

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
Third Sunday of Advent Year B  
First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. ‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. ‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’

*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54, R. Is 61:10

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked, ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.’ Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*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  
Witness to the Light

St John’s Gospel never calls John, ‘the Baptist’. No, he is John the Witness: ‘a witness to speak for the Light’. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus

Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ’s body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb. We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as ‘Christ our Light’, the Conqueror of Death. As a baptised people our allegiance to ‘The Light’ is not to be a private matter between ‘me and God’. No, like John, we must bear witness to ‘The Light’ by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people’s lives. We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

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ZOOM ROSARY

You are invited to join us to  
pray the Rosary  
via Zoom.

TO JOIN:

Meeting No: 697 896 1059  
Password: 8Py80J

Every Wednesday &  
Friday @ 4pm  
Every night @ 8.30pm



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

**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

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

THIRD  
SUNDAY of  
ADVENT  
YEAR B



Upcoming  
Events

Choir Practice  
1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30  
am Fridays after Mass

Advent II Rite  
Reconciliation  
Wednesday 20th  
December 6pm

ENJOY THE GOOD  
NEWS  
Resumes 2024

Wrap With Love  
Resumes 2024

Craft Group Thursdays  
Resumes 2024

ADORATION  
TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB  
Thursdays after Mass  
Venue: Corrigans  
Cove  
Resumes 2024

Gaudete Sunday! Rejoice and be Glad!

This Sunday marks the halfway point of Advent. It gives us a chance to pause and remind ourselves of the pending occasion of our preparation-Christmas-the birth of Jesus. To help us be joyful, a pink candle is lit and rose coloured vestments are worn. Pink or rose colour is the liturgical colour for joy and also a reminder of the dawn not far away - the birth of Jesus.

With all that is happening in our world we need to stop and ask ourselves- Why rejoice? About what?

Isaiah, in the first reading reminds us that “ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me...”That statement is followed by a list of what we could view as expectations for us to accomplish. Even though the reading was written a long time ago there are many words common to our time- broken hearts, freedom, prison, integrity. We may,however, have a broader understanding e.g. poverty being social, emotional, spiritual, economic; prison/captivity, compulsions, addictions, consumerism. Then there are those who are unable to speak up or have nothing creative to say. We, who have been anointed can accept blessings if we are faithful and have an openness for where God leads us. Again, another timely reminder to be missionary disciples.

The opening sentence of the second reading is unambiguous and perhaps seemingly unreasonable but then again there is the unwritten suggestion that we learn to rely more on the Spirit, be hopeful in the face of challenges and be open to where we are being led.

We remember that during this season of Advent we are preparing for the the coming of Jesus who is entering our humanity and perhaps a new beginning for some of us.His birth means He will feel what we feel and make it possible for us then, to have a relationship with His Father and the Spirit.(Isaiah)

“A man came...His name was John” John the Baptist coming out the desert was strong in his statement that “I am not the Christ”. He showed humility in that he described himself as a witness only-“a witness to speak for the light” which is coming. John came to fulfil his mission, to prepare the way for the Lord. John saw himself as Isaiah prophesied “ a voice that cries in the wilderness”. What is that light? Can we regard it as a metaphor for clarity and vision?

Like John we can be the voice of Christ in our troubled world and by our actions we can bring “light” to some paths.The readings are closely and cleverly connected. Jesus is sent to be the Light showing us the way. There are people waiting for us to shine the Light of Christ through us on them turning their lives perhaps into experiences of joy, wholeness and integrity.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and share our familiar customs of using gifts, food and gatherings to express who we are and whom we love we need to be aware that Jesus keeps stretching us, enlarging our vision. Perhaps we realise our concern should not be just about ourselves and our families.

There is much rejoicing to be done! We need to be grateful and happy that we have much to share with one another as well as having the courage to step out of our comfort zone and as Veronica Lawson RSM said “ The global conflicts of the present might serve to sharpen our awareness of who we are and how we are called to witness to “ the Light” who proclaimed a message of peace.

