

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sunday 22 Dec 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year C

First Reading *Micah 5:1-4*

A reading from the prophet Micah
Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading *Hebrews 10:5-10*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the

sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 1:38*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 1:39-45*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Life in the Womb

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing. There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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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

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



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
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 Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
 Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
 Tuesday-Friday

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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
1PM Every second and fourth Monday

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass

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

Christmas Carols
Christmas Eve 24th
7.30pm

Croatian Mass Christmas
Day 25th
11.30am

Craft Group 10am
Thursdays Church Meeting Room
Resumes 2025

ADORATION TUESDAYS
@ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB Thursdays
after Mass
Venue: Corrigans Cove
Resumes 16th January, 2025

Christmas is a time of ...?

Christmas comes each year, often it seems, with a rush and a bang as we prepare for the gatherings of family and friends. School Children have begun their School holidays and are full of expectation and there is excitement in the air as we prepare those last touches of preparation for the day. **Yet Christmas can mean different things for different people. Christmas calls us to be aware and be sensitive to the needs of those around us.**



For some Christmas may be:

- * A time of grief as someone is missing from their festive table.
- * A time of loneliness and isolation.
- * A time of stress as parents try to make ends meet, unable to provide for their family as they would wish.
- * A time of broken or strained relationships.
- * A time of sickness and/or anxiety about the future.

This Christmas will I:

Recognise God's presence in my world?
 Hear the truth told long ago of this Beloved's kindness towards all?
 Hold my family, friends and those who most need our prayers, in my heart this Christmas?

Reach out, where possible, to those in need?
 Let them touch my prayer and my celebration?

Emmanuel – God is with us!

'The Word became flesh' and lived among us giving us the power 'to become children of God' and so we turn to God and pray:
 Surprise your people, O God, with the joy of your birthing of love among us.

Break past the boundaries of our full rooms and into the holy spaces near to us.

Call to us from afar, that we may search and find your dwelling place.
 Come to us here, on this day of celebration.
 Come Prince of Peace. Come Lord Jesus!

Marie Weatherall

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 23rd Dec—29th Dec

- Monday 23rd :** NO MASS
- Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve :**
First Rite of Reconciliation 10am-12noon
Adoration 4pm
Christmas Carols 7.30 pm
Vigil Mass 6pm & 8pm
- Wednesday 25th Christmas Day: Mass 10am**
Croatian Mass 11.30am
- Thursday 26th:** Mass 9am
- Friday 27th:** Mass 9am
- Saturday 28th:** Mass 5pm
Reconciliation 3.30-4.30
- Sunday 29th:** 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

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

28/29 DECEMBER

Cleaning
30/12-3/1 R & K Ison

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer B Oerder
Commentator M Bridges
Reader S Ebejer
Eucharistic Ministers
L Rodwell
Computer Screen
M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M Britt
Commentator L Page
Reader: B Basevi
Eucharistic Ministers
L Stevens, N Page
Computer Screen T
Priest.

MORNING TEA:

No Morning Tea

COUNTERS:

B Basevi/C Meade

Archbishop Prowse: Christmas Message 2024

This year, within the space of a few days, we celebrate both Christmas Day (25th December) and the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope (29th December). Both unite together under one word: **HOPE**.

Pope Francis reminds us of St Paul's reassuring statement regarding HOPE. "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5/5)

Recently, we have all received this love of God poured out in our Archdiocesan Assembly. Our prayerful HOPE was realised in a refreshing way. This synodal gathering enabled us to encounter the Holy Spirit afresh. Our HOPE is that this will deepen in the times ahead.

This "pouring out" of God's love in our hopes arrives again this Christmas. Hope takes form in love itself – the Christ child. Like the first Christmas and including all creation, there is a holy silence. There is peace. There is hope for an end to warfare and all violence in our world. There is gift-giving in our lives in response to Godly grace in Jesus. There is the Holy Family animating in hope all families.

Days after the first Christmas, there is the synodal pilgrimage of exile into Egypt via present-day devastated Gaza. From these ruins, we become Pilgrims of Hope in a new world of peacemaking and justice. We start in our families and neighbourhoods.

Pope Francis names the following groups for our special hope-filled attention in practical charity – prisoners, sick, young, migrants, elderly, (grandparents), poor.

Let us start with our homes. May they be truly places of H.O.P.E. Homes of Prayer Experience. Start by gathering around your nativity sets and pray together in perfect silence, stillness and simplicity.

Hope does not disappoint. Hope leads us to Bethlehem. Hope leads us to become synodal pilgrims. We walk behind Jesus, who leads us into 2025 with bountiful hope.



Happy Christmas and New Year to all!!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Canberra & Goulburn
Archdiocese

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 20th December until Wednesday 22nd January.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Christmas season! May the birth of our Saviour fill your hearts with peace, hope and love. As we celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world, may His grace guide and uplift you in the year ahead. **Merry Christmas, from the Parish Office and may God's blessing be with you always.**

The Eurobodalla Multicultural Group with support from Starfish Deli, Caring Corner and Batemans Bay Dinner Group will be hosting a Christmas Day Lunch on 25th December at 12pm at the outdoor area of Starfish Deli. **COST = FREE**
All Are welcome.

Please RSVP to Cel Ceniza on 0401 660 890 by midday on 24th December.

Archbishops Christmas Appeal 2024

This year, the Appeal will continue its support for the ecumenical **Christmas Bowl Appeal** and their life saving assistance to displaced people whether from war or climate change in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

International endeavours will include support towards:

Further student assistance for those in need at **Bethlehem University in the Holy Land**; projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India as well as a contribution to a Silver Jubilee house project in India and works of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers within the Philippines.

Other contributions will be made to support Diocesan projects within the Dioceses of Otuokpo, Nigeria, Eldoret, Kenya in Africa, Thamarassery in India and Mount Hagen in Papua New Guinea. Within Mount Hagen, our contribution will support orphan care through the provision of food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education and protection.

Locally, contributions will support:

The Farm in Galong and HOME in Queanbeyan with their efforts in caring for people with specific needs in a safe environment.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I would like my donation to be:
| \$20 | \$50 | \$100 | \$150 | Other \$ _____

Mri/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev _____
(Block letters please)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please find enclosed my | Cheque | Money Order

I prefer to use my | Bankcard | Visa | Mastercard

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Signed _____ Expires _____/____

Please send to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal
Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell
GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601

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

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our
brother, and the flame
of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your
Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of
the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos, in
the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth, when,
with the powers of Evil
vanquished, your glory will shine
eternally.
May the grace of the
Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of
Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of
heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our
Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

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.

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