

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 15 Dec 2024

Third Sunday of Advent Year C

First Reading *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name.

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading *Philippians 4:4-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 3:10-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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 I want you to be happy

Some people have an image of God who must be obeyed out of fear. Rules of behaviour are kept as part of a deal to avoid punishment. But St Paul was imitating God when he told the Philippians that all he wanted was their 'happiness'. God's deepest desire is that we share divine bliss. St Thomas Aquinas tells us that the goal of human life is this beatific happiness. Of course, there is a way of life which responds to the Divine Lover. John the Baptist insists on rules of social justice, particularly those which forbid taking advantage of the vulnerable. But these are the minimum. He envisages a response of extravagant generosity. It will take Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire to make this possible. This was effected by the One foretold by John. He doesn't name him, but we know it was Jesus of Nazareth who had the power to unleash such over-the-top generosity. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost as if in wind and fire. This created a new community which, the Acts of Apostles tells us, responded with acts of unrestrained generosity to the vulnerable and needy. We might pause for a moment to pray for a generous spirit responding in gratitude to the Divine Lover who, as Risen Lord, has the power and will to enable us to be filled with Divine Bliss.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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



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: Anna Smart

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR C



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
1PM Every second and fourth Monday

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass

Croatian Mass
Christmas Day 11.30am

First Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday 24 th Christmas Eve 10am-12noon

Advent Discussion Group
Wednesday Dec 18th @ 9.30am after Mass in CMR

Craft Group 10am
Thursdays Church Meeting Room

ADORATION TUESDAYS
@ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after Mass
Venue: Corrigan's Cove
Last day for 2024 will be Thursday 19th December

CRY OUT WITH JOY AND GLADNESS...

The Psalm highlights that this third Sunday of Advent is different. The previous two Sundays have been highlighted by the lighting of purple candles: purple being the recognised colour representing prayer, penance, sacrifice and spiritual reflection as we wait and prepare for Christmas.

This third Sunday, known as Gaudete Sunday has a rose coloured candle. Why the change of colour at this time of Advent? The colour rose is thought to represent joy and marks a shift in the tone of Advent. I recall reading an explanation of the choice of rose: early mornings often have the white clouds tinged with pink by the rays of the rising sun. This sight is announcing the dawn of a new day, new beginning, new start, new hope for the future. Hence the symbol of the rose candle is our opportunity to alter the focus of our reflection to one based on expectation and hope that this "birth" of Jesus will bring new hope and joy to the world.

The readings from Zephaniah, Phillipians and indeed the Psalm entreat us to "shout for joy" and "be happy". God forgives us and wants us to be strong, confident and worry free as we go about our daily life being a witness to the news of the Kingdom.

The Gospel however, adds another dimension to the story of joyful anticipation. The people at that time were living in troubled times under Roman rule, trying to meld the rules/ regulations of that life with what they were hearing from John whom they wondered may be the Christ! When they asked John how they should respond and act we get an inkling of what was, and is expected even today if we are to live and hopefully create a more just and loving world.

His response could be regarded as the forerunner of what we call social justice.

Like John, we need to be aware of the world around us. We too, live in troubled times where people are suffering from war, hunger, anxiety, cost of living pressure, climate crises and feeling they have no safe space. In all of this, we too, like John can be the voice of Christ.

Advent, particularly this Gaudete Sunday suggests we have time to reflect and renew our commitment to God. Let us then, take the time to reflect that our lives can change and we can help change the lives of others. As John in the gospel tells the people how they can help we can respond to those around us by sharing what we have and treating each other with dignity, justice and forgiveness. There are many opportunities in our Parish to reach out to others.

This 3rd Sunday of Advent encourages us to look beyond our comfort zone and seek God's bigger plan - prepare for the coming of Jesus and help create a more just and loving world. May we be inspired to live out our faith with renewed hope as we approach the end of Advent.

Ken and Carolyn Evenden

MASSES THIS WEEK
Monday 16th — Sun 22nd Dec

Monday 16th: NO MASS
Tuesday 17th: Adoration
4pm Mass 5pm
Wednesday 18th: Mass 9am
Thursday 19th: Mass 9am
Friday 20th: Mass 9am
Saturday 21st: Mass 5pm
Reconciliation 3.30-4.30
Sunday 22nd: Mass 9am

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:
Tuesday 24th December—Christmas Eve
First Rite of Reconciliation 10am-12noon
Christmas Eve Vigil 6pm & 8pm
Christmas Carols 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th December- Christmas
Day Mass 10am
Croatian Mass 11.30am

