

**LITURGY OF THE WORD
LITURGY OF THE WORD
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time C
First Reading** Sir 27:4-7
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3, 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep

on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.

He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality. For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts our vision. We should not rush to judgment. The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22) This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God. Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.' We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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PROJECT COMPASSION
Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available in the foyer. Please take one. This year's theme:

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

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**



**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
Deacon: Rev. Eden Langlands
Secretary: Roslynn Trompp
Finance Admin: Anne Jackson
PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall
Asst. PC Co-ord: Sr. Marie McAlister

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



FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD AND THE EUCHARIST



Church Cenacle Prayer Tues @ 4.45

**Wednesday 2nd March
Ash Wednesday
Mass 9am
Lenten Group
After Mass**

**Craft Group
Thursdays 10am
Meeting Room**

**Charismatic Prayer
Group Friday after
9.15am Mass**

**Adoration Friday @
5.30pm
6.00pm Soup Dinner**

**Croatian Mass will be
held Saturday 5th
March at 11.00am**

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

'Do not praise anyone before they have spoken, since this is the test of us all'



We have often heard the saying, 'He/She wears their heart on their sleeve!'

This may mean that we know what they are thinking and hence can put them in a category without too much trouble. But I do **love** the quote from our first reading today: *'Do not praise anyone before they have spoken, since this is the test of us all'*... what comes out of our mouths, and hence our actions too, usually lets people know something about us! The emphasis in all today's readings is to be very aware of what is in our **hearts**. St Paul cautions, not to give up, but to keep working for the Lord and forever improving that well of goodness in our **hearts**.

In the Gospel Jesus speaks very plainly. Good tree – good fruit; bad tree – bad fruit: Of course, we know that He is speaking about us! Such easy metaphors but so often we can let the words fly over our heads and do not stop and think about the consequences of what our **words and judgments** can do. Yes, it only takes a smile to lighten someone's day **but** a cutting word can do much damage. What Jesus is simply saying, speak from a heart full of love and if we are not confident in what our heart is saying, **come closer** to Him in prayer and follow Jesus in all things. I am often made aware of the mistake of seeing the beam in someone else's eyes but miss the same in my own. It may be the quick judgement or rapid answer before I think ... imagine if we remained silent until our words were ones of building up and not pulling down. Our world would be such a better place.

My take from the readings is that if we took the words of today's Psalm as our prayer for the week: **'Lord it is good to give thanks to you.'** We may make **Gratefulness** a habit and therefore build a strong heart ethic that bubbles up with **joy and good words** daily.and again as Brendan Byrne says.. *'get the heart right and all else falls into place!'*
God bless

Sr Marie

**Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions**

FEBRUARY

**For religious
sisters and
consecrated
women**

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 1st: 5.30pm Mass
Wed 2nd: 9:00am Mass (Ash Wednesday)
Thurs 3rd: 9:00 am Mass
Fri 4th: 9:15am Mass
5.30pm Adoration
Sat 5th: 9:00am Mass
9:30am Reconciliation
11:00AM Croatian Mass
6:00pm Mass
Sunday 6th: 9:00am Mass
5:00pm Family & Youth Mass

ROSTERS

26/27 FEBRUARY
Cleaning
28Feb-4 Mar D & L May
6.00PM MASS
Commentator: P O'Kelly
Reader: Volunteer
Eucharistic Ministers: M Weatherall Volunteer
Computer Screen: K Conway
REGISTRAR: D Robinson
9.00 AM MASS:
Commentator: N Beatty.
Reader: T Jackson..
Eucharistic Ministers: A Scieluna
Computer Screen: T Priest.
REGISTRAR: P Jobs
5.00PM MASS:
Commentator: S Ebejer
Reader: J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers: Volunteer
Computer Screen: M O'Neill
REGISTRAR: M Devine

MORNING TEA: M Vidovic & Zdenka

**ROSTERS FOR
MARCH WILL
BE SENT OUT
DURING THE
WEEK**

PARISH NEWS

GATHERING:

Growing Resilience as a local community and as an individual in challenging times.

We have two guest speakers:
Myf Thomson OAM: Curator Batemans Bay Museum and Rodney Hayes - Artist.

