

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

First Reading *Sir 15:15-20*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and ^{water} before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34, R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God’s law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts.
 2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes.
 3. Bless your servant and I shall live , and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.
 4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.
- (R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

Second Reading *1 Cor 2:6-10*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for

the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *See Mt 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 5:17-37*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. ‘For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. ‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother “Fool” he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him “Renegade” he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. ‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must

give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God’s throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Truth-Telling

We have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, ‘Do not swear at all ... instead let your “yes” mean yes and your “no” mean no. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.’ This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this? In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God’s name: ‘Our Father’. It is our privilege as adopted children of God to use God’s name in that way. The use of God’s name for oath-swearing is an abuse. Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two-tiered way of speaking the truth. Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person truthes. We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. As a Church, we need to heed this passage and listen to the tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body

throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. ‘It has epistle of St James recalling this passage almost verbatim. (James 5:12-13) We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church herself heeds the Great Commission: ‘Teach them to keep all that have commanded you.’ (Matthew 28:20)

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



ST BERNARD’S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



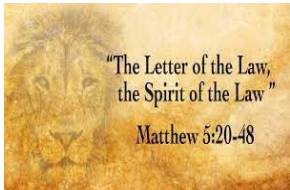
P.O. Box 3220, Batehaven, 2536.
Tel: 4472 4153
E: [batemensbay@cg.org.au](mailto:batemansbay@cg.org.au)
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
Tuesday-Friday

Priest: Rev. Loi Viovicente
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

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

...FOLLOW GOD’S LAW...



What does this mean in our everyday lives?

In the Gospel of Matthew this weekend Jesus proclaims:
‘Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them.’

So, what does Jesus mean when he says ‘I have come to complete the Law of the Prophets?’ What does this ask of us?

I have found the Readings this weekend complex to read on one level but quite straightforward on another when I got beyond all the detail and stripped them back to the key message – at the heart of the Law is ‘Love of God and of each other’. Bringing together the understanding of both love and law in relationship with each other is critical.

This leads to a conversation about the ‘letter of the law’ and the ‘spirit of the law’ – an understanding of this impacts our relationship with God and indeed how we understand God – often referred to as our Image of God. Do we understand God as a God of Love or do we understand God as a Judge?

The *letter of the law* can be understood to mean that we must follow all tenets of the law and obey them to be accepted in God’s sight - the image of God as Judge. There were 613 laws referred to in the Old Testament that were required to be followed.

The *spirit of the Law* which Jesus refers to at the beginning of this weekend’s Gospel – ‘I have come to complete them’. In completing an understanding of the Law, we read countless accounts of Jesus’ ministry of healing – even on the Sabbath – the spirit of the law is about not putting strict adherence of laws or rules above the person whom the law is meant to serve. The spirit of the law can be summarised in the following passage from Matthew’s Gospel:

‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? Jesus said to him *‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment, And the second is like it ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets’.* (Mt 22: 36-40)

As we prepare for Lent we pray for the grace to seek the God of love and to strive to live according to God’s law of love in pursuing the values of life through love of God and love of neighbour.

Phil Billington



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

ENJOY THE GOOD
NEWS
Wednesdays after
9am Mass Parish
Meeting Room

Cuppa with Mary
MacKillop Tuesday
February 21st 10am
@ Marie
Weatherall’s home

Craft Group
Thursdays 10am

ADORATION
TUESDAY @ 8AM

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after
Mass
Venue: Corrigan’s
Cove All are
welcome



MASSES THIS WEEK Monday 13th - Sunday 19th February

Monday 13th: No Mass
Tuesday 14th: Mass 8am
Wednesday 15th: Mass 9am
Thursday 16th: Mass 9.15am
Friday 17th: Mass 9am
Saturday 18th: Vigil 6pm
Sunday 19th: Mass 9am

PLEASE NOTE:
Mass is changed to 8am on
Tuesday 14th due to the Pastoral
Care Gathering

ROSTERS

11/12 FEBRUARY Cleaning 13-17 D & L May

6.00PM MASS
Welcomer: J
Anderson
Commentator: M
Weatherall
Reader: J Mackay
Eucharistic
Ministers
K Lovering M
Devine
Computer Screen
K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer L Foran
Commentator . N
Beatty
Reader: D
Herring
Eucharistic
Ministers
S Schor, A Scicluna
Computer Screen T
Priest....

