

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year B

First Reading *Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18*

A reading from the book of Joshua
We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.

3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.

5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading *Ephesians 5:21-32*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

See John 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Gospel *John 6:60-69*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do

you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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
The Word of Eternal Life

I remember seeing a James Bond film in which the Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence. There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their life. But *our* ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a different destiny, a different reality. We have heard a voice which speaks the truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful reality. That voice says that you and I, individually, personally, are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy. The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We hear that voice from within the Church, which has transmitted the tradition of 'The Voice' for twenty centuries. Heeding that Voice, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death. I am no longer a 'Dead Man Walking' but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me. That is why when I hear the challenge: 'Do you also wish to go away?' I enter into that tradition and answer with St Peter, I answer in the company of billions of others over twenty centuries: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' We could pause for a moment and pray that, living in the tradition of the Church, I may hear the Word in the Gospel and take that Word within myself in Holy Communion so that I might be no longer a 'Dead Man Walking', but a human being alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

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2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



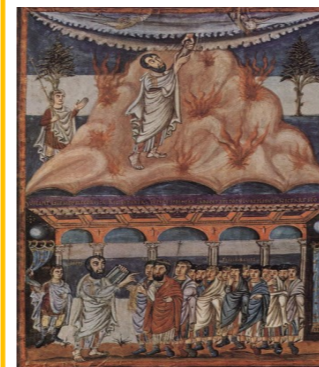
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WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING

Twenty-First Week in
ORDINARY TIME
Year B



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
1PM Every second and fourth Monday

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass

Wrap With Love
Wednesday 28th August
1pm CMR

Enjoy the Good News
Wednesdays after 9am Mass

Parish Sacramental Program
for First Eucharist
Commitment **MASSES**
Saturday 24th August @
5pm & Sunday 25th @ 9am

Cuppa with Mary MacKillop
Tuesday 3rd September
10am @ the home of Mary
Lowe (note change of
venue)
0439 609 248

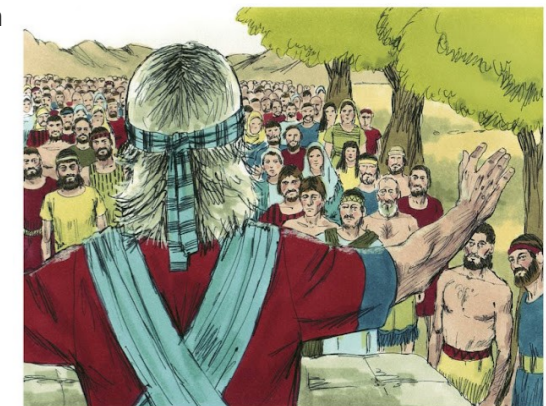
Craft Group 10am Thursdays
Church Meeting Room

ADORATION TUESDAYS @
4pm

COFFEE CLUB Thursdays
after Mass
Venue: Corrigans Cove

Recognising, Decision and Choice

It's CRUNCH TIME this week in our liturgy with the last piece of John's chapter 6 before resuming with Mark next week. The last five Sundays have presented us with John's gospel, where we have come face to face with Jesus' promise of the Eucharist. A lot of talk about bread, life, Spirit, flesh and coming from the Father. It all started from the feeding with the loaves and fishes, a real crowd pleaser that saw Jesus retreat to the hills to avoid the crowd wanting to make him their king.



Joshua (1st reading) is challenging the Hebrews to make a fundamental choice for the Lord. Recognise, decide and choose the Lord who brought you from Egypt (rather than the gods of neighbouring tribes) says Joshua. "As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord." The people respond here at Schechem, renewing the covenant originally made there with Abraham.

The relationship/covenant theme continues with Paul (2nd reading) as he writes of love between husband and wife (perhaps with some cultural allowances), and the love of Christ for the Church, a sacrificial love. Well may we ask, is there ever love without sacrifice.

Coming now to Jesus and his followers. They've listened to him, perhaps curious, maybe impressed (miracles), a bit sceptical (after all he's only the carpenter's son from Nazareth - that backwater), wanting to hear and know a bit more. These are not his enemies, the pharisees and scribes, who were out to get him. At the synagogue in Capernaum he had been teaching those who had followed him, who wanted more. BUT, it was "over the top", just too much, intolerable. What was he thinking? What was he saying? How could this Nazarene claim to come from God, to be God's anointed one? And then to speak of eating his flesh and drinking his blood (last Sunday's Gospel). So, even among his disciples or followers, many decided to hand in their badges. Not for them remaining on Team Jesus.

