

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B
First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:26-28, 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever!

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.'

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John
His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and

whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

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
Spiritual Drink

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history. There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen? For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.' So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires. We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

ZOOM ROSARY

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

TO JOIN:
Meeting No: 697 869 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 JP
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

FIFTH SUNDAY
Of EASTER



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass

Wrap With Love
Tuesday 14th May 10am
-12md BBLibrary

Enjoy the Good News
Wednesdays after 9am
Mass

Croatian Mass Saturday
4th May 11am

Cuppa with Mary
MacKillop Tuesday May
7th 10am @ the the
home of Mary O'Neill

Parish Sacramental
Confirmation Program
Enrolment Evening
Thursday 9th May 5pm
Church

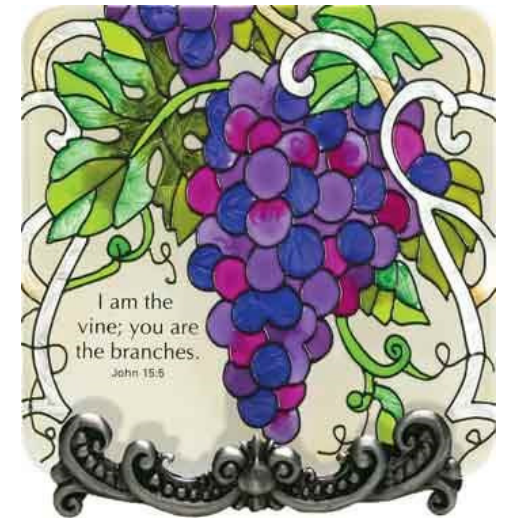
Craft Group 10am
Thursdays Church Meeting
Room

ADORATION TUESDAYS
@ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after Mass
Venue: Corrigan Cove

A Container of God's Presence!

Joyce Rupp in her Book: *'The Cup of our Life'* finds herself, after a walk on a cold winter's day, reflecting on a cup of freshly brewed, steaming hot coffee. She reflects: 'My coffee mug reminds me that that cups are containers designed to hold something refreshing, just as **we are containers meant to hold the Divine Presence.** Because God dwells within me, I like to think of myself as a mini Ark of the Covenant. God goes with me wherever I go. **I carry God into each relationship and experience. A powerful thought, that one!** God is no longer just 'out there', God is also here within us. We have become the home of God. [1997, pgs. 27-28]



In the Hebrew Scriptures we find this Divine Presence everywhere, always calling to people wherever they may be.

Abide in Me

In today's Gospel - John 15: 1-8 Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine and the Vine Grower. Jesus as the true Vine and the life source of us: 'the branches'. The Scriptures reveal a God who tends to the flourishing of the branches and likewise will remove [s] every branch that gives no yield [Jn 15:2]. **What is the key for this work of the Vineyard? It is abiding!**

What is the meaning of abiding in Jesus, the Risen One, during this post Resurrection season? First the relationship of abiding means that **we 'cannot go it alone' in our spiritual lives**, what Parker Palmer once described as a 'free floating spirituality'. Jesus notes the impossible cannot happen: 'the branches cannot bear fruit by itself unless you abide in me.' [Jn 15: 4] Is the process of reliance on the vine and easy one? Hardly! The Vine Grower will deal with the branches in a manner that will alter their very being. **Jesus reminds them that 'every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.'** [Jn15:26]. This reliance, of abiding in Jesus means change – expanding on the possibilities in your life! For example it may begin with us as a faith community to see with new eyes and respond to the needy and the hungry and the hurting in our local community in a way we have not before.

As we move through the days ahead maybe we could become more aware of God dwelling/abiding within me when....?

As I reflect on the Divine Presence dwelling within myself and others I hope that.... ?

I invite you to stop this week and practice this **Breath Prayer:**

Breathing in slowly: **Faithful Love...**
 Breathing out slowly: **abiding in me.**

Marie Weatherall



Mass Schedule

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 29th April —Sunday 5th May

Monday 29th: No Mass
Tuesday 30th: Mass 5pm Adoration 4pm

Wednesday 1st: Mass 9am

Thursday 2nd: Mass 9am

Friday 3rd: Mass 9am

Saturday 4th: Mass 5pm

Croatian Mass 11am

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30

Sunday 5th: 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

29/30 APRIL

Cleaning
29 Apr-3 May R & K Ison

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer K Conway
Commentator S Ebejer
Reader: M Weatherall
Eucharistic Ministers M Bridges
Computer Screen J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer Volunteer
Commentator L Page
Reader: D Herring
Eucharistic Ministers L Rodwell
Computer Screen D May.

