

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 26 Jan 2025

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C

**First Reading** Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah  
*They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. See Jn 6:63*

**(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock!

**(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.**

**Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 12:12-30*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything? Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you,’ nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’ What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** See Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that

have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

**Relax: You are Accepted**

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would ‘set the downtrodden free’. But, in proclaiming ‘the Lord's Year of Acceptance’, Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax*!! Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God. How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.

We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in ‘the Lord's Year of Acceptance’, that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

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**ST BERNARD'S PARISH**  
**BATEMANS BAY**  
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**Priest:** Rev. Rex Curry  
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**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 IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C



### CHURCH EVENTS

**Choir Practice**  
1PM Every second and  
fourth Monday

**Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am**  
Fridays after Mass

**Enjoy the Good News**  
Wednesdays after 9am  
Mass  
Starting 28th January,  
2025

**Croatian Mass Saturday**  
1st February 11am

**Cuppa with Mary MacKillop**  
Wednesday February 4th  
10-11am at Marie & Greg  
Weatherall's home.

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

**ADORATION TUESDAYS**  
@ 4pm

**COFFEE CLUB**  
Thursdays after 9am  
Mass  
Venue: Corrigans Cove

### SCIENCE AND FAITH

Dear Parishioners,

During this coming Lent, our Parish will be offering two new processes in our faith. Firstly, ‘**EXERCISE IN SYNODALITY**’ and secondly “**SCIENCE AND FAITH**”.

Christian Smith, the American convert Catholic sociologist at the University of Notre Dame, has asserted that 70% of young people leave the church in the USA because they cannot reconcile the findings of science and the teaching of their Catholic faith.

A couple of years ago, when I enquired at the Catholic Education Offices, of both Sydney and Broken Bay, I was advised that neither of these bodies offered combined courses in **Faith, Science and Reason**. These were taught only as stand-alone subjects.

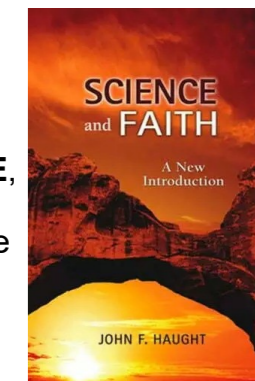
The writings of Fr John Go, SJ a Doctor of Education, and author of “**Religious Education from a Critical Realist Perspective**”, has demonstrated that not only was such a course not available, but the teachers he had surveyed were ill equipped to teach such a combined course.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay, acknowledged “my frustration regarding the lack of combined course” in a letter to me, dated 11th September, 2024.

Therefore, I am offering a six week **READING COURSE**, (30 pages per week) for ten lucky people. The text, “**SCIENCE and FAITH**” will be available for free, for the first ten people who enrol.

If young people don't have this course on offer at schools, then I believe parents (as the first and best teachers of their children) should have the opportunity to assist their children with knowledge, they too, haven't probably received formally.

If you would like to belong to this group during Lent, would you please add your name to the clipboard in the sacristy before Sunday 23rd February, 2025. Meeting night to be determined by participants.



Fr Rex Curry

## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Monday 27th January—Sunday 2nd February**

**Monday 27th :** NO MASS

**Tuesday 28th:** Mass 5pm

**Wednesday 29th:** Mass 9am

**Thursday 30th:** Mass 9am

**Friday 31st:** Mass 9am

**Saturday 1st** Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30

Croatian Mass 11am

**Sunday 2nd:** 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

25/26 January  
**Cleaning 27-31**  
Coffey and Paine

#### 5pm MASS

**Welcomer:**  
K Conway  
**Commentator:**  
M Weatherall  
**Reader:**  
J Quigley  
**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
L Rodwell  
**Computer Screen:**  
M O'Neill

#### 9am MASS

**Welcomer:**  
M Britt  
**Commentator:**  
A Skinner  
**Reader:**  
L Page  
**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
N Page L Stevens  
**Computer Screen:**  
T Jones

**MORNING TEA:**  
N Beatty

**COUNTERS:**  
M & C Lowe

### 1/2 FEBRUARY

#### Cleaning

3-7 R & K Ison

#### 6.00PM MASS

**Welcomer** J Anderson  
**Commentator** J Quigley  
**Reader** J Mackay  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
C Brownlie  
**Computer Screen**  
K Conway

#### 9.00 AM MASS:

**Welcomer** L May  
**Commentator** A Skinner  
**Reader:** D Herring  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
L & M Page  
**Computer Screen** D May

#### MORNING TEA:

**Filipino Community COUNTERS:**  
G Norris/J O'Sullivan

*St Vincent de Paul Conference Thank You Morning Tea* will take place on **Sunday January 26** after the 9am Mass. Just to say a small 'Thank You' for all your support over Christmas. Your generosity was astounding. Interested in joining St Vincent de Paul? Why not talk to our members on the day!

