

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

**First Reading** Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6*

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

### Second Reading

*Philippians 2:1-11*  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your

convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*John 10:27*  
Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Matthew 21:28-32*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the king-

dom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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*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

**'No, no, no, no ... Y-yes!'**

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'. That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart. We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span! At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



**ST BERNARD'S PARISH**  
**BATEMANS BAY**  
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**TWENTY SIXTH**  
**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 Tuesday**  
**10th October 10am BBay**  
**Library**  
**All are welcome**

**Croatian Mass Saturday**  
**7th October 11am**

**Craft Group Thursdays**  
**10am—Resumes after school**  
**holidays**

**ADORATION TUESDAYS**  
**@ 4pm**

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

## Are you able to embrace change?

Petrea King in her book 'Your Life Matters' states: 'Our society promotes the illusion that life should begin with a joyful childhood and happy teen years, and that we then enter the career of our choice and excel at it, meet the perfect partner, have wonderful children who always love, honour and respect us, find our ideal home, pay it off effortlessly and all go fishing in our old age.'



King notes: 'Life is more like a roller coaster ride. None of us know what is over the crest or around the corner and the speed at which life travels is rarely up to us ...it is our responsibility to find and fasten our own seat belt, so when the roller coaster unexpectedly swings to the right we could have sworn it was meant to swing to the left, we are more easily able to accept, adjust and respond accordingly. Without the seatbelt is easy to get stuck in: 'This isn't fair, it shouldn't have happened, it was meant to be different from this, I don't deserve this – why me? Mode. While having such thoughts is understandable, getting stuck in that way of thinking can paralyse and embitter us. ...Ultimately to have peace, we need to move beyond resisting, railing or weeping onto acceptance.' [Page 36 – 37]

## Change of Heart

We can never wonder too much the mysterious attraction Jesus has for characters that have their minds well made up, disinclined to submit straight away to what is asked of them. **It is as if Jesus guessed the hidden potential of a rebellious heart and knew that such a questioning heart isn't necessarily blocked.**

In the Gospel today [Matt 21: 28-32] the parable of the two sons is a good example. Here are two sons, who behave so differently towards their father: the first says "No", then is sorry and does what is requested; the second son says "Yes" but does nothing. **The rebellious son seems to have had a change of heart.**

As we reflect on this Gospel we see our own lives reflected in the mirror of the parable. We see ourselves agreeing to something but catch ourselves out by looking around for an escape, an excuse for not doing too much, our frequent backing down and lacking courage. Obedience implies attentive listening and responding – it means appropriate action and not simply saying 'Yes' or 'Amen'. As John Henry Newman states in *Parochial Plain Sermon 1,13*: **'Yet many are there who sit still with folded hands, dreaming doing nothing at all, thinking they have done everything, or need do nothing, when they merely have had these good thoughts, which will save no one.'**

Marie Weatherall



**Mass Schedule**  
**MASSES THIS WEEK**  
**Monday 2nd October**  
**Sunday 8th October**

**Monday 2nd:** No Mass  
**Tuesday 3rd:** Mass 5pm  
 Adoration 4pm  
**Wednesday 4th:** Mass 9am  
**Thursday 5th:** Mass 9am  
**Friday 6th:** Mass 9am  
**Saturday 7th:** Mass 6pm  
 Croatian Mass 11am  
 Reconciliation 4.30-5.30pm  
**Sunday 8th:** Mass 9am

**There will be no Adoration on Tuesday 10th October and Fr John will celebrate Mass at 5pm same day**

**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**

**30 SEPT/1 OCTOBER**  
**Cleaning**  
 2-6 Oct R & K Ison

**5.00PM MASS**  
 Welcomer C. Brownlie  
 Commentator: D Robinson  
 Reader : M Weatherall  
 Eucharistic Ministers  
 M O'Neill Y Oerder  
 Computer Screen  
 K Conway

**9.00 AM MASS:**  
 Welcomer J McClelland  
 Commentator N Beatty  
 Reader: B Basevi  
 Eucharistic Ministers  
 A Skinner D Herring  
 Computer Screen T Priest.