Ken and Carolyn Evenden





## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Monday 18th December**

**Sunday 24th December**

**Monday 18th:** No Mass

**Tuesday 19th:** Mass 5pm

Adoration 4pm

**Wednesday 20th:** Mass 9am

**Advent II Rite Reconciliation 6pm**

**Thursday 21st:** Mass 9am

**Friday 22nd:** Mass 9am

**Saturday 23rd:** Mass 6pm

Reconciliation 4.30-5.30pm

**Sunday 24th:** Mass 9am

(Christmas Eve) 6pm & 8pm

## 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

#### 16/17 DECEMBER

##### Cleaning

18-22 Favetta/O'Neill/Nugent

##### 6.00PM MASS

Welcomer: B Oerder  
Commentator: S Ebejer  
Reader: M Bridges  
Eucharistic Minister  
J Wain  
Computer Screen  
K Conway

##### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L Pagel  
Commentator: C Lowel  
Reader: M Lowe  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L Stevens, C Schor  
Computer Screen D May

##### MORNING TEA:

M & S Beashel, L Foran

### 23/24 DECEMBER

#### Cleaning

25-29 D & L May

##### 6.00PM MASS

Welcomer K Conway  
Commentator P O'Kelly  
Reader S Ebejer  
Eucharistic Ministers  
A Rogers  
Computer Screen  
M O'Neill

##### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer Volunteer  
Commentator A Jackson  
Reader: T Jackson  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L & N Page  
Computer Screen T  
Priest.

##### MORNING TEA:

No Morning Tea

## Advent program for 2023

The first session of the Advent program will begin on Wednesday 29th November and will run for the following three Wednesdays—6th, 13th, 20th December.

9.30-11am in the Church Meeting Room.

Facilitated by: Marie Weatherall

For info ph: 0405 028 057

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal:

### THANK YOU SO MUCH!

St Vincent de Paul would like to thank St Bernard's Parishioners for gifting us with **\$5,732-00 in Cash and Gift Cards** for our Christmas Hampers for 80 families and Gift Cards for presents for 110 children. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and support. **Christmas Blessing on you all.**

Many thanks Marie W

## Christmas Mass Collection for 2023 Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!

Help life saving assistance to refugees fleeing violence; including evacuation, food, shelter as well as student assistance in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Communities in India, Africa and the Solomon Islands are also assisted.

**Donations can also be sent to:** Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.

<b>ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL</b>							
I would like my donation to be:   \$20   \$50   \$100   \$150   Other \$ _____							
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/D/Rev _____ (Block letters please)							
Address _____							
Postcode _____							
Please find enclosed my   Cheque   Money Order							
I prefer to use my   Bankcard   Visa   Mastercard							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed _____		Expires _____/____					
Please send to:		Archbishop's Christmas Appeal Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601					
In _____							

## Transport needed:

We have a lady and one teenager wanting to come to Sat Vigil **or** Sunday morning Mass from Wharf Road, Nth Bateman's Bay. I would like to start a roster – if you are able to assist even if it is once a month please let me know.  
Marie  
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

**BSB: 062-786 Bank Acc:**

00012939

Ref: Family Name

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



**Sunday 24 December**

6pm Family Mass

8pm Mass with Carols at 7.30pm

**Monday 25 December**

10am Mass with Carols at 9.30am

## COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

@ Salvation Army and

Anglican Church

A community event for those who are alone or in need

Please call 02 4472 9644

Numbers are limited. Due to Covid19 restrictions, bookings by 18th December are essential



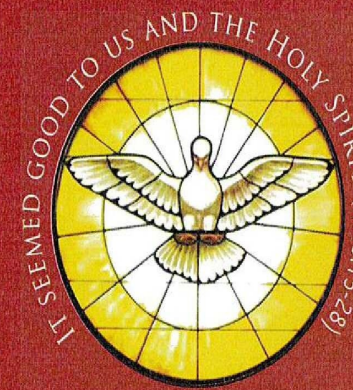
**The Piety shop has Christmas cards and Columban Calendars for sale**

### Remembering the Sick:

John De Smet, Lynette Arundel, Kevin & Pat Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, 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, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, 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:** Francis Bezzina, Paul O'Callaghan, Barbara Fogerty rsj, Carmen Morphet, Anne Dryden, Pam Wilson, Drago Bandur, Shirley House, Vin Taylor, Fr Don Gunn, Krsto Jarnjevic, Tony Plascak, Janet Thornbury, Michele (Mick) Ferrante, Barry O'Neill, Frank Belsa, Henry Thomas, Rosa Spano, Geza Markovits, Del Bateman, Kayleen Mortlock, M aree O'Brien, John Dunne, Maria Ivelja, Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, Christopher Horsfall, Dawn Millman



## 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

## December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years  
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### 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  
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RHYS MAY

0427 373 826

Clinical Psychologist

**Patrick Fleming**

Batemans Medical Centre  
Ph: 0412 295 394

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E: batemansbay@excellprint.com.au  
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