

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C**  
Year A readings may be used, especially where there are catechumens.  
**First Reading** *Jos 5:9-12*  
A reading from the book of Joshua  
*The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.*  
The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’ The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
*Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9*  
**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**  
1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad  
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.  
3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress.  
**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**Second Reading** *2 Cor 5:17-21*  
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
*God reconciled us to himself through Christ.*  
For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** *Lk 15:18*  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** *Lk 15:1-3. 11-32*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*  
The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them: ‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. ‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father. ‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate. ‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out

to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.” ‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’  
*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**  
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**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**  
**Truth and Reconciliation**

For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pig sty would make this young man unapproachable. So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pig sty, exclaiming, ‘You were lost and now you are found.’ That is Jesus’ portrayal of his heavenly Father’s relationship with us. Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God’s forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God’s relationship with us? More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far off place, sometimes quite deliberately. We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, ‘You were lost but now you are found.’ That is worth a celebration!

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PRESENT AND EMERGING



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**BATEMANS BAY**  
*2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536*



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Tuesday-Friday

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**Carroll College, Broulee**  
**R.E.C:** Erica Drewsen



**Upcoming events**

**Choir Practice**  
**No Practice 28th**  
**March**  
**Resume 4th April**

**Church**  
**Cenacle Prayer Tues**  
**@ 4.45**

**Lenten Group**  
**Wednesday 30th**  
**After 9am Mass**

**Wrap With Love**  
**Wednesday 30th 1.00pm**  
**Meeting Room**

**Craft Group**  
**Thursdays 10am**  
**Meeting Room**

**Adoration & Stations of**  
**the Cross Friday @**  
**5.30pm**  
**6.30pm Soup Dinner**

**COFFEE CLUB**  
**Thursdays after Mass**  
**Venue: Corrigan's**  
**Cove**  
**All Welcome**  
**COFFEE N CHAT**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR C**

**FROM PERSECUTOR TO AMBASSADOR**

Jesus was a wonderful storyteller. Huge crowds hung on his every word. The Scribes and the Pharisees complained that Jesus spoke to all comers. He welcomed sinners - people who publicly did not follow the Pharisees' strict interpretation of the Law of Moses. And worse, he dined with them.

Jesus could be tactful. He did not get into arguments with his critics unnecessarily. Instead he told them stories. On this occasion he told them, and anyone with ears to hear, the story of a Prodigal Father. We are all familiar with this story, so brilliantly recorded in Luke (15: 1-32 ) The father is over the top in his generosity to his second son. It was a callous act of selfishness for the son to ask for his inheritance while his father was still alive. In Jewish eyes it was an act of reprehensible filial impiety. It would have drawn gasps of "Oh no! He can't do that!" from the audience. As the son's squandering of his inheritance leads to his pitiful and incomprehensible demoralisation, the audience would have been thinking "Serves him right!".

But Jesus flips the coin. The son repents, sort of, and his long suffering father welcomes him back. More than welcomes; more than gives the starving lad a square meal; he throws an extravagant party to celebrate his return. "Because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and was found." Son and father are reconciled.

Saul (later Paul) of Tarsus was a zealous Pharisee. He was appalled when he first heard what Peter and the other apostles were preaching about their executed leader. In Saul's eyes they equated this person, Jesus the Nazarene, with God. This imposter had been rightly condemned as a blasphemer. Saul approved the stoning of a follower of Jesus called Stephen, so much so he got a writ from the Sanhedrin to hunt down some of Stephen's followers who had fled to Damascus. Saul hated followers of The Way of Jesus with a vengeance.

In Acts 9: 1-9 we have the most amazing conversion story in history. As Saul and his Temple guards approached Damascus. there was a great flash of light (lightning?). Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? He asked: "Who are you, sir?" The voice said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise, go into the city and you will be told what to do." He who had intended entering Damascus like an avenging fury was led in by the hand, blind and helpless. But his ears had been opened to the voice of Jesus.

In 2 Corinthians 4: 15 & 20 Paul describes the psychic change he had undergone. Using the authoritative plural he writes. "From now on we regard no one from a human point of view, even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way." ... "So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us, we entreat you through Christ to be reconciled to God."

Let us all take advantage of this season of Lent to be reconciled to God our merciful Father. May we all, like St Paul become ambassadors for Christ by the way we go about our daily lives.

**Joe Quigley**

**6PM SATURDAY MASS WILL BE HELD AT 5PM STARTING ON 23rd APRIL UNTIL OCTOBER 1ST. WE ARE TRIALLING AN EARLIER MASS DURING THE COURSE OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS AND YOUR FEEDBACK IS APPRECIATED**



*Pope Francis  
Monthly Prayer  
Intentions*

**APRIL**

**For health care workers**

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

**WEEKLY MASS TIMES**

**Tues 29th:** 5.30pm Mass  
**Wed 30th:** 9:00am Mass  
**Thurs 31st:** 9:00 am Mass  
**Fri 1st:** 9:15am Mass  
5.30pm Adoration  
**Sat 2nd:** 9:00am Mass  
9:30am Reconciliation  
6:00pm Mass  
**Sunday 3rd:** 9:00am Mass  
5:00pm Family & Youth Mass

