

PARISH MASS TIMES

Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: 5.00 pm Mass
Wed - Friday: 9.00 am Mass
 Sat : 5.00pm
 Sunday: 9.00am Mass

Reconciliation
Tues: 4 - 4.45pm, Sat: 3.30 - 4.30pm
 Adoration & Benediction
 Tue: 4-5pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays 5pm followed by Soup Supper
 Sunday 22nd March
 School Family Mass 9am
Mass with Anointing of the Sick
28th March 9am

MASSES IN AGED CARE

The Glen Every Second Wednesday
 10.30am

The Manor Every Third
 Wednesday 2pm

Maranatha Every Fourth
 Wednesday 2pm

PARISH ROSTERS

<p>21/22 MARCH Cleaning 23-27 Favetta,O'Neill, Nugent</p> <p>5.00PM MASS Welcomer B Oerder: Commentator: M O'Neill Reader: M Weatherall Eucharistic Ministers N Buick Computer Screen K Conway</p> <p>9.00 AM MASS: Welcomer School Commentator School</p> <p>Reader School Eucharistic Ministers School Computer Screen . T Jones</p> <p>MORNING TEA: B & N Beatty</p> <p>COUNTERS: M & C Lowe</p>	<p>28/29 MARCH Cleaning 30 March-3 April D & L May</p> <p>5.00PM MASS Welcomer K Conway Commentator: M Weatherall Reader: B Maynard Eucharistic Ministers E Butt Computer Screen M O'Neill</p> <p>9.00 AM MASS: Welcomer L May Commentator J Whiteford Reader: N Beatty Eucharistic Ministers M & C Lowe Computer Screen D May</p> <p>MORNING TEA: J Barroman/G Berryman</p> <p>COUNTERS: G Norris/J O'Sullivan</p>
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Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today.
 You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH, envelopes, or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land
 Traditionally in Australia, a special Collection has been taken up on Good Friday to support the Franciscans who administer and maintain the Holy Land pilgrimage sites . Please consider giving generously this Good Friday .

Why Rose Vestments?
 Some have asked why, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) and the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), the priest may wear rose (pink) vestments instead of the usual purple. In the Church's liturgical tradition, purple signifies penance and preparation. These two Sundays, however, mark a joyful pause within those seasons. Their names Laetare and Gaudete, meaning Rejoice—come from the Entrance Antiphon (Introit) of the Mass on those days. The use of rose reflects this shift in tone, reminding us that even in seasons of repentance, the Christian life is always marked by hope and joy.

Second Rite of Reconciliation Thursday 26 March, 5.00pm
 Dear Parishioners,
 As we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter, our parish will celebrate the Second Rite of Reconciliation. This communal celebration is an important part of our Lenten journey, inviting us to reflect, repent, and experience God's mercy. Visiting priests will be available to assist with confessions. This will also be a special witnessing moment for our children as they receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation.

Fr Joshy

A New Votive Candle Stand for Our Church
 For many years, the votive candle stand in our church has been a quiet and prayerful place where many have come to light a candle and entrust their intentions to the Lord. It was most likely given as a generous gift, and we are grateful for the generosity behind it and for the devotion it has supported over time. Recently, some concerns have been raised regarding safety, ease of use, and the care of our church floor. After careful consideration, the current stand will be replaced with a new votive candle stand. While the stand itself will change, the prayer it represents remains the same. I encourage you to continue this simple and meaningful practice—lighting a candle, offering your prayers, and placing your trust in God. Thank you for your understanding. May the light of Christ continue to shine in your hearts and in our parish.

Fr Joshy

† LENT & EASTER 2026
Journey with Christ through Lent to Easter Joy.

Stations of the Cross
 Fridays – 5.00 PM, followed by Soup Dinner

Lenten Reflection
 Wednesdays – 9.30–11.00 AM

Second Rite of Reconciliation
 Thursday, 26 March – 5.00 PM

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday - 2 April
 Mass of the Lord's Supper – 6.00 PM

Good Friday - 3 April
 Stations of the Cross – 10.00 AM
 Liturgy (Indian Community) – 11.00 AM
 Passion of the Lord – 3.00 PM

Holy Saturday - 4 April
 Easter Vigil – 7.00 PM
 Indian Mass – 11.00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY - 5 April
 Mass – 9.00AM

Sacrament Spotlight
 In this third week of preparation, our children reflected on a beautiful and comforting truth: God never stops loving us. Even when we make mistakes, God gently calls us back to Him with open arms. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special moment where we are forgiven and welcomed again—like being embraced by God. The children learned that feeling sorry for our sins—called contrition—is not just about saying “sorry,” but truly meaning it in our hearts and wanting to change. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we begin to recognise when we have done wrong and choose to do better. Through the story of Peter, who denied Jesus but later returned with a sincere and sorrowful heart, the children discovered that Jesus always forgives those who come back to Him. Peter's life reminds us that our mistakes do not define us—God's mercy does. We also explored the meaning of repentance (turning away from sin) and conversion (turning toward God). Like Zacchaeus, who changed his life after encountering Jesus, we are all invited to grow, change, and become more loving each day. As a parish community, we are invited to remember that God calls us to grow in holiness and become more like Him. While we are not yet perfect, He asks us to recognise when we do wrong, say sorry with sincerity, and try again. In doing so, we draw closer to Him and experience His endless mercy and love.

