

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A
First Reading/ Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13
A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1
(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.
(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.
You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and

truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.
The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’
They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man.

‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.
Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is

so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.
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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Spittle and Mud
Our Lord, by the power of his word alone, could have healed the dis-ease of this man, blind since birth. Yet, he made a paste with spittle and put it over the eyes of the blind man. Just as God would have moistened the dust of the earth to shape the first human being, for the blind man, it was as though he had been created anew. God rarely works by telepathy but has a preferred way of working through the elements of creation, especially in the Sacraments. So, with the Anointing of the Sick, pressing olive oil onto the forehead and hands of the sick or dying symbolises the Holy Spirit entering the very pores of the sick person, relieving that person of undue anxiety and giving strength for the next stage of life. This sacrament is a formal ritual of healing by the Church. But there are a million informal ways, such as putting one’s arm around someone who is lonely or unwell, which are sacramental to the world. We could pause for a moment that we might go into the world like the man healed by Jesus, eyes wide open to see where we might exercise the healing power of the Lord of the Gospel.

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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

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



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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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Secretary: Roslynn Trompp
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Asst. PC Co-ord: Carolyn Evenden

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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 LENT
YEAR B

CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30
am Fridays after
Mass

Stations of the
Cross with Soup
Dinner every Friday
evening until Easter
@ 5.30pm

Wrap With Love
Tuesday 12th
March
10am B/Bay
Library/
Wednesday 27th
March 1pm CMR

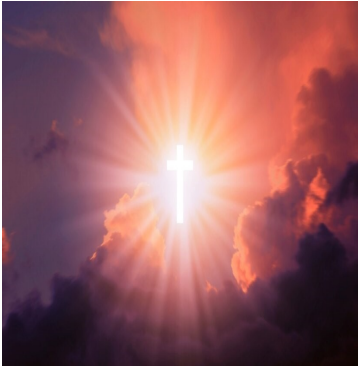
Craft Group 10am
Thursdays Church
Meeting Room

ADORATION
TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after
Mass
Venue: Corrigans
Cove

The Paradox of Darkness.

Many authors refer to images and realities of light and darkness found throughout the human experience. Noel Davis, a spiritual writer, speaks of the grace-filled seduction of approaching dusk and darkness in his book “Heart Gone Walkabout”. He invites us to: ‘Come into the quiet and be gracious with time and yourself. ‘Take off’ your thoughts, anxieties, expectations and lay them aside. Ease into the silence and surrender to the stillness...let its joy and ease accompany you through the stresses and anxieties of everyday life.’



Davis is well aware that darkness and the silence of the evening can settle us. On the other hand, darkness can be a fearful and overwhelming place. Yann Matel in the ‘Life of Pi’ relates the experience of Pi, a 16 year old, experiencing a ship wreck in the night, that kills his family. Pi states: ‘I felt the night in me, I was very afraid.’ – The ship was listing badly. Running to crew members for help he states ‘they took hold of me and lifted me in their strong arms. I thought nothing of it. I thought they were helping me. I was full of trust in them that I felt grateful as they carried me in the air. Only when they threw me overboard did I begin to have doubts.’ [pg.105]

A Burst of Light

In the Gospel today, John 3: 14-21, the Pharisee, Nicodemus, comes to Jesus in the dark, [Jn 3:11 – 21] while questioning and searching for truth. It becomes clear to the reader he needs to tear himself from the ‘dark’ and open himself up fully to the Light found in Jesus.

Nicodemus, like all of us, is made up of shadow and light. Nicodemus is the seeker by night who is left in confusion, only to reappear in Jn 19:39 to help care for Jesus’ body. He has emerged from darkness into light over the course of Jesus’ ministry. The Gospel reassures us, that the Son came to save, to grant eternal life because God so loved the world.

Sarah Henrick, [2023] in her reflection on this Gospel points out that ‘Jesus is God’s expression of love and longing. The Light comes to find us, to illuminate our path for our sake, because God wants us. God reaches out through the Son with the sheer purpose of sharing everlasting life with us.’

Pope Francis, before a huge crowd of young people in Portugal, said: ‘Dear young friends, today we need something of this burst of light, so that it can fill us with hope as we face the many failures of each day and the darkness that assails us in life, and respond to them with the light of the resurrection of Jesus. For he is the light that never sets, the light that shines even in the dead of night.’ [Far East Magazine Jan - Feb 2023, pg 6]

This week let us look clearly at our lives, appreciate the gracious gift of God as a gift of love, and live in fearless confidence of that love.