**ROSTERS**

**26/27 MARCH**  
**Cleaning**  
28Mar-1Apr Nugent Favetta/  
O'Neill/  
**6.00PM MASS**  
Welcomer: Volunteer  
Commentator: Volunteer  
Reader: Sr Marie  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Sr Marie  
Computer Screen  
K Conway  
**9.00 AM MASS:**  
Commentator L Page.  
Reader: N Beatty.  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L Page, Volunteer  
Computer Screen T Priest.  
REGISTRAR P Jobs  
**5.00PM MASS:**  
Welcomer: D Ebejer  
Commentator S Ebejer  
Reader: J O'Sullivan  
Eucharistic Ministers M Devine  
Computer Screen M O'Neill  
**MORNING TEA** L Rodwell &  
J Barroman  
**2/3 APRIL**  
**Cleaning**  
4-8 Apr D & L May  
**6.00PM MASS**  
Welcomer: K Conway  
Commentator P O'Kelly  
Reader P Nolan  
Eucharistic Ministers J Wain  
Computer Screen T Jackson  
**9.00 AM MASS:**  
Welcomer C Connell  
Commentator Volunteer  
Reader: Volunteer  
Eucharistic Ministers C Schor  
L Stevens  
Computer Screen D May.  
**5.00PM MASS:**  
Welcomer M de Smet  
Commentator D Robinson  
Reader: M O'Neill  
Eucharistic Ministers M Devine  
Computer Screen J O'Sullivan  
**MORNING TEA:** N Beatty/ M deSmet

**PARISH NEWS**

**HOLY WEEK TIMES**

**Palm Sunday 9/10 April**  
Saturday 6pm Sunday 9am&5pm

**Holy Thursday 14 April**  
- 6pm Mass



**Good Friday 15 April**  
• Stations of the Cross 10am,  
• Celebration of the Passion 3pm

**Easter Saturday 16 April**  
- Easter Vigil 6pm

**Easter Sunday 17 April - 9am, 5pm**  
Mass

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA-CARITAS UKRAINE**

Caritas Ukraine is on the ground helping people with emergency food, water, shelter and hygiene support. Donate now to help the people of Ukraine during this humanitarian emergency.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/>

**CHRISM MASS – Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 11 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the Holy Oils used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.**

**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 Odium, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

**Lenten Programme for 2022:**  
**'REMEMBER'** will continue every Wednesday after 9am Mass.  
**We will gather through to Wed April 6**  
**Facilitators: Sr Marie and Marie Weatherall.** We look forward to preparing with you as we journey through Lent to Easter.

**Happy birthday to everyone who celebrated a birthday in March. We wish you a wonderful and blessed year, full of joy, peace and gladness.**

**Preloved book sale**

After Mass 2/3<sup>rd</sup> April all books \$2.00  
Proceeds to The Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Peace school for disabled children in Vietnam

**"Come to the Fair" for Maranatha Aged Care.**

We need your support. This is our first fund-raiser in two years. Help us to provide those little extras for our residents.

**Seeking donations of pre-loved, good quality clothing and baked goods, jams etc. for our fair to be held on Saturday April 30th 9.30am-3.00pm at the CWA Hall, Edward Road, Batehaven**  
Come along for some great bargains jewellery, bric a brac, books, artworks, jams, cakes and lots more.  
**Please phone Norma if you can help on 0477759990**

**Death Anniversaries:** Janice Marion, Terence Thomson, Franciscus Timmer, Leon Pallamountagne, Anica Hrstic, Elsie Waltham, Gregory Parsons, Robyn Albert, Eli Chatfield, Leonard O'Hara,  
**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, Margaret Harris, Wayne O'Toole, George Fitzgerald, Savannah Leane, Bill Guist, Celsa Ybañez

**LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY**



**'Come back to Me with all your heart' (Joel 2:12) THE LENTEN JOURNEY ... THE ROAD TO CALVARY**

We are witnessing extreme human suffering daily as people in war-torn countries are confronted with extraordinary atrocities and people more locally experience suffering. The following reflection touches into the heart of 'the road to Calvary'.

*Living the way of the cross is inevitable. The Lenten journey begins with a reminder of our own mortality: "From dust we came and to dust we shall return." Not one of us, as they say, escapes this journey alive. Death is the universal end of our earthly lives, and every one of us, if we live long enough, dies smaller deaths along the way. These are the moments that can most try our faith—the fears, grief, and failures that pockmark the road and cause us to stumble or to crumble. An accident. A cancer diagnosis. Abuse. Betrayal. Divorce. Broken dreams. Every one of us carries a burden, often in secret. We put on a brave face.*

*We cry out to God—and we sometimes wonder if God hears. In this we are in exalted company. The Lord Jesus himself cries out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) As Jesus shares our burden of death and the fearsome prospect of being abandoned by God, he also lights the path of hope: "...those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25).*

*How do we pray to and with Jesus when we feel we've lost ourselves? Some have suggested that one of the most potent prayers we have at our disposal is also one of the simplest: "Help!" When my mother died at 53 after a short and brutal battle with leukemia, I was in a dark hour and discovered for the first time what it means for someone to pray for me. A wise pastor reminded me that when I could not pray, my brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ could pray instead.*

*Our Catholic heritage offers us refuge in knowing that all the saints, living and dead, can lift up prayers on our behalf. We have the devotional prayers of our tradition—the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the [Memorare](#), and the book of Psalms—which give us words for the times when we have no words of our own.*

*We also have silence. "Silence is God's first language," teaches [St. John of the Cross](#). In our dark hours, it can be enough to lift our sufferings in wordless silence to God.*

**Lent ends with an empty tomb and the resurrected Messiah whose triumph promises our own resurrections. May our prayer this Lent unite our suffering with the Lord's suffering so that we can find in him the life he promises.**

**Chris Sullivan:** [www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/len/perspectives-on-lent/articles/praying-on-the-road-to-calvary/](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/len/perspectives-on-lent/articles/praying-on-the-road-to-calvary/)

**PROJECT COMPASSION 2022**

**Rosalie 44**, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.



With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her reintegrate into society.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**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 TRIVIA SOCIAL NIGHT**

**Was to be held this Saturday 26th March.**

**Unfortunately, we have had to postpone this event and will let you know the new date once it has been re-organised**

**BATEMANS BAY & MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS**  
Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years  
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