Prayers for the Sick
Jesus, Divine Healer, we entrust all the sick into your loving hands

Frankie Pepper, Deborah Eddington, Declan Holmes, Joy & John Dillon, Jan Simpson, Nan Reidy, Natalie Matthews, Jordan Ambler, John Hyland, Ken Evenden, Travis Roth, Piper Roth, Maya Roth, Jeanette Clarke, Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O'Neill, Karen Nixon, Kevin Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill.

Recently Deceased
We have loved them in life; let us not forget them in death. May they live forever in God's love.

Nick Hum, Fiona Wearne, Bettye Ison, Fr Frank Fuchs, Chris Bowditch, Shirley Carroll, Pavla Pinkawa, William Gallagher, Teresa Lewis, Bob & Suzanne Hughes, Bishop Pat Power, Diana Ebbelaar, Sr Maria Goretti, Maria Mendes, Gregy Elchico, Bob & Judy Spruce, Rod & Letitia Baz, Wido Melis, Zora Domitrovic, Margaret Priest, Linda Vogel, Ivan Backo, Jean McSmith, David Wick, Margaret Silversides, Joseph Quigley, Patricia Totterdell, Joanne Rogers, Josephine Beckhaus.

Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick—Saturday 28 March 2026
Mass: 9.00am
Holy Hour: 8:00am
Confession: 8:00am-8.45am

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

A/C: Name: St Bernard's
Operating
BSB: 062 786
Account No: 000 12939

Ref: Family Name

Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions
March
For disarmament and peace
 Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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Liturgy of the Word Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for day-break.
(Let the watchman count on day-break and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is
5. mercy and fullness of
6. redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

See John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal

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**ST BERNARD'S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536**

Welcome to
our church

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Tel: 4472 4153
E: batemansbay@cg.org.au
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
Wednesday-Friday

Priest: Fr. Joshy Kurien
E: joshy.kurien@cg.org.au, 0412 358 222
Secretary: Roslynn Trompp
Finance Admin: Anne Jackson JP
PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall
Asst. PC Co-ord: Carolyn Evenden

St. Bernard's Primary School, Batehaven
Principal: Karen Hadley
R.E.C: Rebecca Keough
Carroll College, Broulee
Principal: Andrew Kenneally
R.E.C: Anna Smart

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A



Choir Practice
Every Monday
1.00pm - 2.30 pm
Easter Preparation

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass

"Enjoy the Good News"
Wednesdays after mass
CMR

Stations of the Cross
Fridays 5pm finishing 27th
March Followed by Soup
Supper at 6pm

School Family Mass
Sunday 22nd March, 9am

FINAL Session Parish Lenten
Program Wednesday 25th
9.30-11am.

Parish Sacramental Program
Final Weekly Session
March 25
5-6pm CMR
II Rite Celebration March 26
5PM

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick
Saturday 28 March 2026
Mass: 9:00am
Holy Hour: 8:00am
Confession: 8:00am – 8:45am

Wrap With Love
Wednesday 25 March
1pm-3pm CMR

RCIA Thursdays 5.30pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after 9am Mass
Venue: Corrigan's Cove

Craft Group—Thursdays 10-12

Resurrection of the Body or the Spirit?

There is so much in our readings this week - about the Spirit - probably the least understood part of God.

Ezekial - *God will open our graves and give us His Spirit and we will live.*

Are we willing to accept God's Spirit? What will that mean for us? Are we simply too comfortable in our humanity to want the Holy Spirit of God to come and challenge us in the way we live and pray?

St Paul extends this theme - *'unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God'*.

Isn't it enough to follow the commandments? To come to Mass? To pray? Are we fulfilling our role to live in the Spirit by human observances or is there more?

Lazarus was a faithful friend and follower of Jesus, yet Jesus did not hurry to his bedside to heal him. He took his time and allowed Lazarus to die - not only to die but to lay in the tomb for four days.

The Jewish belief was that a person's spirit hung around for up to three days trying to get back into the body so by the fourth day, according to custom, it would be unable to rejoin his body.

Why wait so long?

Jesus was already unpopular with the Pharisee group yet he came back to call Lazarus out of his tomb after 3 days. It was up to Lazarus and his Spirit to come back in obedience – Jesus did not go in after him. More problems for the Pharisees. What could they do?

What does this mean for you and me?

Is it simply a call to believe totally in the resurrection of the body, or is he perhaps calling us to look inside ourselves to see if our spirits need resurrecting?

Do I want the added responsibility of accepting the Holy Spirit in my life? What is the challenge of accepting the Spirit? Will I need to be actively seeking real relationship with God when I pray, when I look at my neighbour with compassion; will I need to put my hand deeper in my pocket for the underprivileged; to live more fully obedient to the spirit of the commandments and to stand firm when I am criticised and ridiculed for my love of God and his holy Church?

Do I have the courage to be more open to the Spirit?

Deidre Herring

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.