

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year A

First Reading *Wis 12:13.16-19*

A reading from the book of Wisdom
In the place of sin, you give repentance.
 There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.

2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God.

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading *Rom 8:26-27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself ex-

presses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind 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 13:24-43*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
When words fail

One loves someone so much – a child, a parent, a spouse or partner – yet when one tries to pray for that person the words seem only a pale shadow of the intensity of feeling and total love one feels. Stop! Simply put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us. One's heart is breaking with grief for someone close who is very ill or dying. Or one feels a terrible anxiety or anguish. Words don't come easily even though one wants to pray. Stop! Put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us. Perhaps accentuated by the constant messaging of social media, when trying to pray we can get anxious when there is a lull in the noise and no words come. We could pause for a moment to relax and to allow the Spirit to express our plea in a way which could never be put into words.

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R.E.C: Erica Drewsen

16TH 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

Wrap With Love
Wednesday 26th
July, 1pm CMR

Craft Group
Thursdays 10am

ADORATION
TUESDAYS @ 4pm

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

PARABLES



The Gospel is from Matthew and is known as the "Parables Discourse". Jesus used these parables/stories to address the crowds who flocked to hear Him. Why, then, are these stories of so long ago still regarded as relevant today? What do we understand a parable to be? Do we view a parable as a cleverly designed "story" to draw us into new ways of thinking, reflecting on our own attitudes and behaviour?

Jesus knew His audience and told parables which were set in familiar contexts using recognisable settings and images. However, He would have been aware that still the messages may have been disturbing or mystifying for some.

What has changed? We as the audience may still view the parables as disturbing, mysterious or even as riddles.

Using common and familiar words and phrases such as "sow, seed, harvest, wheat, weeds, yeast, mustard seed, good soil" He told them stories. We need to be aware that Jesus, when telling the parables had a deeper purpose. He was alluding to the Kingdom of God and its growth - sometimes hidden, small beginnings quietly gathering strength. The parables Jesus told, whilst familiar in the agricultural context were also mindful of the social and "religious" attitudes of the time.

We, as the current audience can still learn and glean an understanding from the parables. As Richard Rhor states they can help us understand "what it means to live in the kingdom and be a member of the Church".

Whilst the language may seem "quaint" the message of the kingdom should resonate. Can we recognise the kingdom in our "here and now?" Is it a spiritual reality and not merely an institution. How different in terms of society is our context?

Each of us has a seed planted in our heart but it will only grow if we give it proper care. The first reading however, reminds us that God is the source of all good things, suggesting we are to search for our knowledge from God. The opening statement in the second reading is also a strong reminder and reassurance that the Spirit is always there for us.

The parables provide much food for thought and indeed challenge us to reflect on our attitudes and even choices. To help grow the kingdom we need to be aware of our own imperfections/faults as well as those of the people around us, but also be aware of the positive potential in us all. How can I nurture the wheat in me and those around me? Am I able to accept and forgive the mixed bag of reality in myself and those around me?

The small mustard seed alerts us to the fact that even the smallest acts of kindness and compassion can have an impact.

By our words and actions we can be like the yeast- quiet but powerful. How can I (am I?) spreading the yeast of love, faith and love?

With so much richness in this week's readings may we take time to reflect and find (new) meaning or insights in understanding our part in the Kingdom of God.

Ken and Carolyn Evenden



MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 24th July

Sunday 30th July

Monday 24th: No Mass

Tuesday 25th: Mass 5pm

Wednesday 26th: Mass 9am

Thursday 27th: Mass 9am

Friday 28th: Mass 9am

Saturday 29th: Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30pm

Sunday 30th: Mass 9am

Fr Loi will be away this coming weekend so Fr Kimi will be celebrating Mass on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th.

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

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

29/30 JULY

Cleaning
31-7-4-8 Favetta/
O'Neill/Nugent

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer M Devine
Commentator: P O'Kelly
Reader: J Quigley
Eucharistic Ministers
M O'Neill L Rodwell
Computer Screen
J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer C Connell
Commentator D
Robinson
Reader: A Skinner
Eucharistic Ministers
A Scicluna, S Beashel
Computer Screen T
Priest.

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty/M deSmet

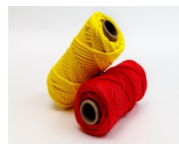


Tuesday August 8th Feast Day of Mary MacKillop

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

Wrap with Love

Is in its 30th year of providing hand made blankets (each 100cm x 175cm) to people in need, locally and throughout the world.



Our local group will be holding its annual Knit-in and display of wraps at the Batemans Bay Library on Tuesday 12th September 10am-1pm.
Tea and coffee provided.

You are welcome to visit or to stay a while and knit, crochet or request information sheets which will be available. **Enquires: Jenny 0414 664 077**

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.

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 Odium, 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 Plascek, 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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