**MORNING TEA:**  
 Filipino Community

**7/8 OCTOBER**  
**Cleaning**  
 9-13 Favetta/O'Neill/  
 Nugent

**6.00PM MASS**  
 Welcomer J Anderson  
 Commentator: P O'Kelly  
 Reader: S Ebejer  
 Eucharistic Ministers  
 K Lovering, M  
 Weatherall  
 Computer Screen  
 K Conway

**9.00 AM MASS:**  
 Welcomer T van den  
 Broek  
 Commentator A Skinner  
 Reader: L Page  
 Eucharistic Ministers  
 L Stevens, K Corbin  
 Computer Screen D May.  
**MORNING TEA:**  
 M Vidovic & Zdenka

With THANKSGIVING to ALMIGHTY GOD  
 The ARCHDIOCESE of CANBERRA & GOULBURN  
 Invite you to THE DIACONATE ORDINATION of  
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 On FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER @ 5PM  
 St Christopher's Cathedral  
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 Kindly RSVP by 25th OCTOBER  
 marcokhoithang@gmail.com or 0455288443

**The Parish Office will let you know re transport options closer to the date**

**Journeying Together**  
**Prayer Pilgrimage towards the First Assembly of**  
**The Synod of Bishops, October 2023**



**October's focus is the Synod and the participants as it progresses.**

God of the Lead and Lure, Sharpen the perception of those who will gather for the Synod. May they listen carefully to each other and discern the deep truth of the Spirit's promptings. Lord, hear us.

God of the Vision, lead us past the cramped and crumpled ruin of our personal dreams into a future full of possibilities to not only see more but be more of the future you call your Church to become. Lord, hear us.

God of our Dreaming, be with the Synod delegates when they gather next month.. May they see through the murky cloudiness of sentimentality and convention into the bright daylight of a church made young and new. Lord, hear us.

God of Possibilities, unclench our white-knuckled grasp on what we hold as non-negotiable and lead us into a future redolent with open handed generosity towards all, especially those on the margins of our community. Lord, hear us.

God of the Wilderness, the recent years have been a journey of desert proportions: sexual abuse, Covid-19, floods, fires and international conflict. Remembering this journey, may our synodal delegates set their faces like flint and discern your Wisdom for a world groaning to be born anew. Lord, hear us.  
<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/synod-will-be-an-aussie-affair/>

**MARIAN PROCESSION**

2023

Sunday—October 22

**@ The restored and rededicated STS PETER & PAUL OLD CATHEDRAL, GOULBURN**

10am—2pm

Please see poster in church foyer for further details

**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 Acc:** 00012939**Ref:** Family Name

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October is *Respect Life Sunday* in our Archdiocese.**

The Archbishop will highlight current life issues at the 11am Cathedral Mass which will be followed by a luncheon & brief presentations by those working & advocating on life issues including:

Archdiocesan Chancellor, Dr Patrick McArdle, and representatives from [HOPE Australia](#); [ACT Right To Life](#) & [First Steps Pregnancy Support](#)

Archbishop Christopher Prowse will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass at 11 AM on October 1st at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Following will be a light luncheon in the Haydon Hall including brief inputs from those working at the coalface in caring and advocating for human life in its most vulnerable stages.

RSVP for luncheon @ [www.cgatholic.org.au/respect-life/](http://www.cgatholic.org.au/respect-life/) Enquiries: [Lara Kirk](mailto:Lara.Kirk@cg.org.au) [ra.kirk@cg.org.au](mailto:ra.kirk@cg.org.au) 0429 192 869

For more information on Respect Life Sunday follow this link <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/event/respect-life-sunday/>

**Cuppa with Mary MacKillop**

will take place in St Bernard's Church Meeting Room on Tuesday Oct 10th from 10 am – 11 am

**All Welcome.**

Enquiries: Marie W 0405 028 057

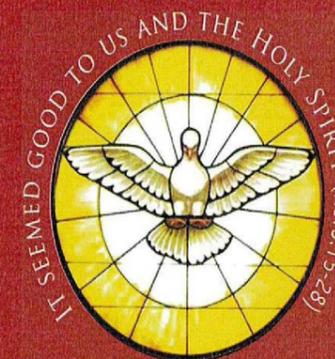
**Remembering the Sick:**

Maria de Rocco, Pam Wilson, Laurence Foran, Julie Morgan, 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:** Fr Don Gunn, Krsto Jarnjevic, Julie McDonald, 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

**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**



**YEAR OF THE Holy Spirit**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolations. Through the same Christ Our Lord

AUGUST 2023 - AUGUST 2024

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

**October**

**For the Synod**

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

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