

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B
First Reading
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’ But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”’

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, R. see v.2
(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.)
2. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.’
3. He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.
(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.
Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
You will conceive and bear a son.
The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.
The Gospel of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

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The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
‘Spirit Hovering’
St Luke’s account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: ‘There was darkness over the deep and God’s Spirit hovered over the water. God said: “Let there be light”, and there was light.’ (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.’ The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary’s womb. A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God’s will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God’s Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan. We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: ‘Be it done unto me according to your word.’
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PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT
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St Bernard’s Operating
BSB: 062-786 Bank Acc:
00012939Ref: Family Name

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.
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Tuesday-Friday
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Secretary: Roslynn Trompp
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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

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR B

Upcoming Events

Choir Practice 1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am Fridays after Mass

ENJOY THE GOOD NEWS Resumes 2024

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, Mother of GOD 9 AM Mass Monday 1st January 2024

Wrap With Love Resumes 2024

Craft Group Thursdays Resumes 2024

ADORATION TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB Thursdays after Mass Venue: Corrigans Cove Resumes 2024

“I am the Lord’s servant, may it happen...”

Who is Mary?

In the Gospel of Luke this week, we get a clear understanding of Mary- her personality and indeed her faith. As Advent draws to a close, Mary, by being courageous in saying “YES” to God’s plan, encapsulates the Advent spirit of hopeful waiting. Mary was showing us how to listen to God’s voice in our daily lives, to trust and to respond.

Mary, a young woman growing up in an out of the way town/ village not unlike some parts of our world, where people are oppressed and suffering, was taken aback when an Angel spoke to her. She was troubled by the greeting “favoured one”. Knowing well the traditions of her people, Mary knew and realised that those who are addressed in that manner are called to be agents of God’s work, entrusted with heavy responsibilities.

A transformation took place as Mary said “Yes” not really knowing or fully understanding what God was asking of her. She believed however, that it could be done if she acted accordingly. God was calling her to the way of faith and in this action she is a model for us all. God’s choosing Mary should remind us that God chooses individuals (us) for specific purposes. We can trust and submit even when those purposes seem unexpected and challenging.

Mary’s “YES” ushers in a new time. God dwells not just among us but within us through Jesus. This event will happen through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As Advent draws to a close and we move from waiting to expectation, we can experience a transformation too. A new beginning perhaps or a better relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We may need to consider areas of our life or relationships that God may be asking us to transform. What needs to be born anew in us?

As our Christmas preparations take lots of energy and time we could perhaps take some time to reflect on Mary’s approach to the occasion. She responded to God with an attitude of listening and trust, being a model of prayer and faith for us. Fr. Richard Rohr tells us that “Prayer is getting in touch with reality, letting it speak to us. We let it happen”.

Hopefully this season of Advent has given us the time and opportunity to reflect on what Advent means and how we can prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day is the culmination of our Advent preparations and meditations. Hopefully then, we have discovered or rediscovered a sense of belonging and connectedness to one another as Jesus enters our humanity, shining His light on and through us. We can be witnesses if we are living in the Light. Our faith as modelled by Mary is a relationship with a loving God. As we celebrate Christmas let us reflect on how we can carry the presence of Christ into our world living out the Gospels in our actions.

Let us pray on this Christmas Day that God’s grace and mercy touch the hearts of many.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Ken and Carolyn Evenden



MASS THIS WEEK

Monday 25th December

Sunday 31st December

Monday 25th: Christmas Day

9.30am Carols, Mass 10am

Tuesday 26th: Mass 5pm
Adoration 4pm

Wednesday 27th: Mass 9am

Thursday 28th: Mass 9am

Friday 29th: Mass 9am

Saturday 30th: Mass 6pm

Reconciliation 4.30-5.30pm

Sunday 31st: Mass 9am

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. May this season fill your homes with love, warmth and the spirit of togetherness. We wish you a truly blessed and Merry Christmas.

MASSES IN AGED CARE FACILITIES WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY 2024. For emergency and anointing of the sick call Fr Loi on 0450 699 363

ROSTERS

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

30/31 DECEMBER

Cleaning

1-5 M deSmet/J Maher

6.00PM MASS

Welcomer
Commentator M Bridges
Reader J Quigley
Eucharistic Ministers
M O'Neill
Computer Screen
K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer T Van den Broek
Commentator C Lowe
Reader: M Lowe
Eucharistic Ministers
K Corbin, L Stevens
Computer Screen D
May.

MORNING TEA:

Nola Beatty



2023 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

LOVE ALWAYS TRIUMPHS

The birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, always triumphs over the darkness.

The hope and light of the First Christmas in the Gospels is proclaimed from the darkness of the night. There is a star that guides. There is the joyful light that the shepherds, the Magi, and all creation encounter in the humble stable.

The surrounding "night" is not simply due to the fact of no sun. It is because there is no Son (of God) in the hearts of some. There are those who plot the killing of the Christ Child. Jesus himself is clothed in cloths and placed in a wooden crib — all suggesting a future death on Calvary. There is no hospitality for the "Prince of Peace" here.

This pattern continues even today. There is the continuing darkness of the wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Africa and other places. Let us not forget that war is always a defeat for humanity — here darkness is chosen over the light of love and peace-making.

There is also the challenge in Australia of re-imagining our relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the defeat of the Voice Referendum. Also, with the upward trend of the cost of living, this Christmas will be tough for so many to provide the necessities of table and shelter for their loved ones.

Yet, in the midst of these many darknesses, dawns the triumph of Divine Love found in the birth of the Son of God — Jesus, love itself.

Let us in silence and adoration invite this Christmas light, that chases away the long darkness of loneliness and isolation, to triumph in our hearts, our families and our communities!

Let Christmas joy have a practical expression in helping others. Please give generously to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. It will assist greatly places of need throughout the world.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL	
I would like my donation to be: \$20 \$50 \$100 \$150 Other \$ _____	
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/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 _____	

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.

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

Stamps December 2023

On behalf of Mary MacKillop
Today, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps.

We have had a wonderful year, raising approximately \$33,600. A great effort from many, many people!

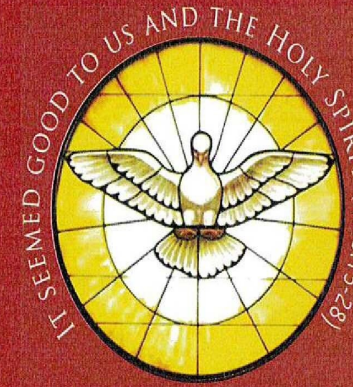
From 2001 until now, the total raised is \$519,650. There was great excitement as we exceeded the half million dollar mark. Well done all.

It is through your efforts that the legacy of St Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*Sr Helen Saunders
For Sister of St Joseph*

THANK YOU St Bernard's and Mini Vinnie's for gifting St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal with \$370 and gift vouchers and Carroll College for \$700 ... what a wonderful gift to our disadvantaged families.



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.

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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 Morphett, 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