

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Second Sunday of Advent A

First Reading *Is 11:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thank be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds.

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name.

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading *Rom 15:4-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thank be to God

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 3:4, 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 3:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from

these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom. In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire. At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

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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. Tom Thornton
0408 623 303
Secretary: Roslyne Trompp
Finance Admin: Anne Jackson
PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall
Asst. PC Co-ord: Carolyn Evenden

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

Upcoming Events

Choir Practice
Monday @ 1pm

Cenacle Prayer
9.30 am
Fridays after
Mass, and 1st
Saturday of the
month @
9.30am

Craft Group -
10am
Thursdays

Adoration
Tuesday @ 8am

COFFEE CLUB
Venue:
Corrigans
Cove
All Welcome
COFFEE N
CHAT

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT—YEAR A

MASSES THIS WEEK:

Monday 5th—Sunday 11th December

Monday 5th: Mass 9am
Tuesday 6th : Adoration 8am, Mass 9am
Wednesday 7th: Mass 9am
Thursday 8th: Mass 9am—2pm
School Candle Ceremony in Church
Friday 9th: End of school/Yr 6 Graduation Mass @ 9.15am followed by Awards Ceremony & Morning Tea in Meeting Room
Saturday 10th: Reconciliation 9.30am, Vigil 6pm
Sunday 11th: Mass 9am—Baptism of Patrick Schafrin



MEETINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY 5TH—Liturgy Meeting 4pm
THURSDAY 8TH - Finance Meeting 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 24th:
Christmas Eve—Mass 6pm & 8pm

Sunday 25th:
Christmas Day—Mass 9am



ST BERNARD'S PARISH

has a new Parish Priest who commences here on 10th January, 2023.

He is **Fr Loi Viovicente** who is presently Parish Priest of North Belconnen in Canberra.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING



The Year of Walking Together

The Risen Lord walked together with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, drawing them from anxiety to hope, from confusion to joy.

Jesus, centre of our common Emmaus walk, with You alone to guide us, make Your home in our hearts; as we pour "new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mk 2:22)

Like Mary, imbued by the Holy Spirit, may we give birth to a renewed faith and united pastoral action in this Archdiocese in the years ahead.

St Mary of the Cross, our Great Australian Intercessor, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. All Saints of God, who name and sanctify our parishes, pray for us. *Amen*

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal continues

Please take a tag from the Christmas Tree and provide a \$ donation or buy a K-Mart Gift Card for a gift for your particular child by December 10/11. Place this in the SVdP Christmas Box located in the foyer of the church after the week-end or week day masses only. If you need a receipt, please see Dave May or Marie Weatherall.

Many thanks for your kindness and support of our local families in need.

ADVENT SEASON

In the lead up to Christmas, Advent commences on the weekend of 26th –27th November. During this time there will be another **2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday 13th December @ 6pm at St Bernards.**

Advent Reflection Group

will take place after Wednesday week day mass— there are two more opportunities to attend—December 7th & 14th @ 9.30am-11am in the Church Meeting Room. A booklet will be supplied free of cost. Come and join us if you are able.

All are welcome

FAREWELL AND THANKS CELEBRATION

To be held on Saturday 17th December—after the 6pm Vigil Mass. Fr Eden who has been in the Parish as a student, deacon and priest, and Fr Tom would like the chance to say thanks for your support.

The celebration will be in the form of a BBQ /Sausage Sizzle, so please take the time to stay after mass. This will be the last opportunity for this celebration, as both priests will be moving during the week after New Year's Day.

PIETY SHOP

Christmas cards, Columbian Calendars, Children's books are now available from the Piety Shop
We also have 2023 Daily Mass Books for sale-*

Join the Pastoral Care Team going to the residents at the Glen.

We have 7 Catholic Residents at the Glen and 4 at The Manor who look forward to a visit and HC.

We need one person to join our team and to go once a month to the Glen And The Manor Orientation to the Glen and The Manor 1:1 training provided and all resources.

Phone Carolyn 0400 021 119 or Marie W 0405 028 057

WHILE WE WAIT - WHY NOT MEDITATE?

There are big gaps in the story of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. In fact after the episode described in the Fifth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, Luke describe the next twenty odd years as follows. "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in favour with God and man." (Luke 2: 51-52)

John the Baptist, second cousin of Jesus, reacted in his mother Elizabeth's womb to the presence of Jesus in the womb of Mary when she visited Elizabeth and husband Zachariah. Mary stayed with them for three months waiting until baby John was born. Can you imagine what these two expectant mothers talked about? Remember Zachariah had been struck dumb. We must never forget we are dealing with a very human situation. Yet God is present and at work every second of their day.

Jesus and John don't meet again until Jesus comes to see John when he is proclaiming to the people of Israel that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand; that they should repent of their sins; that they be baptised in the waters of the Jordan as a sign that they wanted to be cleansed from their sinfulness and were resolved to maintain their new found purity.

I think it is important that we reflect on the long periods of ordinariness that characterised the life of Jesus as he waits to launch his public life. John by contrast prepares himself for his job as the Prophet for the Messiah by an extremely ascetic life and confronting preaching.

In our own lives there can be long periods of routine; no great highs, no deep lows. In our spiritual life we may find ourselves coasting. In many ways that was the state of Jewish society in John's day. Elite groups like the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the scribes and lawyers, had sucked the spirit out of the Jewish religion and made it more an arena for disputation and an opportunity for seeking power & prestige. The common folk were neglected like lost sheep.

A few months before Jesus left Nazareth and began his fast in the wilderness, John had emerged from his solitude and when he spoke he spoke boldly sparing no one. "You brood of vipers," he tells the Pharisees, "who has showed you to flee from the wrath to come?" I wonder what he would say to us? If that idea is too confronting maybe we can pray to this great and holy man.

Great Saint John, of whom Jesus said "there has not risen among them that are born of women, a greater than John the Baptist", with great power, humility and courage you announced the Good News of Jesus Christ, obtain for us a share in your nobility of soul and a spark of your zeal in the service of our One Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. John the Baptist, pray for us.

Joe Quigley

Remembering the Sick:

Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Barry O'Neill Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Mara Pranjic, Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, 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, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Flavia Clyburn, Nita Gorzalka, Michael Dove, Wayne Sing, Linda Russell, Ruby Swinton, Anna Backo, Lois White, Vincent Corbin, Pero Simic, Michael McNamara

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

December

For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

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
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OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY
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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

ROSTERS

3/4 DECEMBER Church Cleaning
D & L May (5-9)

6.00PM MASS

Welcomer:
D Robinson
Commentator
J O'Sullivan
Reader P O'Kelly
Eucharistic Ministers
Y Oerder, M Devine
Computer Screen
T Jackson

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer J
McClelland
Commentator
B Basevi
Reader: L Page
Eucharistic Ministers
L Stevens, C Schor
Computer Screen
T Priest

MORNING TEA:

Miranda Vidovic & Zdenka

10/11 DECEMBER

Church Cleaning
M deSmet/J Maher
(12-16)

6.00PM MASS

Welcomer: P Jobs
Commentator
S. Ebejer
Reader J Mackay
Eucharistic Ministers
M Bridges, J Wain
Computer Screen
J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L Foran
Commentator A Jackson
Reader: D Herring
Eucharistic Minister
s
L & N Page
Computer Screen D May

MORNING TEA:

Mick & Chris Lowe