MORNING TEA:

M & S Beashel

COUNTERS

D & L May

4/5 MAY

Cleaning
6-11 May Favetta/O'Neill/Nugent

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer J Anderson
Commentator: M Bridges
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers Naommi Buick
Computer Screen M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M deSmet
Commentator B Basevi
Reader: N Beatty
Eucharistic Ministers N Page

MORNING TEA:

Filipino Community

COUNTERS

T Priest/P Wilden

Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal –

Collection for Formation of our Seminarians:
Last weekend this appeal was launched and we give thanks for the young men whose families and lives are planted in our local parishes and who, God willing, will return as ordained priests to serve here.

Please give a generous **donation** today or begin a **monthly donation** to support the education of our seminarians.

Donations can be made through the parish bank account

Acc Name St Bernard's Operating

BSB: 062-786 **Bank Acc:** 00012939 Ref: Family GSSA

or on-line at bit.ly/goodshepherd2024

Cuppa with Mary MacKillop

will be at the home of Mary O'Neill on Tuesday May 7, 10am - 11 am. **Enquiries:** Mary O'Neill (m) 0403 147 242

YOU ARE INVITED

To attend all three **Retreat Mornings at St Bernard's Church** in the Meeting Room on Tuesdays May 14th, May 28th, 11th June from 9.30-12 noon.

Cost: Free

BYO Shared Morning Tea. We will be exploring **"Secret Place-Sacred Paths"**

May 14th— **The Coastal Experience of Prayer**
May 28th— **The Mountain Experience of Prayer**
June 11th— **The Rural Experience of Prayer**

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: one week prior to each retreat.

Ph: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

BBECET SUPPORTERS LUNCH

BBECET is a ministry of the combined churches of Batemans Bay and provides Christian Education in our local schools. **YOU ARE INVITED** To a lunch Saturday May 4th, 12 noon @ Cross Central Church, 1 Kerang Street, Surfside.

\$25 per person

2 Course Meal, Tea, Coffee and Refreshments available. **TICKETS AND INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OFFICE**

Or call John Hoggan (BBECET Chairman) on 0417 801 566

RSVP Monday 29th April

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.

Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

Getting Fr Loi Home

A huge thank you for your generosity for this fund raiser. You won't believe it but we have the air fares covered!

So we will continue with a raffle starting next weekend and that will be to give Fr Loi some spending money for his trip away.

Again, a huge thank you

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Acc Name

St Bernard's Operating
BSB: 062-786 **Bank Acc:** 00012939 Ref: Family Name

THANK YOU & FAREWELL to FR XAVIER who will be leaving the Parish on Friday 3rd May. We wish Fr Xavier all the best in his new parish and give thanks for his generous support of St Bernard's in the brief time he was here.

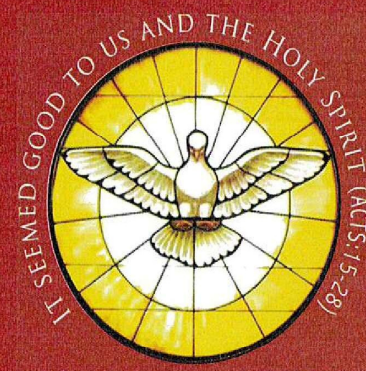
Funerals in the Parish: Sarah Patricia Good late of Opal-Denhams Beach Friday 3rd May 11am @ St Bernard's Church

Remembering the Sick:

Keith Cook, Mark O'Neill, 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 Odlum, 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: Sarah Good, Robert Mitchell, Joyce Hurrell, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Ruth O'Malley, 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, Del Bateman, John Dunne, Maria Ivelja, Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Filomena Dela Torre



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

May

For the formation of religious and Seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.



Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years
Batemans Bay 44728886
Moruya 4474 3555 Narooma 4476 3888

INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS

1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay
Buy fuel any time
EFFIOS VISA ANEX MASTERCARD

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

Fully licensed Plumber and Gas Fitter
Gutter Cleaning
General Maintenance
RHYS MAY
0427 373 826

Clinical Psychologist

Patrick Fleming
Batemans Medical Centre
Ph: 0412 295 394
Medicare Rebates Available



excell Ideaspeople
— with a passion for print
P 4472 1599
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