

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah  
*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

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

Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 50:3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12*

**(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin.
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

**(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Second Reading *Hebrews 5:7-9*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

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

Gospel Acclamation *John 12:26*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel *John 12:20-33*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

*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

**We want to see Jesus**

I can observe a baby, but the parents ‘see’ their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response. This Gospel pas-

sage begins with a request from some Greeks ‘to see Jesus’, surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response. And there was a response full of allusions to the future. Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground. Our Lord says of that scene: ‘When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.’ How were people drawn to this scene? People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life. We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

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**COMBINED CHURCHES  
PALM SUNDAY WALK**

Meet@ 11am at the boat ramp  
and walk over the bridge to  
Korners park.

There will be a worship service  
held in the park. And a sausage  
sizzle for a gold coin donation.

Please take your palms and a  
chair if needed.

**PARISH FINANCIAL  
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**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



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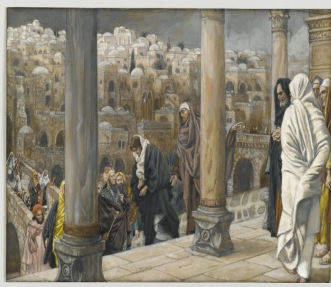
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E: batemansbay@cg.org.au  
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay  
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Tuesday-Friday

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**FIFTH 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**  
**Wednesday 27th**  
**March 1pm CMR**

**Craft Group 10am**  
**Thursdays Church**  
**Meeting Room**

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

**COFFEE CLUB**  
**Thursdays after**  
**Mass**  
**Venue: Corrigan's**  
**Cove**

**NOW THE HOUR HAS COME...**

Whilst the end of our Lenten journey is close, the readings of this fifth Sunday of Lent further explain our journey, what we may encounter and the benefits awaiting us as the “hour” is fast approaching.

As we read and reflect on the Gospel according to John, we become aware that it is filled with symbolism. We also get an understanding of the humanity of Jesus- this aspect of Jesus is sometimes overlooked. These points, as well as a reflection on Jeremiah’s reading and the one from Hebrews may further highlight our taking more time to think of our own Lenten journey thus far, and the consequences of the coming of the “hour” for us.

The Gospel tells us that among those going to Jerusalem for Passover were some Greeks. Veronica Lawson RSM suggests that these people in the early church were known as “God fearers” and suggests that they were a bit like RCIA candidates in the Catholic tradition, showing an active interest in and being well informed about traditions. There is also some thought that they may have been the first Gentiles to join the early Christian Jewish movement. There was some animosity between Jesus and some Jews who were referred to as unbelieving Jews. These Jews and the Pharisees could symbolise a more ritualistic religion which did not necessarily acknowledge a personal relationship with Jesus, a relationship Jesus worked hard to achieve. The arrival of these people signal to Jesus that His “hour” has come.

It is in this Gospel that we can see the human side of Jesus. He is troubled and calls to his Father for help and indeed save Him. Jesus then talks about a grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying before yielding a rich harvest. The grain of wheat analogy suggests “community” and “discipleship” which in turn translates into Christianity - allowing the Gospel to work: healing relationships, forming relationships and demonstrating trust in God. A symbol of how big a community can grow if we believe and “follow Him” and be rewarded by the Father.

Jeremiah tells us about a new covenant that will be written, this one written on hearts symbolising an unbreakable relationship with God, transforming our hearts and lives. We are to become His people and He our God.

The reading from Hebrews highlights that even Jesus “learned to obey through suffering”. Is this a gentle reminder that our life may not always be easy or without pain & worry?

As Lent comes to an end we still have time to reflect on our personal “hour”.

What is my personal covenant/ relationship with God and how does it play out in my daily life?

Like Jesus, we also experience difficulties. He forewarned us that to follow Him would require sacrifice. Our sacrifice, however small/slight is still important- giving some time to help someone, putting the needs of others before our own.

Most importantly, we can cry out, ask for help. Our cries may not result in the answer we want but with trust there will a greater sense of calm.

Whilst our Lenten journey is coming to an end we should remember, that from a grain of wheat a rich harvest can be yielded. We, as a community are part of that harvest and as a member of that genuine community we should have an awareness/ understanding of discipleship and how we as participants play a vital role.

LET US TAKE TIME THIS WEEK TO PREPARE FOR THE HOUR.

**Ken and Carolyn Evenden**





## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Monday 18th March**

**Sunday 24th March**

**Monday 18th:** No Mass

**Tuesday 19th:** Mass 5pm

Adoration 4pm

**Wednesday 20th:** Mass 9am

**Thursday 21st:** Mass 9am

**Friday 22nd:** Mass 9am

**Saturday 23rd:** Mass 6pm

Reconciliation 4.30-5.30pm

**Sunday 24th:** Passion

Sunday 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

#### 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

#### 23/24 MARCH

##### Cleaning

24/31 R & K Ison

#### 6.00PM MASS

Welcomer B Oerdel  
Commentator: J Quigley  
Reader: S Ebejer:  
**Passion Narrator:**  
M Weatherall  
**Passion Others:**  
Mary O'Neill  
Eucharistic Ministers  
A Rogers  
Computer Screen  
K Conway

#### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L Foran  
Commentator S Beashel  
Reader: A Skinner . . .  
**Passion Narrator:**  
M Lowe

#### Passion Others:

C. Lowe  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L Rodwell, J Wain  
Computer Screen T Priest  
**MORNING TEA:**  
N Beatty/M de Smet  
**COUNTERS:**  
T Priest P Wilden

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

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

### **Holy Week Timetable**

#### Holy Thursday

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Mass 6pm**

**Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March-**

**10am Stations of the Cross**

**3pm Commemoration of the Passion**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**Confession 10am-12 noon**

**Easter Vigil**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Mass 6pm**

**Easter Sunday**

**31<sup>st</sup> March - Mass 9am**

### **GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL FOR THE HOLY LAND 2024**

Envelopes will be on the pews for this Appeal and we will be taking up a collection during the service. Please feel free to use the *tap and go* if you prefer. We thank you for your generosity in assisting this important pastoral ministry of the Franciscan Friars.

### **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

### ***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 0466 790 567

### **PARISH MINISTRIES**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for the various ministries and activities in the Parish. Once everyone has provided their Working with Children Check and you are aware of what is involved in the role you will be added to the roster

### **Visitation & HC Volunteers Required**

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.

We need someone to visit & take HC to a lady in Bateman's Bay who is house bound. You would be on a monthly roster.

**Enquiries:** Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.



Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities .

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

#### **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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

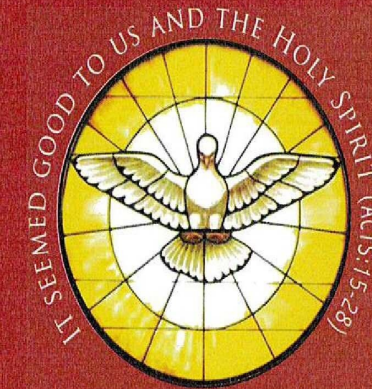
Photo: Richard Wainwright / Caritas Australia

### **Remembering the Sick:**

Karen Nixon, John de Smet, Kevin & Pat Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Laurence Foran, 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:** : Julie Morgan, 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

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.

**BATEMANS BAY & MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS**

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