

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

First Reading *Is 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading *Ti 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up

everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced. If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession. Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

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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: Roslynn 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
Resumes 2023**

**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
Venue:
Resumes
Thursday 2nd
February 2023**

THE NATIVITY OF The LORD -YEAR A



MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 26th December — Sunday 1st January

Monday 26th: Mass 9am

Tuesday 27th: Mass 9am (No Adoration Hour)

Wednesday 28th: Mass 9am

Thursday 29th: Mass 9am

Friday 30th: Mass 9am

Saturday 31st: Reconciliation 9.30am, Vigil 6pm

Sunday 1st: Mass 9am

CHRISTMAS 2022

Well what started out as a fairly normal year, has turned out to be quite interesting.

During the year, Deacon Eden has moved to become Fr Eden and has stepped up to the role of spiritual carer of the parish of Moruya with great fervor, diligence and prayerful endeavor. He is about to commence another stage of that journey of priesthood in the parish of Gungahlin in January. I am sure that you would join me in a great prayer of thanksgiving for his contribution to this parish, and the parish of Moruya over the time he has been with the community. I am pretty sure he will do well in the ministry years that lie ahead.

Thank you, the parishioners of St Bernard's for maintaining your strong faith commitment to Christ over the last year. Your ministry to the sick, the housebound, to the people in aged care and the general care and respect you have for each other, indicates that your actions reflect your belief. Your faith is very practical and real.

(Cont Pg 2)



CHRISTMAS MASSES

SATURDAY 24TH: Christmas Eve—Mass 6pm & 8pm

SUNDAY 25TH: Christmas Day Mass 9am

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*

(Cont from Pg 1)



For those who have taken the journey, throughout the year, to deepen their faith and their knowledge of Christ, I say well done and encourage you to continue on the same journey in the year ahead.

Thank you for your generosity of time and finances to ensure the parish is able to continue to function and proclaim the gospel to anyone who wants to hear it. In this regards, I would like to thank the Sisters of St Joseph for their love and witness to Christ they have given to the community over the last 85 years; a ministry we will only be able to partially appreciate.

Fr Martins has moved on to new ministries and challenges and I would like to thank him, on your behalf, for his ministry in the parish over the years he was here. He displayed a gentle and faith filled ministry to many parishioners and his prayerful attention to those who were bereaved, getting married and getting baptised, as well as to the sick and the general parish community, will be gratefully remembered.

I am sure also, that your welcome of Fr Loi will give him the comfort to know he is amongst friends and faithful believers. May his ministry be a blessed one for everyone.

Fr Tom

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ THE ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE SEE BELOW



[HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICVOICE.ORG.AU/ARCHBISHOP-PROVSES-2022-CHRISTMAS-MESSAGE-WALKING-TOGETHER-AT-CHRISTMAS/](https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/archbishop-provses-2022-christmas-message-walking-together-at-christmas/)

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.

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

Christmas 2022

Many of us will have vivid memories of the weeks leading up to Christmas. The excitement building as the words "Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas ..." hung in the air. Decorations everywhere and the setting up of the Nativity tableau in Churches, shopping centres and our homes. How some things have changed!

Music floating in the air, decorations appearing still today but alas there are not too many Nativity scenes on display. This has led to a comment regarding the absence of any trace of Christianity-"secular" becoming a fashionable word or trend. If "secular" is the new trend we could ask two questions about our previous Christmas experiences. What are we remembering? What are we celebrating? Are the two questions still relevant? Has our attitude or answers to them changed?

Christmas is not only about recalling a historical event. It is also about the enduring relevance of the story of how God works with us and wants to work with us and in us now both individually and collectively.

Joan Chittester (*In Search of Belief*) suggests that "Christmas is a movable feast- it changes in meaning as we move through life growing more and more aware of it's real significance for us". Each year as we look on a small and powerless Jesus in the manger, we become aware again of His life. We too are born small and powerless, but have grown and experienced much. Perhaps as we look at this Christmas and ponder, could we think Christmas is a time to reflect and perhaps begin our journey of faith again: "The Word became flesh and lived among us..."

As we look at the baby in the crib seeing the gentleness and tenderness, could we view these attributes as signs of hope, love and peace, all of which are needed in our world today?

Joyce Rupp (*Inviting God In*) suggests we look deep and find our spiritual jewels: the Spirit of Jesus within and among us, the love of family and friends, the virtues and loving qualities we possess.

Regardless of the secular trend appearing around us at this time of Christmas, may we remember our early memories of Christmas and realise that every year, we like the Magi, can follow the brightest star over the stable and be guided to a NEW beginning and NEW hope.

Each year we are gifted with the ultimate gift - the birth of Jesus the Christ Child. We have a chance to begin our life of faith and that journey again.



Ken Evenden

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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 Evenden, 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

January

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

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ROSTERS

24/25 DECEMBER Church Cleaning
R & K Ison (26-30)
8.00PM MASS
Welcomer: K Conway
Commentator M Bridges
Reader J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
M Devine, A Rogers
Computer Screen T Jackson

31 DECEMBER/1 JAN Church Cleaning
Favetta O'Neill Nugent (Jan 2-6)
6.00PM MASS
Welcomer: M Law
Commentator P O'Kelly
Reader S Ebejer
Eucharistic Ministers
M Devine Y Oerder
Computer Screen K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer C Connell
Commentator L Page
Reader: T Jackson
Eucharistic Ministers
N. Page, L. Stevens
Computer Screen D May

MORNING TEA:
No Morning Tea

31 DECEMBER/1 JAN Church Cleaning
Favetta O'Neill Nugent (Jan 2-6)
9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer M deSmet
Commentator N Beatty
Reader: B Basevi
Eucharistic Ministers
M Lowe C Lowe
Computer Screen T Priest

MORNING TEA:
N Beatty