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

14/15 DECEMBER

Cleaning
16-20 MdeSmet/J Maher

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer K Conway
Commentator: S Ebejer
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Minister J Wain
Computer Screen M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M deSmet
Commentator B Basevi
Reader: A Skinner
Eucharistic Ministers D Herring, K Corbin
Computer Screen T Jones

MORNING TEA:

Filipino Community

COUNTERS:

M & C Lowe

21/22 DECEMBER

Cleaning
23-27 B Coffey/M Paine

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer: P Jobs
Commentator: M O'Neill
Reader: P O'Kelly
Eucharistic Minister K Lovering
Computer Screen K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L May
Commentator A Skinner
Reader: B Maynard
Eucharistic Ministers M & C Lower
Computer Screen D May

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty/M deSmet

COUNTERS:

G Norris/J OP'Sullivan

ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL
2024

Thank you to all who were able to support our Christmas Appeal for 2024. We received \$2830.70 in donations plus the Kmart cards for presents for the children. May God bless you for your generosity in assisting 100 families/individuals and their children for Christmas.

All donations need to be in by Dec 14/15.
Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

Why not join our Advent Discussion Group and spiritually prepare for Christmas?

Wednesday after 9am Mass in the Church Meeting Room on Dec 18.
Cost = FREE. A time to slow down, reflect on the Advent Gospel and pray.

Facilitators: Carolyn, Marie, Helen and Ken.
Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

The Parish Piety Shop has cards and calendars for sale .
Contact Carol Schor for further details on 0450 775 067



CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA & FAREWELL

The Parish will be holding a Christmas Morning Tea and a farewell for Fr Loi on Sunday 15th December after the 9 am Mass.



There will be Filipino food and a sausage sizzle, so please come along and enjoy the merriment and take the opportunity to wish Fr Loi all the best as he prepares to move to a new parish in the New Year.

Christmas Carols Singing Practices
Prepare to sing Christmas Carols with gusto by practising with the choir on -



1. Monday 16 December 1.00pm 1 hour
2. Monday 16 December 6.00pm: 45 minutes
3. Monday 23 December 1.00pm 1 hour
4. Monday 23 December 6.00pm: 45 minutes

Attend as many practices as you can! Practice makes perfect!



Carols by Candlelight
2024

SPONSORED BY MORUYA COUNTRY MARKET & MORUYA LOINS CLUB
FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER
MORUYA RIVERSIDE PARK

6pm—The fun starts with live music
7pm—Carols by Candlelight
9pm—Fireworks and Arrival of Santa

LIONS CLUB BBQ, FOOD VANS, COFFEE, DONUTS, ICE CREAM



Healing Prayer with Saint Charbel on 20th December at 5 PM Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya

You are invited to come and learn about the life and miracles of Saint Charbel and pray together through His intercession. You will hear a testimony of a Healing Miracle through Saint Charbel's intercession. There will also be an opportunity to be anointed with the holy oil of Saint Charbel.

All are welcome

Remembering the Sick:

Jeanette Clarke, Margaret Priest, Chris Bowditch, Sheree Jackson, Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O'Neill, Karen Nixon, 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, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, 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, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Allan Odlum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, 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: Sr Paulinus Croker, Marion O'Grady, Patricia Suhl, Neil Leonard, Letitia Baz, Trent Fisk, Kevin Carew, Margaret Kelly, Arthur Hurrell, Vicki Lukasik, Paul Skinner, Suzanne Melton, 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



LebanonCrisis Appeal

The escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has pushed Lebanon into severe turmoil, with tragic consequences that have spread from Southern Lebanon to the entire nation. The situation is dire.

In response to a heartfelt plea for assistance by Bishop Tarabay and Bishop Rabbat, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, Caritas Australia and Caritas Lebanon, has launched the Lebanon Appeal.

This appeal aims to provide essential humanitarian aid to our brothers and sisters suffering in Lebanon, especially those who are displaced and without homes or shelter.

Donate today: www.caritas.org.au/lebanondonate

Christmas Appeal

This Christmas, families are facing the devastating risk of disease due to a severe lack of clean water and proper sanitation in the world's largest refugee camp.

But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. As part of the second-largest humanitarian network in the world, Caritas Australia and our partner Caritas Bangladesh are on the ground, ready to act. Together, we can improve access to clean water, provide better sanitation, and help reduce the spread of deadly water-borne diseases this Christmas.

Donate today at caritas.org.au/christmas

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

DECEMBER

For Pilgrims Of Hope

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

BATEMANS BAY & MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS
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
EFTPOS 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
COASTAL CONCRETE & QUARRY
02 4474 0320

Kate & Tara
your vets
at Surf Beach
EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre
0488671118