

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A**  
**First Reading** *Is 7:10-14*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*The virgin will conceive.*  
 The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said,  
 ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign  
 for yourself coming either from the  
 depths of Sheol or from the heights  
 above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I  
 will not put the Lord to the test.’  
 Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now,  
 House of David: are you not  
 satisfied with trying the patience of  
 men without trying the patience of  
 my God, too? The Lord himself,  
 therefore, will give you a sign. It is  
 this: the maiden is with child and  
 will soon give birth to a son whom  
 she will call Immanuel, a name  
 which means “God-is-with-us”.’

*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
*Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10*

**(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.
  2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? he man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.
  3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- (R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

**Second Reading** *Rom 1:1-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*  
 From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection

from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** *Mt 1:23*  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
 Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Mt 1:18-24*  
 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.  
*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**  
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**REFLECTION** by Fr Michael Tate  
**Just Man Dreaming**

Joseph could not ignore Mary’s pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him. If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary’s pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened. You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God’s plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God’s plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message. We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

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 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

**FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT—YEAR A**

**MASSES THIS WEEK:**

**Monday 19th—Sunday 25th December**

- Monday 19th:** Mass 9am  
**Tuesday 20th :** Adoration 8am, Mass 9am  
**Wednesday 21st:** Mass 9am  
**Thursday 22nd:** Mass 9am  
**Friday 23rd:** Mass 9am  
**Saturday 24th:** Mass 6pm & 8pm  
**Sunday 25th:** Mass 9am



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**  
**Thursdays 10am**  
**Resumes 2023**

**Adoration**  
**Tuesday @ 8am**

**COFFEE CLUB**  
**Resumes**  
**Thursday 2nd February**

**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*

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH** will be available for all those who may be alone this Christmas Day.

HOSTED by the Combined Churches on Sunday 25th December at two locations:

Salvation Army and Anglican Church

Contact: 44729644 to register by 18th December.



### FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The office will be closed from Friday 23rd December until January 6th. If you have any queries during this time, please contact Fr Tom on 0408 623 303.

Fr Loi will be arriving on January 7th. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and look forward to a New Year of fellowship and faith filled community.

### 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

### 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

## ST JOSEPH - MAN OF HONOUR



### Saying YES to God - People of Honour Supporting Others Quietly

This weekend's Gospel of Matthew shines the light on the birth of Jesus through a focus on **Joseph** who is often perhaps just the assumed quiet, yet faithful and faith filled person in the tableau. Matthew breaks open the dilemma of Joseph, confronted by the mystery of Mary 'conceiving what is in her by the Holy Spirit'. The Scripture tells us that Joseph responded to the message of the Angel by 'taking his wife home'. Joseph responded to God with an open, but yet what must have been puzzled heart - he put his trust in God.

### Emmanuel - God with us!

Who are the quiet people of honour who are the Face of God in our world today and throughout human history - who manifest the Advent aspirations of

### Patience - Waiting - Expectant Joy - Trust - Mystery - Honour

Let us open our eyes and ears and hearts to these people of quiet action, presence and response in our midst as our world continues to struggle with many natural and human disasters. As we do so we are exhorted to reflect on these qualities within ourselves - the words of St Augustine can perhaps assist in this.

When Augustine says: "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you," he is, of course, pointing out the reason why God would have made us this way. And, as his prayer indicates, the ultimate value of longing and waiting as we do in Advent, lies precisely in its incessant nature, by never letting us rest with anything less than the infinite and eternal it guarantees that we will seek God or be frustrated and continue longing and being restless.

**Longing shapes the soul in many ways, particularly by helping create the space within us where God can be born. Longing creates in us the stable and the manger of Bethlehem. It is the trough into which God can be born.**

**May the quiet and loyal YES of Joseph who actively supported the generous YES of Mary, resonate with you and bring you every blessing of this holy season.**

Phil Billington



### 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>EFTPOS VISA AMEX MASTERCARD</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>Batehaven NSW 2536</p> <p><b>02 4472 1802</b></p>	<p><b>MAYDAY</b></p> <p>Plumbing And Gas</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 <i>ideaspeople</i> PRINTING GROUP - with a passion for print</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>EUROCOAST</b> Veterinary Centre</p> <p><b>4471 3400</b></p>

<p><b>ROSTERS</b></p> <p><b>17/18 DECEMBER</b></p> <p><b>Church Cleaning</b></p> <p>B Coffey/M Paine (19-23)</p> <p><b>6.00PM MASS</b></p> <p>Welcomer: B Oerder</p> <p>Commentator D Robinson</p> <p>Reader P Nolan</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers</p> <p>K Lovering,, L Rodwell</p> <p>Computer Screen K Conway</p>	<p><b>24/25 DECEMBER</b></p> <p><b>Church Cleaning</b></p> <p>R &amp; K Ison (26-30)</p> <p><b>8.00PM MASS</b></p> <p>Welcomer: K Conway</p> <p>Commentator M Bridges</p> <p>Reader J O'Sullivan</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers</p> <p>M Devine, A Rogers</p> <p>Computer Screen T Jackson</p>
<p><b>9.00 AM MASS:</b></p> <p>Welcomer L Page</p> <p>Commentator M Lowe</p> <p>Reader: C Lowe</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers</p> <p>C Schor A Scicluna</p> <p>Computer Screen T Priest</p> <p><b>MORNING TEA:</b></p> <p>Anne Brown &amp; Jeni McCarthy</p>	<p><b>9.00 AM MASS:</b></p> <p>Welcomer C Connell</p> <p>Commentator L Page</p> <p>Reader: D Herringe</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers</p> <p>N. Page, L. Stevens</p> <p>Computer Screen D May</p> <p><b>MORNING TEA:</b></p> <p>No Morning Tea</p>