

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year A

First Reading *Is 55:10-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The rain makes the earth fruitful.
Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing.
(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading *Rom 8:18-23*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.
I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the

beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 13:1-23*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
A sower went out to sow.
Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because

they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION
by Fr Michael Tate
Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No. Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind. But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that: 'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.' We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death. We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass: 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'

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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

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15TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME

YEAR A

Upcoming
Events

Choir Practice
1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30
am Fridays after Mass,
and 1st Saturday of
the month @ 9.30am

ENJOY THE GOOD
NEWS
Wednesdays after 9am
Mass

Cuppa with Mary
MacKillop Tuesday
11th July @ 10-11am
All welcome

Wrap With Love
Wednesday 26th July,
1pm CMR

Craft Group Thursdays
10am
Resumes after school
holidays

ADORATION
TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after Mass
Venue: Corrigans
Cove
All are welcome

... 'Listen, anyone who has ears' ...



The Parable of the Sower

The familiar Parable of the Sower evokes a number of questions: Why did Jesus tell parables? What is their purpose? Why is the Scripture important to our faith? How do we listen to the Scriptures? What is the message about 'Listening'?

Why is Scripture important to our faith?

At the heart of the answer to this question is an understanding of what **Revelation** means. Revelation can be understood as relationship with God. In more formal terms 'Revelation is God's free and loving self-communication, gradually emerging in human history and reaching its fullness in the person and mission of Jesus Christ...humanity being called into communion and relationship with God'. The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) describes the Revelation of God in Judeo-Christian history and experience through the analogy of a 'conversation between friends' and teaches that **Scripture** and the **Tradition** (the living faith experience of the Christian community) are the two sources of God's divine revelation which enable it to be passed from age to age.

The foundational narrative of Revelation, the **Scriptures**, are listened to, interpreted and re-enacted through the worship, teaching, service and witness of the Church's Tradition. Though written in particular contexts and for particular audiences, the Scriptures inspired by the Holy Spirit, are God's living Word for every generation. They communicate God's invitation to friendship and the varied responses of humanity. Grounded in faith, the Church which is the People of God, reads, reflects upon, teaches and learns from Scripture and is guided in its worship, doctrines, prayer and its **mission of self-giving love** in the world.

Jesus told **Parables** which are stories with a lesson, to further invite and engage humanity in a relationship with God. So, what is the message of the Parable of the Sower? Fr Ron Rolheiser provides an insight for us as we listen to this Parable today: 'no farmer would ever do this. Who would waste seed on soil that can never produce a harvest? God, it seems, doesn't ask that question but simply keeps scattering seed everywhere, over-generously, without calculating whether it is a good investment or not. And, it seems, God has an infinite number of seeds to scatter...this speaks of God's infinite love and patience'. (28 May @ronrolheiser.com)

How do we listen...to the Scriptures and in everyday life?

The Scriptures each day carry messages for our lives and our relationships. We are invited through the proclaiming of the Word of God, to listen with open minds, ears. Sr Joan Chittister, a Benedictine provides wisdom about listening: 'Listening is one of the foundations of Benedictine life. When we stop listening to other people in our lives, not only do the relationships deteriorate but we become separated from the well of Wisdom around us... Jesus listened to people. In the bonds he forged with the poor, the sick, the outcast and the foreigner lay compassion, truth, support and growth. First, he listened to what people were saying. Then, he cured them of what they wanted to have cured rather than what others might have decided they needed.' (2021)

In the Parable of the Sower Jesus implores the crowd and us today to
'Listen, anyone who has ears!' We sing this weekend:

'Open my ears Lord, help me to hear your voice, open my ears Lord, help me to hear'

Phil Billington



MASS THIS WEEK
Monday 17th July
Sunday 23rd July

Monday 17th: No Mass
Tuesday 18th: Mass 5pm
Wednesday 19th: Mass 9am
Thursday 20th: Mass 9am
Friday 21st: Mass 9am
Saturday 22nd: Mass 5pm
 Reconciliation 3.30-4.30pm
Sunday 23rd: 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

ROSTERS

15/16 JULY
Cleaning
 17-21 B Coffey/M Paine

5.00PM MASS
 Welcomer P Jobs
 Commentator M Bridges
 Reader S Ebejer
 Eucharistic Ministers
 M Weatherall, Y Oerder
 Computer Screen
 J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:
 Welcomer L Foran
 Commentator L Page
 Reader: A Brown
 Eucharistic Ministers
 M & C Lowe
 Computer Screen T
 Priest.

MORNING TEA:
 J Barroman/G
 Berryman

22/23 JULY
Cleaning
 24-28 R & K Ison

5.00PM MASS
 Welcomer B Oerder
 Commentator S Ebejer
 Reader J O'Sullivan
 Eucharistic Ministers
 J Wain A Rogers
 Computer Screen
 M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:
 Welcomer D Robinson
 Commentator N Beatty
 Reader: M Lowe
 Eucharistic Ministers
 V & C Burns
 Computer Screen D
 May.

MORNING TEA:
 T van den Broek/J
 Barroman



Tuesday August 8th
Feast Day of Mary MacKillop
 We are inviting Parishioners to join us for a Reflection morning in the Church Meeting Room
 Beginning with Morning Tea at 10am - 11-30am. Why not join us and celebrate our first Australian Saint's Feast Day.
All Welcome

St Vincent de Paul needs a Queen size bed – in good order- for a person we have accommodation for.
 Ring Dave May if you can help 0408 627 854 or Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

REMINDER:
 The Parish Sick List will be updated each month. Please email or phone the Parish Office before the end of the month if you would like to include someone's name on the SICK LIST.

ST MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE
EDEN—19th AUGUST, 2023

For those Parishioners who would like to attend, we will be arranging transport options.
 Please put your name down on the list which can be found in the Church foyer if you are available to take a passenger/s with you in your vehicle or if you need a lift.

GATHERING:

Bridging Aboriginal and Christian Spirituality

will take place on *Tuesday August 22nd*, 10am-3pm in the Church Meeting Room. **Guest Speaker**—Loretta Parsley, First Nation's Elder and facilitators Carolyn Evenden & Marie Weatherall.

COST: Free
Morning Tea is provided

BYO Pot Luck Lunch to share.
 All are welcome.

Booking is Essential: by Tuesday August 15th
 Marie 0405 028 057

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



St Vincent de Paul News

St Vincent de Paul needs people to join our Conference Team.

We are serving more people then ever and need help.

Perhaps you can spare some time to help continue our good works in Bateman's Bay.

Enquiries:
 Marie Weatherall [m] 0405 028 057
 Dave May [m] 0408 627 854.



SUNDAY 23RD JULY, 2023

'His mercy ... "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50) is the theme chosen for this Year.

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
 BSB: 062-786
Bank Account: 00012939
Ref: Family Name

Remembering the Sick:

Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Trent Fisk, Carolyn Burns, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter 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, 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, 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: Tony Plascak, Janet Thornbury, Michele (Mick) Ferrante, Barry O'Neill, Frank Belsa, Henry Thomas, Rosa Spano, Geza Markovits, Del Bateman, Kayleen Mortlock, Dan Quigley, Maree O'Brien, Rees De Winter, John Dunne, Maria Ivelja, Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, Christopher Horsfall, Dawn Millman, Mara Pranjic, Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Nita Gorzalka, Linda Russell



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

JULY

For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

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