

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Third Sunday of Advent Year A

#### First Reading *Is 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming,

vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

#### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4*

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.  
**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

#### Second Reading *Jas 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of St James  
*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make

complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

#### Gospel Acclamation

*Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

#### Gospel *Mt 11:2-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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

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#### REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

**The Right Question**

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. *Those* are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

© Fr Michael Tate;  
mtate@bigpond.com

#### 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

2nd Rite of  
Reconciliation  
Tuesday 13th @  
6pm

Craft Group  
Christmas Lunch  
Thursday 15th @  
12pm

Adoration  
Tuesday @ 8am

COFFEE CLUB  
Venue:  
Corrigans Cove  
All Welcome  
COFFEE N CHAT

### THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT—YEAR A

#### MASSES THIS WEEK:

##### Monday 12th—Sunday 18th December

**Monday 12th:** Mass 9am  
**Tuesday 13th:** Adoration 8am, Mass 9am,  
2nd Rite of Reconciliation 6pm  
**Wednesday 14th:** Mass 9am  
Advent discussion 9.30am  
**Thursday 15th:** Mass 9am  
**Friday 16th:** Mass 9am  
**Saturday 17th:** Reconciliation 9.30am, Vigil 6pm followed by  
farewell for Priests—BBQ get together  
**Sunday 11th:** Mass 9am



#### MEETINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY 12 TH— 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 7th 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 December finishes week end of 17/18th

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.*

## 2nd Rite of Reconciliation Will be held on Tuesday 13th December @ 6pm

*Advent Reflection Group* will take place Wednesday 14th December after the week day mass @ 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.\*

## CHRISTMAS GALA TO BE HELD AT UNITING CHURCH ON SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 10AM. All are welcome.

*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

## 'Gaudete Sunday': Rejoice and be Glad

### The Present of Joyful Presence



There is joy looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas as we remember that God gifted us with the loving Presence of Jesus at Christmas time. *When the Gospel stories speak of Jesus they speak of his gift of personal presence, gifts that were treasures of the heart: inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity and justice.* This loving joyful presence is the central focus of Christmas gift giving. Joyce Rupp states *'Sharing the gift of personal presence means that we see ourselves as a gift holding the goodness of Jesus who is Emmanuel, God-with-us.'*

In our hurried life especially as we busily prepare for Christmas and/or are caught up in the 'Christmas rush' it is easy to miss awareness and union with those around us and in the larger world. Joyce Rupp suggests the following ways of 'being with others' during Advent and asks us **to choose 'being' over 'doing'**: 'Be with someone who needs you. Be with a person who gives you hope. Be with an older person. Be with someone who is in pain. Be with a child. Be with the homeless. Be with those facing war and conflict. Be with those whose hope and joy is faint. Be with someone in your family.' [Adapted from: *'Out of the Ordinary'* pages 21-22] **God you who dwell within me, remind me to 'let go' of my busyness so that I can be with others in a loving way.**

### Joy Filled News

Today's first reading and Gospel are filled with **joyful promise**. Isaiah speaks of God himself coming to save us. Isaiah's wilderness sings: 'they will rejoice: wilderness and dry land. The desert will shout with joy – it will 'really' bloom and shout with joy – joy and joyous song [Isa 35:1-2a] Earth's joyful response sings and celebrates the gift of life. In it we see God's glory. Isaiah shows us people whose hearts and minds are racing, gripped by anxiety. Isaiah tells them: **'Be strong, do not fear'. Pay attention to the one source of strength and salvation. 'Open your eyes and look, you will see right here is your God.'** [Isa 35:4a]. This is the joyful message today of Advent, Isaiah reassuring us for the present and the future: God is here. God will come. God will transform every inability into ability and every 'lack of' into abundance.

**In the Gospel Jesus speaks of his mission - He does not come to gain earthly power. He came among the people to serve them, to bring life and good news. Happy the person who does not lose faith in me [Matt: 11: 6]**

Marie Weatherall

### 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.

<p>BATEMANS BAY &amp; MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS</p> <p>Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years</p> <p>Batemans Bay 44728886</p> <p>Moruya 4474 3555 Narooma 4476 3888</p>	<p><b>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS</b></p> <p>1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay</p> <p>Buy fuel any time</p>
<p><b>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY</b></p> <p>Fish &amp; Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches &amp; Coffee</p> <p><b>100% BEEF BURGER</b></p> <p>248 Beach Road</p> <p>Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p> <p><b>02 4472 1802</b></p>	<p><b>MAYDAY Plumbing And Gas</b></p> <p><b>Fully licensed Plumber and Gas Fitter</b></p> <p>Gutter Cleaning General Maintenance</p> <p>RHYS MAY</p> <p><b>0427 373 826</b></p>
<p><b>THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE</b></p>	<p>excell ideaspeople PRINTING GROUP</p> <p>P 4472 1699</p> <p>E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au www.excellprint.com.au</p> <p>Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p>
<p>Ray and Anne Brown</p> <p><b>COASTAL CONCRETE &amp; QUARRY</b></p> <p><b>02 4474 0320</b></p>	<p>Kate &amp; Tara your vets at Surf Beach</p> <p><b>EUROCAST Veterinary Centre</b></p> <p><b>4471 3400</b></p>

## ROSTERS

**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 Ministers L & N Page  
Computer Screen D May

**MORNING TEA:**  
Mick & Chris Lowe

**17/18 DECEMBER Church Cleaning**  
B Coffey/M Paine (19-23)

**6.00PM MASS**  
Welcomer: B Oerder  
Commentator D Robinson  
Reader P Nolan  
Eucharistic Ministers K Lovering., L Rodwell  
Computer Screen K Conway

**9.00 AM MASS:**  
Welcomer L Page  
Commentator M Lowe  
Reader: C Lowe  
Eucharistic Ministers C Schor A Scieluna  
Computer Screen T Priest  
**MORNING TEA:**  
Anne Brown & Jeni McCarthy