

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

First Reading *Isaiah 43:16-21*  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 125. R. v.3*  
**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

2. The heathens themselves said: ‘What marvels the Lord worked for them!’ What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Second Reading *Philippians 3:8-14*  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if

only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation *Joel 2:12-13*  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel *John 8:1-11*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, ‘Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?’ They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, ‘If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to

throw a stone at her.’ Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she replied. ‘Neither do I condemn you,’ said Jesus ‘go away, and don’t sin any more.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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

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**REFLECTION by Nick Brodie**

The story told in today’s Gospel, Pope Francis says, shows us ‘two contrasting attitudes’. One seeks condemnation, the other salvation. Surrounding this distasteful episode is an unhealthy inclination to condemn. Yes, the accusers obviously want to punish the woman. But besides judging this woman, her accusers are also using her. Their real target is Jesus. He is the one they are testing. As the Pope says, these accusatory people are ‘confined to narrow legalism and want to oblige the Son of God to conform to their perspective of judgment and condemnation.’ But Jesus saves the woman. As the Pope puts it, Jesus ‘redeems by forgiving and renews by reconciling.’ With silence and a pointed question, he turns the event upside down! This was surely not what the Scribes and Pharisees anticipated. Moreover, as the Pope points out, Jesus shows us something very important. ‘Jesus is the only one without fault, the only one who could throw a stone at her, but he does not do so.’ Reflecting on this, we might try to let go of those stones in our hearts that we long to fling at others. Each Lent we are ‘called to recognise ourselves as sinners and to ask God for forgiveness,’ the Pope affirms. But he reminds us that, like Jesus, we are also called to become forgivers.

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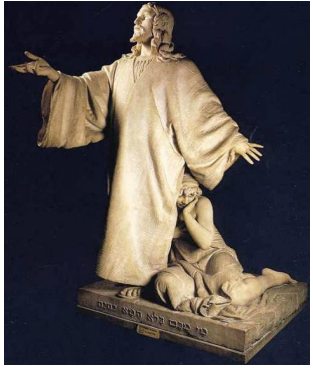


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**FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT Year C**



**CHURCH EVENTS**

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

**Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am**  
**Fridays after Mass**

**Wrap with Love**  
**TUESDAY 8TH April**  
**10-11am BB Library**

**Lenten Program**  
**Wednesdays after Mass**  
**5 March—9 April**

**Parish Sacramental Program**  
**First Reconciliation 2025**  
**Celebration Mass**  
**Tuesday 8th April 5pm St Bernard's Church**

**Cuppa with Mary MacKillop**  
**Tuesday April**  
**8th 10-11am @ Nola & Bernie Beatty's home**  
**Ph: 0410 629 416**

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

**ADORATION TUESDAYS**  
**@ 4pm**

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

**NOTE FOR DIARY!!!**

**RECONCILIATION FOR THE WHOLE PARISH FOR EASTER**

**PLACE:** St Bernard's Church

**DATE:** TUESDAY 8TH April, 2025

**TIME:** 5.30PM (AFTER FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION)

**UNTIL AS LONG AS NEEDED**

**CONFESSORS:** FR REX CURRY

FR EDEN LANGLANDS

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



**Please Note Mass on Tuesday will be at 9am**



## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Monday 7th:—Sunday 14th April**

**Monday 7th:** NO MASS

**Tuesday 8th: Note: Mass 9am**

Celebration of First Reconciliation 5pm

Parish Reconciliation 5.30pm

**Wednesday 9th:** Mass with Anointing of the Sick 9am

**Thursday 10th:** Mass 9am

**Friday 11th:** Mass 9am

**Saturday 12th:** Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30

**Sunday 13th:** Mass 9am

## **ROSTERS**

### 5/6 APRIL

#### Cleaning

7-11 B Coffey/M Paine

### 5.00PM MASS

Welcomer J Anderson  
Commentator S Ebejer  
Reader P Nolan  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L Rodwell  
Computer Screen  
J O'Sullivan

### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer L May  
Commentator  
J Whiteford  
Reader: N Beatty  
Eucharistic Ministers  
M & C Lowe  
Computer Screen  
D May

### MORNING TEA:

Filipino Community

### COUNTERS:

T Priest/J Whiteford

### 12/13 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

#### Cleaning

14-18 R & K Ison

### 5.00PM MASS

Welcomer P Jobes  
Commentator:  
J O'Sullivan  
Reader: J Mackay  
Eucharistic Ministers  
K Lovering  
Computer Screen  
K Conway  
**Passion Narrator:**  
**P O'Kelly**  
**Others: S Ebejer**

### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M deSmet  
Commentator . L Page  
Reader: D Herring  
Eucharistic Ministers  
K Corbin, J Whiteford  
Computer Screen  
T Priest  
**Passion Narrator:**  
**M Lowe**  
**Others: C Lowe**

### MORNING TEA:

M Vidovic/Zdenka

### COUNTERS:

Jackson/Evenden

## PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A/C Name: St Bernard's  
Operating  
BSB: 062-786  
A/C No: 00012939  
Ref: Family Name

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Parishioners are invited to attend the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent.

A soup dinner is served after the short service.

The Stations of the Cross are held at 5.30pm each Friday.

## **LENTEN GROUP**

Will be held after Mass on Wednesdays beginning March 5 Ash Wednesday—April 9  
Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

## **EASTER MUSIC CHOIR PRACTICE**

We continue our Easter Music preparation every Monday at 1.00pm from now until Easter:  
Monday 7 April and Monday 14 April  
All welcome!

**CHRISM MASS** – Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 14 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most beautiful Holy Week Mass. It is in this Mass that the **Holy Oils** used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

## **Parish Sacramental Program 2025 FIRST RECONCILIATION**

Congratulation to the children who will be celebrating their First Reconciliation this week. Many thanks to the parents and teachers for their support during the preparation and may this sacrament bring you peace, renewal and a deeper connection with God.

The Celebration Mass for First Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday 8th April @ 5pm at St Bernard's Church



Our next BBECET prayer meeting will be held on Monday 7 April at 5 pm in the Anglican Church hall. Everyone welcome.

## **Holy Week Ceremonies**

**Holy Thursday 17th April 6.00pm**

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross 18th April 10.00am**

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion 18th April 3.00pm**

**Easter Vigil 19th April 6.00pm**

**Easter Sunday 20th April 9.00am**



The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures.

In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

In Samoa, Caritas Australia works with Caritas Samoa to improve access to clean water and sanitation through initiatives like water tank installations, transforming health and well-being for families like Toefuata'iga's.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Kongolo on the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program. This initiative equipped Irene, a single mother, with sewing and farming skills, enabling her to support her family and empower others in her community.

Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe.



Envelopes available for donations or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

## **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*

## **Remembering the Sick:**

Kristy Crosby, Jeanette Clarke, Margaret Priest, Chris Bowditch, Sheree Jackson, Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O'Neill, Karen Nixon, Kevin 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 Odum, 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:** Geoffrey Bopping, Ivan Backo, Jean McSmith, David Wick, Joe Quigley, Margaret Silversides, Patricia Totterdell, David Cowley, Joanne Rogers, Gerald Lewis, Josephine Beckhaus, Cyril Noyeaux, Frank Simic, Sr Paulinus Coker, 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

## **Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions**

## **APRIL**

## **For the use of the new technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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