Scripture.

Picking up right where he left off last Sunday, Paul deepens the analogy of the human body saying that we are all parts of Christ's body which is us, the Church, showing the communal dimension of Christianity by doing good works and revealing the deeper understanding of the meaning of and the need for the Church: *"Now Christ's body is us, each with a part to play in the whole"* (v 12). This is a universal call to holiness as Vatican II taught, *where we all share equally in the dignity, and the responsibilities, of our faith.* Maybe some of us still hold to an unbalanced view: that the Church means mainly clergy and religious telling us what to do and when while the great bulk of the Church, viz., the laity just follow along, not having much of a role at all?

We are all of equal necessity and dignity, although we may do different things or serve in different ways. We each have our own gifts, enlivened by grace, which make us better at one task than another. Since every good thing we have comes from God, Paul means that we use our respective gifts and talents for the good of others thereby allowing God to work through us (CCC 308). As no one has all the gifts, it may be helpful to focus on the seven- spiritual and the seven-corporal works of mercy as an aid to find which among the fourteen we might be most effective in doing? We each have a charismatic gift that was given by the Holy Spirit, for the service of the common good of the Church, that you and I need to exercise and that we need to ask the Holy Spirit to awaken in us so that we might serve. Even if we might have a small part in the body of Christ, that doesn't mean we're dispensable, or not important, as each person has a role to play through the gift of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism.

In the longer reading (1 Cor 12:12-30), Paul expands on the unity and diversity in the Church using the image of a human body to explain Christ's relationship with and among believers. Although, there is a diversity of members in the body there's also a unity of purpose. And so, it is in the Church – the unity within Christ based on our Baptism which is a gift of the Holy Spirit and the way of incorporation into the one organism, the Mystical Body of Christ (CCC 790, 791, 799-801, 951, 1267). By remaining united and working together as one body of Christ, everyone must be considered important. There must be reconciliation, understanding, sincerity and mutual respect.

Paul draws out the analogy further by giving a hierarchy of certain roles within the Church that imitate those charismatic gifts to illuminate the different roles that people play within the organizational or visible Body of the Church all united by the sacraments (10:17), not just the mystical or invisible Body. First apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, healers, helpers, administrators, and speakers in various kinds of tongues. Perhaps he places tongues last because, as mentioned in last Sunday's Reflection, the Corinthians were a boisterous lot, tending to be a factional, divisive community especially around the charismatic gifts, with members acting in competition with one another for personal self-gratification rather than charitably for the unity of the community (CCC 2003). Whether a charismatic gift is ordinary or extraordinary, visible like working miracles, or whether it's hidden like service, all flow from that one Spirit working together to serve the Body of Christ.

Paul concludes by asking, *"Are all apostles? Or all prophets? Or all teachers? Or all miracle-workers? Do all have the gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues, and all interpret them?"* (vv. 29-30). This prepares for next Sunday's reading "Set your mind on the higher gifts. And now I am going to put before you the best way of all" (12:31), and the well-known 1st Corinthians 13, where Paul will describe the higher spiritual gifts, the greatest of which is love (charity).

At Pentecost, Jesus will send the Holy Spirit as his gift to the Church so that the Kingdom of God and His ongoing mission can be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit enables the Church, through charismatic gifts given us through our Baptism, to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did: bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed, we serve the Body of Christ, the Kingdom of God.

"Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works..." (Collect), like Christ through our life-giving ministries in the Church.
(Fr Martins)

PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEETING

will take place on Tuesday
afternoon February 1,
1pm - 3pm in Church Meeting Room. **Guest speaker:** Fr Michael Dyer. **Topic:** ' Growing our Faith as Pastoral Carers.' Health protocols will be in place, wear a mask and use QR code or sign in.

GATHERING

'Nourishing our Spirit!'

Conversation and Sharing with Loretta Parsley, local Aboriginal Elder at St Bernard's Church on Tuesday February 15, 9-am -12-45pm. **ALL WELCOME-** bring a friend! A cushion helps re seating & shared morning tea. **Cost= Free.** Funded by ' Mary MacKillop today'. Health Protocols will be in place, wear a mask, social distance, and QR/ sign in. **Bookings essential:** Ph: Marie Weatherall **0405 028 057 or email: mariet51@bigpond.com**

**THE ADDAMS FAMILY
THE MUSICAL**

Friday 4th February.
A fund raising event for the Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace school for children with disabilities in Vietnam.
**Tickets \$30
available from Carol Schor 0450775067.**
Always a great night



supporting a
good cause and
also our local
theatre group

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 27th - St Francis de Sales



Thursday 27th - Saints Timothy & Titus, Saint Angela Merici



Friday 28th - Saint Thomas Aquinas

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed Wednesday 26th January for the Australia Day Public Holiday. Fr Martins and Deacon Eden will be available for any needs that may arise.

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: John Hann, Dermott, Joan Herne, Dr Bryan Chester, Waine Williamson, Pat Cooper, Theresa Humphrey, Linda Weatherall, Eva Maria Easton, Allan Mitchell, Margaret Harris, Wayne O'Toole, George Fitzgerald, Robyn Lynette Mundy, Lorna Gunn, Savannah Leane, Bill Guist, Evelyn Young, Isobel Evans, Michaeline Hatton, Ingeborg Fissler

Remembering the Sick:

Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, 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

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 3rd February



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