### GATHERING:

#### 'We are Called to Minister to Others'

Facilitated by Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. Tuesday February 25th, 9.15am registration for 9.30am start—3pm in the Church meeting Room.

Sister Virginia specialises in Adult Faith Education & Spirituality and is travelling from North Sydney to be with us.

Recommended by Sr Marie McAlister.

**Morning tea provided.**

BYO Pot Luck Lunch. **COST = Free**

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** by Monday February 17. For further information call: Marie Weatherall, 0405 028 057

**Email.** marieweatherall87@gmail.com

**Cuppa with Mary MacKillop** will be at the home of Marie & Greg Weatherall on Tuesday February 4, 10am – 11 am. Would you like to join our group as we reflect on the spirituality of Mary MacKillop and our everyday lives.

**Enquiries:** Marie W 0405 028 057

### SAPIENTIA RETREAT

Single adults, ages 18-30, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW, from 7-9 February 2025.

The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fun and fellowship.

Fee: \$300 per person.

Please complete the google form (<https://forms.gle/hHyBFDjN3A5pexXJA>) to register your intention.

Registrations close 31 January.

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

### LEADERS TRAINING NIGHTS "Exercise IN Synodality"

**WHEN:** 12 & 19 February, 2025

**WHERE:** Church Meeting Room

**TIME:** 7.30-9.00pm

These nights are to prepare leaders or parishioners who would like to lead a full right process for "EXERCISE IN SYNODALITY" nights during Lent.

These nights are different from Lenten groups, but are meant to help parishioners become witnesses to Jesus Christ.

These nights during Lent will be held on different nights selected by the Leaders.

If you would like to be a leader, would you please add your name to the clip board in the sacristy.

*Fr Rex Curry*

### FUNERALS IN THE PARISH:

**Josephine Beckhaus**  
11am

**Friday 24th January, 2025**

**St Bernard's Church**



### 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 Odium, 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:** Josephine Beckhaus, Cyril Noyeaux, Frank Simic, 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

### 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

#### JANUARY

**For the right to an education**

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

<p><b>BATEMANS BAY &amp; MORUYA DISTRICT FUNERALS</b></p> <p>Caring for Eurobodalla shire families for over 50 years</p> <p>Batemans Bay 44728886</p> <p>Moruya 4474 3555 Narooma 4476 3888</p>	<p><b>INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS</b></p> <p>1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay</p> <p>Buy fuel any time</p>
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<p><b>OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY</b></p> <p>Fish &amp; Chips, Burgers, Sandwiches &amp; Coffee</p> <p><b>100% BEEF BURGER</b></p> <p>248 Beach Road</p> <p>Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p> <p><b>02 4472 1802</b></p>	<p><b>MAYDAY</b></p> <p>Plumbing And Gas</p> <p><b>Fully licensed Plumber and Gas Fitter</b></p> <p>Gutter Cleaning</p> <p>General Maintenance</p> <p><b>RHYS MAY</b></p> <p><b>0427 373 826</b></p>
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<p>Clinical Psychologist</p> <p><b>Patrick Fleming</b></p> <p>Batemans Bay Medical Centre</p> <p><b>Ph: 0412 295 394</b></p> <p>Medicare Rebates Available</p>	<p><b>excell</b> Ideaspeople</p> <p>PRINTING GROUP — with a passion for print</p> <p>P 4472 1599</p> <p>E batemansbay@excellprint.com.au</p> <p>www.excellprint.com.au</p> <p>Shop 1/25, Old Princes Hwy</p> <p>Batemans Bay NSW 2536</p> <p>excellprint.com.au</p>
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<p>Ray and Anne Brown</p> <p><b>COASTAL CONCRETE &amp; QUARRY</b></p> <p><b>02 4474 0320</b></p>	<p>Kate &amp; Tara your vets at Surf Beach</p> <p><b>EUROCOAST</b> Veterinary Centre</p> <p><b>0488671118</b></p>
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