Marie Weatherall



MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 11th March

Sunday 17th March

Monday 11th: No Mass

Tuesday 12th: Mass 5pm

Adoration 4pm

Wednesday 13th: Mass 9am

Thursday 14th: Mass 9am

Friday 15th: Mass 9am

Saturday 16th: Mass 6pm

Reconciliation 4.30-5.30pm

Sunday 17th: 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

Rosters for Holy Week If you would like to assist with the ceremonies in Holy Week and have not let Anne know, could you please put your name where you are available on the list under the noticeboard in the foyer or email the Parish Office. Thank you

ROSTERS

9/10 MARCH Cleaning

11-15 M DeSmet J
Maher
6.00PM MASS
Welcomer: K Conway
Commentator: S Ebejer
Reader: J Mackay
Eucharistic Ministers
M Bridges
Computer Screen
M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer D May
Commentator: N Beatty
Reader: D Herring
Eucharistic Ministers
N & L Page
Computer Screen T
Priest....

MORNING TEA:
J Barroman/G
Berryman

COUNTERS: B Basevi

16/17 MARCH

Cleaning

18-22 B Coffey/M Paine

6.00PM MASS

Welcomer Volunteer
Commentator M O'Neill
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers
L Rodwell
Computer Screen
K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer T van den
Broek
Commentator L Page
Reader: B Basevi
Eucharistic Ministers
L Stevens, A Scicluna
Computer Screen D
May.

MORNING TEA:

M & S Beashel L

Foran
COUNTERS:
D & L May

THE PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM continues each
Wednesday until Easter in the Church Meeting Room
@ 9.30 am-11am AFTER MASS

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH
WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Australia Catholic University's online training program is one of the most comprehensive online liturgical ministry training programs for Catholic parishes in Australia. Enrolment is now open for the next program which starts on **Tuesday 9 April** and runs online over four weeks until **Tues 14 May 2024**. For further information:

www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training

Fr John Walter will be celebrating Mass this Week Tuesday 12th March—Friday 15th March as Fr Loi will be away.

This Weekend we welcome Lance Quodding into our faith community through the waters of baptism. May God's love and blessings be upon him on this baptism day and always.

Pastoral Care One Day Introductory Course

For those who would like to join the PC Team or those who would like to review their pastoral practice.

Saturday March 23rd from 9am – 4pm @ St Bernard's
Parish Office.

Cost/Resources: Free

BYO Lunch. Booking essential: **RSVP March 19th.**

Enquiries: Marie W: 0405 028 057

Visitation & HC to Residents at The Glen

We need one person to join our roster to The Glen. We visit and take HC to six residents and visit two others. It would be once a month.

Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

Holy Week Timetable

Holy Thursday

Thursday 28th March - Mass 6pm

Good Friday 29th March—

10am Stations of the Cross

3pm Commemoration of the Passion

Saturday 30th March

Confession 10am-12 noon

Easter Vigil

Saturday 30th March - Mass 6pm

Easter Sunday

31st March - Mass 9am

Cursillo Retreat, 12-14 April, St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong

Cursillo provides an opportunity for men and women to renew and deepen their faith life through a program of talks, meditations and prayer.

For further information contact Irma & Joe at irmandjoe@gmail.com



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.



With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enroll at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

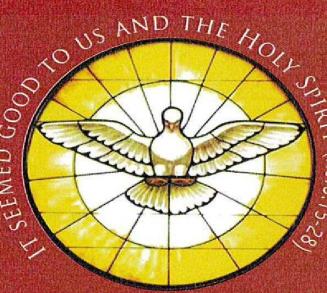
Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

Remembering the Sick:

Karen Nixon, John de Smet, 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: : Suzanne Houssard, Nancy Sykes, Lillian Burkinshaw, Lynette Arundel, Patricia McKeough, Ivan Trojkovic, Gerard Carew, Brian O'Connor, Annie Scicluna, 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 Miillman



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

Farewell and Thank You Morning Tea for Phil Billington

will take place after the 9am Mass on
Palm Sunday March 24.

Phil has given very generously of her time and expertise to our Parish and St Vincent de Paul and so we hope you can join us in thanking her and wishing her well for the future. **Enquiries:** Mick Lowe [m] 0466 790 567

**Pope Francis Monthly
Prayer Intentions
MARCH**

For the new martyrs

We pray that those
who risk their lives
for the Gospel in
various parts of the
world inflame the
Church with their
courage and
missionary
enthusiasm.

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