

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 02 Feb 2025

### The Presentation of the Lord

First Reading *Malachi 3:1-4*

A reading from the prophet Malachi

*The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.*

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10*

**(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!**

1. O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!

2. Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war.

3. O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!

4. Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory.

**(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord**

### Second Reading

*Hebrews 2:14-18*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*He had to be made like us in all things.*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has

himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

*The Word of the Lord*

**R. Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 2:32*

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 2:22-40*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*My eyes have seen your saving power.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child

grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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

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### REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis draws our attention to the way that today's feast is about encounter. He is particularly interested in how this episode takes place 'between the young and the old'. This was a profound spiritual moment shared by 'two newlyweds,' as the Pope describes Mary and Joseph, and the elderly and faithful Simeon and Anna.

The Pope draws our attention to their respective dispositions. Mary and Joseph are not just going through the motions. They clearly really believe that what they are doing is important, even if they wonder what it all means. Meanwhile, Simeon and Anna were clearly 'guided by the Holy Spirit' and 'full of life!' Their encounter was not only between generations, therefore, but was also what the Pope calls 'a unique encounter between observance and prophecy.'

'It's good for the elderly to communicate their wisdom to the young,' the Pope reminds us, 'and it's good for the young people to gather this wealth of experience and wisdom, and to carry it forward ... addressing the challenges that life brings.' Perhaps we might pray this week for the wisdom to respond to the promptings of the Spirit, and for the Grace to leave a joyful mark on all the people we might encounter, young or old.

© Nick Brodie



**ST BERNARD'S PARISH**  
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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**

### The PRESENTATION of the LORD 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

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

**Cuppa with Mary**  
MacKillop Tuesday  
February 4th 10-11am at Marie & Greg Weatherall's home.  
Enquiries: 0405 028 057

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

**ADORATION TUESDAYS**  
@ 4pm

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

### Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple Sunday of the Word of God

As well as the two headings to this Reflection I'm conscious of the fact that the Church is already a month into the Jubilee Year 2025, which Pope Francis has called a Pilgrimage of Hope.

We are familiar with The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple as the fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. We probably pass over the fact that Luke in his gospel, couples it with the Purification of Mary. True it is an indication of Joseph and Mary being observant Jews who obeyed the Mosaic Law. Just as they were compliant citizens who travelled to Bethlehem for the Roman census forty days previously.

Let us not forget Luke is writing maybe fifty/sixty years after the death of Christ. Jerusalem has fallen. The church's mission to the Gentiles was progressing well. Despite being under duress within and without. End-time expectations were diminishing. I like to think Luke is using this episode of the Presentation in the Temple to illustrate the breach that will emerge between the Jewish Law and the Law of Christ.

Mary follows the commandment in **Leviticus 12: 1-8** that a mother must undergo a rite of purification forty days after the birth of a male child. The Jews believed the whole process of creating human life from conception to birth sullied a woman's body in a most intimate way. It could only be cleansed by regular bathing for forty days and obtaining a clearance and blessing from a priest.

**Luke (1: 26-38)** has already told us how Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary remained a virgin. She remained the purest of creatures. But as the handmaid of the Lord she complied with the Law. She expected no favours.

In memory of God's sparing the first-born sons in Egypt (**Exodus 13:2**) the Law required that all first-born sons be consecrated to God to carry out the family's religious rituals. A task later given to the Levites but the practice of consecration continued. However, the son could be redeemed by making an offering to The Temple. The irony in this situation is that Jesus is not the son of Joseph. Jesus, as Eternal Son of God the Father, had become man by the Holy Spirit in order to redeem the whole of the human family from sin and death.

Simeon and Anna are exemplars of those devout Jews who regarded the Holy of Holies within the Temple as the place where God dwelt above the Ark of Covenant. Their common prayer was that the Lord make a New Covenant with his chosen people as promised in **Malachi 3: 2**.

Simeon feels this promise being realised as he nurses the child Jesus in the presence of God.

*Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace just as you promised.*

*Because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.*

Simeon was supported by the prophetess, Anna, who spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. Lord Jesus Christ may we imitate Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna, and place our trust in You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit today and in all the days of our earthly pilgrimage of hope. **Amen** *Joe Quigley*

## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Monday 3rd—Sunday 9th February**

**Monday 3rd :** NO MASS

**Tuesday 4th:** Mass 5pm

**Wednesday 5th:** Mass 9am

**Thursday 6th:** Mass 9am

**Friday 7th:** Mass 9am

**Saturday 8th:** Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30

Croatian Mass 11am

**Sunday 9th:** 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

### 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  
Commentator  
Reader: D Herring  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L & M Page  
Computer Screen T  
Jackson

MORNING TEA:  
Filipino Community

### COUNTERS:

G Norris/J  
O'Sullivan

### 8/9 FEBRUARY

Cleaning  
10-14 Favetta, O'Neill,  
Nugent

#### 6.00PM MASS

Welcomer School  
Commentator: School  
Reader: School  
Eucharistic Ministers  
School  
Computer Screen  
M O'Neill

#### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer T van den  
Broek  
Commentator . N Beatty  
Reader: B Basevi  
Eucharistic Ministers  
V & C Burns  
Computer Screen T  
Priest....

MORNING TEA:  
J Barroman/G  
Berryman

### COUNTERS:

B Basevi/C Meade

## 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

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

In keeping with the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn, St Bernard's Parish offers a family centered, parish based and school supported Sacramental Program.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation— Tuesday 8th April 5pm  
Sacrament of Confirmation—Saturday 28th June 5pm  
Sacrament of First Communion— TBC

### Enrolment Evening

An enrolment and information session for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be held at 5pm on Thursday 13th February at St Bernard's Church, Batehaven. If you live in the Batemans Bay Parish, your child is baptised and will be in Year 3 in 2025 or others who are eligible coming from another school, please put this date in your diary.

**COST** for the Sacrament is \$40 and can be paid on the evening by Cash or Eftpos

**For further information regarding the Sacramental Program—** please contact Fr Curry on 0407 068 413, the Sacramental Program Coordinator - Roslynn Trompp at the Parish Office on 4472 4153 or the REC—Rebecca Keough at St Bernard's Primary School.

Updates will be posted to the Parish Website—  
cg.org.au/batemansbay



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*

### Easter Music Preparation

In addition to our regular Monday practices, extra choir practices to prepare for Easter will take place at 1.00pm on Monday 17 March, Monday 31 March and Monday 7 April.

New and previous singers.... **All 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 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:** Joanne Rogers, Gerald Lewis, 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, 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

FEBRUARY

For vocations to the  
priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the  
ecclesial community  
might welcome the  
desires and doubts of  
those young people  
who feel a call to  
serve Christ's mission  
in the priesthood and  
religious life.

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