**Tuesday 15th March
9am registration for
9.15 start - 12.45pm.**

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL by
Monday March 7th
to Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057
BYO shared morning tea**

Lenten Programme for 2022:

'REMEMBER' will commence every Wednesday after 9am Mass.
We will gather on Wednesday March 2 [Ash Wed] through to Wed April 6 [final]
Facilitators: Sr Marie and Marie Weatherall. We look forward to preparing with you as we journey through Lent to Easter. A booklet will be provided for all participants.

World Day Of Prayer will be held on Friday 4th March at the Sacred Heart Church in Moruya at 1.30p.m. All welcome.

Lenten Observance

The Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the saving love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need.

During Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choices. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
 - (b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

Death Anniversaries: Brian O'Grady, Mirko Baresic, Jack McNamara, Louise Keeley, Pero Burum, Anna Ordelman, Marty Ward
We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:

Fr Henry Byrne, Christopher Hinton, Fr Laurie Blake, Pat De Lucey, John Hann, Lorina Lirio, Dermott, Joan Herne, Dr Bryan Chester, Waine Williamson, Pat Cooper, Theresa Humphrey, Linda Weatherall, Margaret Harris, Wayne O'Toole, George Fitzgerald, 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 Odlum, 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

LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY



'Come back to Me with all your heart' (Joel 2:12)

Ash Wednesday & the Invitation of the Lenten Season

In the very first reading for Ash Wednesday and thus at the beginning of the Lenten season, we are exhorted by the prophet Joel to 'Come back to me with all your heart'! This entreaty invites us to restore 'right relationships' – with God, with each other and as *Laudato Si* states, with Mother Earth.

Scripture scholars continually remind us 'to read the biblical texts in dialogue with the issues and challenges rising up in our world today' (Wainwright 2022).

What are the issues and challenges for us individually that we encounter?

How might these challenges both personal and communal inform our Lenten observance? What are the things we will **cease doing** and **start doing** to enable us to 'come back to God with all our hearts?'

Ashes are a powerful symbol as we in our community know only too well – they are the remains of fire sometimes destructive and they are a symbol of loss, not only physical but this loss can be of status, health, emotional, of the ways things were – social change.

Ashes can be a symbol of seasonal regeneration as we often see when driving up the Clyde Mountain. This regeneration follows burning. 'After bushfires tree trunks remain black and leave marks on us if we brush against them. Green shoots gradually emerge from the ashes...in the forest death yields life...this is the whole point of Lent. In the Christian story the ash of bare and sinful humanity reflects the love that leads God to share the ashes of our life, the humiliation of dying naked on a cross and to rise green from the ashes.'
(Andrew Hamilton SJ)

Lent invites us to Metanoia – a conversion of the heart.

In the words of the hymn Hosea
'Come back to me with all your heart, don't let fear keep us apart...Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life' (Gregory Norbet OSB)

MUSICIANS & NEW CHOIR MEMBERS WELCOME

If you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument you are very welcome to join the Music Ministry of our Parish. We have begun practising again at 1pm on Mondays in the Church - Monday 28 February. We are getting ready for Holy Week & Easter and would love new members. You just need to enjoy singing! Ring or text Phil on 0428593191 or just turn up. Thanks everyone.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 2nd March, Mass will be at 9.00am
Pope Francis invites everyone to make March 2, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for peace, praying especially for Ukraine.

Modifications to the Confessional Room

In response to directives from the Archdiocese, our parish has modified our confessional room. There is now a wall that separates the priest and penitent with a window covered by a curtain for penitents to either kneel or sit in front of when availing themselves of the sacrament.

This new configuration ensures privacy and anonymity for both the penitent and the priest. We thank Bernie Basevi and Dave May for the construction work on the confessional.

As we approach Lent and Easter please feel free to try out the new confessional. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturday mornings after the 9:00am Mass.

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after Mass
VENUE:
Corrigans Cove
All are welcome
COFFEE N CHAT

<p>BATEMANS BAY & MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years Batemans Bay 44728886 Moruya 4474 3555 Narooma 4476 3888</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS 1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay Buy fuel any time EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</p>
<p>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY Fish & Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches & Coffee 100% BEEF BURGER 248 Beach Road Batehaven NSW 2536 02 4472 1802</p>	<p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE</p>
<p>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE</p>	<p>excell Ideaspeople PRINTING GROUP P 4472 1599 E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au www.excellprint.com.au Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p>
<p>Ray and Anne Brown COASTAL CONCRETE & QUARRY 02 4474 0320</p>	<p>Kate & Tara your vets at Surf Beach EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre 4471 3400</p>