**MORNING
TEA:**
Volunteer/J
Barroman

18/19 FEBRUARY Cleaning 20-24 M DeSmet J Maher

6.00PM MASS
Welcomer C
Brownlie
Commentator: Schoo
l
Reader: School
Eucharistic
Ministers
School
Computer Screen
J O'Sullivan

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

**MORNING
TEA:**
N & L Page



LENTEN PROGRAM

God is on the Journey too:
All are welcome to attend the

Lenten Program

beginning on each
Wednesday February 22 – March 29 after the
9am Mass in the Church Meeting Room. Or you
might like to join the **Evening Lenten Group at**

5pm in the Church Meeting Room, contact Bernie Basevi
0428 227 384 Or join a **zoom group** contact Phil Billington
0428 593 191 by Sun Feb 19.

A good way to prepare with other like minded people for the
Lenten Journey to Easter.

We ask a \$5 donation for the booklet if you are able.

Any enquires contact:
Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

WRAP WITH LOVE

begins 10am-12noon on Tuesday 14th February in the Batemans Bay
Library. The following meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February,
1pm-3pm in the Church
meeting room. **Newcomers are welcome.**
Enquires: Jenny 0414 664 077

Pastoral Care Gathering Invitation: on Tuesday Feb 14
Patrick [Paddy] McGrath, St Vincent de Paul Director of
Community Engagement and Spirituality will facilitate
sessions on: **The Wounded Healer – in our Woundedness
we become a Source of Life.**

Registration: 9-15am for 9-30am start – 12noon in the
Church Meeting Room. Cost Free. BYO shared morning tea.

Booking Essential Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057 or
Carolyn Evenden 0400 021 119. **ALL WELCOME**

Cuppa with Mary MacKillop Tuesday
February 21, 10 AM at Marie & Greg
Weatherall's home.
All welcome 0405 028 057.

Aged Parishioners who belong to St. Bernard's need Visit and Holy Communion
Are you able to help once a month? We provide Pastoral Service to 5 Aged Care
Facilities a total of 46 residents.

They belong to our Faith Community and they need our outreach. I need the following
once a month on a roster :
2 for Maranatha; 1 for the Manor and 1 for the Glen. All resources and guidance given
on 1:1.

Please consider this request. Marie Weatherall [m] 0405 028 057.

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**

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

ENJOY THE GOOD NEWS

Prayer and Scripture Study Group

meets every Wednesday after the 9am Mass in
the Parish Meeting Room. We study the
Gospel Reading of the upcoming
Sunday Mass.

Facilitator Joe Quigley
0404357744

Remembering the Sick:

Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Barry O'Neill Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, 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: Christopher Horsfall, Dawn
Millman, Mara Pranjic, Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal George Pell, Michael Thornton, Barbara Mills,
Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Flavia Clyburn, Nita Gorzalka, Michael Dove, Wayne Sing, Linda
Russell, Ruby Swinton, Anna Backo, Lois White



The Year of Walking Together

The Risen Lord walked to-
gether with the disciples on
the road to Emmaus, draw-
ing 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**

Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions

February

For Parishes

We pray that parishes,
placing communion at
the centre, may
increasingly become
communities of faith,
fraternity and welcome
towards those most in
need.

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

EFTPOS
VISA
AMEX
MASTERCARD

OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY
Fish & Chips, Burgers,
Sandwiches & Coffee

100% BEEF BURGER
248 Beach Road
Batehaven NSW 2536

02 4472 1802

MAYDAY
Plumbing And
Gas
**Fully licensed
Plumber and
Gas Fitter**
Gutter Cleaning
General
Maintenance

RHYS MAY
0427 373 826

**Patrick
Fleming**

Clinical
Psychologist

Batehaven
Medical Centre
Ph: 0412 295 394

Medicare
Rebates
Available

excell Ideaspeople
PRINTING GROUP
— with a passion for print

P 4472 1599
E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au
www.excellprint.com.au

Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy
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