

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A**  
**First Reading** Ez 37:12-14  
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel  
*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*  
The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 129. R. v.7  
**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**  
1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.  
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.  
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.  
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.  
**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Second Reading** Rom 8:8-11  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*  
People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.  
*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*I am the resurrection and the life.*  
The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’ Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came

out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.  
*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.

**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**  
**Rage against Death**  
This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.  
But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: ‘Set him free, unbind him.’ It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God. You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death. We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be *the Resurrection and the Life*.  
© 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:** 00012939  
**Ref:** Family Name



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



**Come To The Water**

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. 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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT —YEAR A**

**Entombment**  
We are all so aware of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The terrible anguish and sheer desperation of people, digging with their bare hands or with basic implements, trying to find family members or neighbours under tons of rubble. **Watching the people's raw grief as they searched for their loved ones, as they heard their cries of help, the eerie silence of those who had died and the confronting after- shocks.** We also witnessed those who were found alive and were rescued from their entombment. The jubilation and thanksgiving as they came into light and the arms of the community gathered.  
**A person[s] alive against all odds.**

**Before the Tomb Jesus groans in great distress**  
In the Gospel today [John 11:1-45] Jesus receives the news that his close friend Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, is very ill. Yet Jesus in delaying to go and see him, finds when he gets to Bethany, that his friend had died 4 days earlier. Beneath the events of his friend's sickness and death, the grief of the relatives and the unbelief of the crowd Jesus is fully aware of the ultimate 'enemy' he must overcome. Before the tomb Jesus groans/weeps, as he will groan again at Gethsemane. He fully knows what is coming!

By coming to Bethany he has entered enemy territory, risking his life coming to the aid of Lazarus. *'He comes to the aid of his friends with all his strength and by doing so pledges his life for them. He hears in the depth of his soul the Eternal One's voice which unbinds Him and lets Him bring forth Lazarus from his Tomb.'* [Glenstal Missal 1984, pg.129].

This journey into the land of the dead shows Jesus more alive than ever as the Living One and Giver of life for those he loves: **"I am the Resurrection and the Life"** As Fr. Christopher Monahan CP states: This passage provides us with a glimpse of God's care: we see that Jesus is profoundly moved when he comes to the tomb, meeting his close friends Martha and Mary and sharing in their grief and loss. They both believe in Jesus' power over death even though they have not witnessed him raising someone from the dead, as in other Gospels.' [Matt.11:5; Lk 8: 49] [From: 'God is on the journey too' 2023, pg 25]

When I am entombed in hopelessness, grief, depression and/or anxiety may I hear the voice of Jesus as Lazarus did. Let me hear those blessed words he uttered at Lazarus' grave: 'Unbind him, let him go'

*Marie Weatherall*





## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Monday 27th March-  
Sunday 2nd April**

**Monday 27h:** No Mass  
**Tuesday 28th:** Mass 9am  
Adoration: 8.00am  
**Wednesday 29th:** Mass 9am  
**Thursday 30th:** Mass 9am  
**Friday 31st:** Mass 9am  
5pm Stations of the Cross  
and Soup Dinner  
**Saturday 1st:** Vigil 6pm  
**Sunday 2nd:** Mass 9am

### Masses in Aged Care Facilities

- Mass First Wed of Month @10.30am  
Denhams Beach Community Care (Opal)
- Mass 2nd Wed of the month @10.30am The Glen
- Mass 3rd Wed of month @2pm The Manor
- Mass 4th Wed of month @2pm Maranatha Lodge

Fr William James Milsted will be providing supply next week—end while Fr Loi is away. He will be celebrating Mass next Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Palm Sunday)

## ROSTERS

**25/26 MARCH**  
**Cleaning**  
27/31 M DeSmet J Maher

**6.00PM MASS**  
Welcomer M Devine  
Commentator: J Quigley  
Reader: S Ebejer:  
Eucharistic Ministers  
M Bridges M Devine  
Computer Screen  
M O'Neill

**9.00 AM MASS:**  
Welcomer M deSmet  
Commentator A Brown  
Reader: N Beatty. ...  
Eucharistic Ministers  
M & C Lowe  
Computer Screen T  
Jackson

**MORNING TEA:**  
M & S Beashel L Foran

**1/2 APRIL**  
**Cleaning**  
3-7 April Coffey/  
Paine  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
**6.00 PM**

Commentator:  
M Weatherall  
Welcomer: P Jobs  
Reader: M Bridges  
Passion Narrator:  
To be advised  
Passion Others:  
To be advised  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Maria Devine, A  
Rogers  
Computer K Conway  
**9AM** Commentator:

B Maynard  
Welcomer: D  
Robinson  
Reader: Deidre  
Herring  
Passion  
Narrator: Bernie  
Basevi  
Passion Others: N  
Beatty  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
J Wain S Beashel  
Computer T Jackson  
Morning Tea  
Philippino  
Community

## Holy Week Masses

**Holy Thursday**  
**Thursday 6th April 6pm**

**Good Friday 7th April**  
10am Stations of the Cross  
3pm Commemoration of the  
Passion

### Easter Vigil

**Saturday 8th**  
**April - 6pm**

**Easter Sunday**  
**9th April - 9am**



**CHRISM MASS**— MONDAY 3RD APRIL, 5pm @ St Christopher's Cathedral Forrest for this most important Holy Week Ceremony.  
**ALL ARE MOST WELCOME**  
*Everyone is most welcome*

**MULTICULTURAL MASS – Sunday 16 April 11am**  
**St Christopher's Cathedral**

You are warmly invited to the Archdiocese's annual Multicultural Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral – one full of colour, song, and dance. Australia's multicultural heritage is one of the country's great treasures, so come along and join our African, Anglo-Indian, Filipino, Indonesian, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese Catholic communities as we all walk together.

### 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: [m]0428 227 384

Or join a **zoom group** contact Phil  
Billington [m]0428 593 191

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



Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu.

Today, they are creating a better world for  
their families, their communities and for all  
future generations.

Project Compassion is a demonstration  
of the faith, empathy and generosity of  
our supporters. It is the lifeblood of  
Caritas Australia – without it, we could  
not do the vital work we do. Thank you  
for helping transform lives today and for  
all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.  
Together, we can help vulnerable  
communities face their challenges today and  
build a better tomorrow For All Future  
Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion  
donation boxes and envelopes available from  
your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion),  
or by calling 1800 024 413.



### Remembering the Sick:

Carolyn Burns, 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 Odlum, 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:** Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, David Coates, 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

**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*

Pope Francis  
Monthly Prayer  
Intentions

APRIL

**For a culture of peace  
and non violence**

We pray for the spread of  
peace and non violence, by  
decreasing the use of  
weapons by States and  
citizens. .



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



**OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY**  
Fish & Chips, Burgers,  
Sandwiches & Coffee  
**100% BEEF BURGER**  
248 Beach Road  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

**02 4472 1802**

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

**RHYS MAY**  
**0427 373 826**

Clinical  
Psychologist

**Patrick  
Fleming**

Batemans  
Medical Centre  
**Ph: 0412 295 394**

Medicare  
Rebates  
Available



P 4472 1599  
E: [batemansbay@excellprint.com.au](mailto:batemansbay@excellprint.com.au)  
[www.excellprint.com.au](http://www.excellprint.com.au)  
Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy  
Batemans Bay NSW 2536



Ray and Anne Brown



**02 4474 0320**



**EUROCOAST**  
Veterinary Centre

**0488671118**