And the twelve? I see them looking at one another, perhaps heads bowed, shuffling of feet as Jesus asks them, "What about you, do you want to go away too?" What had they recognised in Jesus? Crunch time as Jesus awaits a response, a decision. Peter has chosen saying, "Who shall we go to?" Yes, not WHERE but to WHOM shall we go. It's a recognition of PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, an enhanced parallel to Joshua's fundamental choice.

Our liturgy asks us can we join with Peter's response. Can we examine our faith and say: **Jesus, Lord, to whom shall I go? I recognise you as the Holy One of God, inviting me into an intimate relationship, so profoundly expressed in the Eucharist.**

John Mackay



Mass Schedule

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 26th Aug — Sun 1st Sep

- Monday 26th:** No Mass
- Tuesday 27th:** Adoration 4pm
Mass 5pm
- Wednesday 28th:** Mass 9am
- Thursday 29th:** Mass 9am
- Friday 30th:** Mass 9am
- Saturday 31st:** Mass 5pm
Reconciliation 3.30-4.30
- Sunday 1st:** 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 Lodge

ROSTERS

24/25 AUGUST Church Cleaning
26-30 D & L May

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer: K Conway
Commentator J Quigley
Reader P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers J Wain
Computer Screen M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer T van den Broek
Commentator M Lowe.
Reader: C Lowe
Eucharistic Ministers J Whiteford, A Scicluna
Computer Screen T Priest

MORNING TEA

M Vidovic and Zdenka

COUNTERS

B Basevi

31 AUG/1SEPT

Church Cleaning
2-6 Sept M deSmet/J Maher

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer: C Brownlie
Commentator M O'Neill
Reader P O'Kelly
Eucharistic Ministers B Maynard
Computer Screen J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L May
Commentator A Skinner.
Reader: B Basevi
Eucharistic Ministers V & C Burns
Computer Screen D May

MORNING TEA

Filipino Community

COUNTERS

D & L May

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – 31st August & 1st September 2024

COLLECTION FOR ARCHDIOCESAN RETIRED PRIESTS

There are 25 priests in our Archdiocese. We should remember our retired priests as we celebrate the [theme for the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly](#)



"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15).

Envelopes will be provided on the pews

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND—
"SRINGTIME SERENADES"

Saturday 7th September—2pm
Featuring the U3A Choir, Ukelele Players and several artists

At the Salvation Army
\$10 pp—pay at the door
Includes Afternoon Tea

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

For further information and to let the organisers know numbers please call Evelyn 0413 044 336 or Katrina 0447 970 361

Come, Holy Spirit

Archdiocesan Assembly 18-20 October 2024

LINKS

Assembly Website Link: cgevangelisation.org.au/assembly

Direct Registration Link: <https://register.cgevangelisation.org.au/Assembly>

Assembly Invitation Video Link: <https://youtu.be/fUrjoL4cqj0>

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Caqliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2025 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia. Applications close October 31st, 2024.

Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

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

A/C Name: St Bernard's Operating

BSB: 062-786 A/C No: 00012939 Ref: Family Name

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the Harvest, help men and women to hear the call and to serve in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Our Lady, Help of Christians Pray for us

St Joseph Pray for us

St John Vianney Pray for us

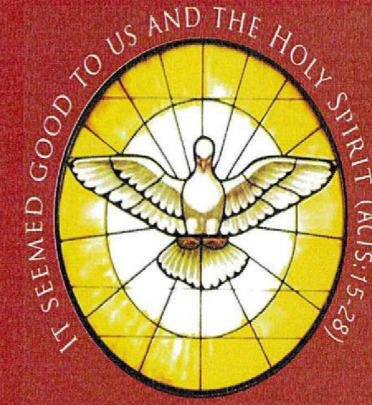
St Mary of the Cross Pray for us

Remembering the Sick:

Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O'Neill, Karen Nixon, John de Smet, Kevin & Pat Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Trent Fisk, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Vince Burns, Patrick Burns, Carolyn 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: James Quirk, Giovanni Menon, Tony Puconja, Hazel Nolan, Else McGahey, Richard Smart, Patrick Dunn, Laurence Foran, Lynton Ryan, Jacki Harding, Keith Cooke, 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, Brian O'Connor, Annie Scicluna, Francis Bezzina, Paul O'Callaghan, Pam Wilson, Drago Bandur, 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 AUGUST

For political leaders

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

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