

Liturgy of the Word



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or hymn) All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING **Is 49:3.5-6**

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9. (R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING **1 COR 1:1-3**

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **JN 1:14. 12**

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **JN 1:29-34**

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst .

FOLLOWING THE MISSAL...

Preface I Sundays in Ordinary Time; Eucharistic Prayer III
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A)
Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3; Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matt 4:12-23



The Parish Office is now taking orders for the:
Triumph Lenten Program 2023 books

Triumph is an 88-page full colour book (240x170mm) containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions (*perfect for individual devotional reading and Lenten groups*).

The short daily reflections have been written by 19 fantastic clergy, religious and lay contributors from around the world.

Triumph also features beautiful religious artworks from the Masters such as Veronese, Giordano, Carracci, Leighton, Muziano, Tiepolo and Poussin with enlightening Artwork Spotlight reflections written by the amazing Monsignor Graham Schmitzer.

Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested in purchasing one for Lent. They will be approximately \$9.00 (plus postage - calculated upon ordering)

Office Hours : Tues & Thurs
8.30am - 4pm
nvparish@lismore.catholic.org.au
Phone 65681107



Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

Corpus Christi, Bowraville
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

St Patrick's, Macksville
Christ the King, Taylors Arm

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
15th January 2023

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Gumbaynggirr People, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Shelwin Fernandez

PARISH SECRETARY: Zofie White

PARISH OFFICE:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 8.30am to 2.00pm

NAMBUCCA PRESBYTERY:

Telephone: 02 6568 6642

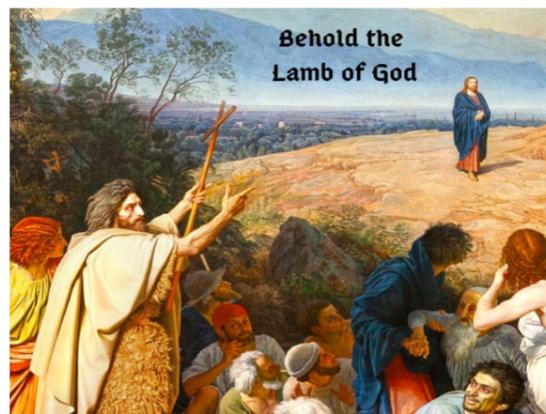
PARISH SCHOOLS:

St Patrick's Primary School—Macksville
32 Macksville Heights Drive, Macksville
Phone: 02 6568 1397

Website: www.macvplism.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School —Bowraville
4 Carbin Street, Bowraville
Phone: 02 65647369

Website: www.bwvplism.catholic.edu.au



A TERM OF GREAT HONOUR

Some people today may be puzzled by John the Baptist referring to Jesus in today's gospel as the "lamb of God", since for most of us the lambs we see in the paddocks are cute, but weak and vulnerable to predators. You don't hear of nations, or even sporting teams, adopting 'lambs' as their emblem. Why should John identify "the Chosen One of God" as the "lamb of God"?

The people for whom John was writing would have heard the "lamb of God" very differently to us. For those familiar with the Old Testament, the term "lamb of God" had extremely powerful resonances, especially in the suffering servant passages in Isaiah, as well as in the Exodus from Egypt.

Recall how Isaiah gives an astonishing account of the suffering servant who is beaten, arrested and put to death: "Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word." Yet by his endurance we are saved and forgiven by God (53:7).

Again at the Exodus from Egypt, we read of God sending a destroying angel to kill all the first born in the land, of people and animals, to force Pharaoh to release the Israelites from their bondage. Moses instructs the Israelites to take the blood of a lamb or kid and put it on the doorpost overnight to protect them from the angel of death (Ex. 12). This Passover became a defining feast for the Jewish people ever after, and it resonates in our Christian Eucharist as well.

So for us the "lamb of God" is indeed a term of great honour, not one of weakness but of incredible endurance and commitment by God in Jesus to our wellbeing and salvation. The symbol of the lamb is not one of threat or violence, but of innocence and solidarity with those in suffering.

Curiously in John's gospel, there is no mention of him baptising Jesus. John even says he did not know Jesus, but recognised him from the sign of the Spirit descending on him. John speaks as a prophet witnessing to the true identity of Jesus as the Chosen One who takes away "the sin of the world", the primordial disorder in all creation and in us.

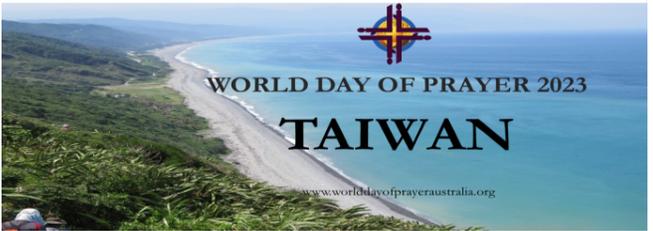
John witnesses the Holy Spirit coming down on Jesus, but the Spirit is not for Jesus alone. Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit, and so the Spirit will be alive in all the followers of Jesus.

John is intent on showing how the same Holy Spirit in Jesus is the very same Spirit animating the small and seemingly insignificant Christian communities of his day. He is urging the followers of Jesus to allow God's Spirit to nudge them to be good news, with the 'lamb of God' as their emblem, capturing God's intense personal commitment to our wellbeing, and calling us to a similar commitment to others.

Bruce Duncan CSsR

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Tuesday 17TH JAN	5:00 pm Reconciliation 5:30 pm Mass, Macksville ST ANTHONY
Wednesday 18TH JAN	9:30 am Mass, Bowraville ST PRISCA
Thursday 19TH JAN	9:00 am Adoration before Mass 9:30 am Mass, Macksville ST CANUTE
Friday 20TH JAN	8:30 am Adoration before Mass 9:00 am Mass, Nambucca Heads ST FABIAN & ST SEBASTIAN
Saturday 21ST JAN	9:30 am Mass, Macksville 5:30 pm Reconciliation, Nambucca Heads 6:00 pm Vigil Mass, Nambucca Heads ST AGNES
Sunday 22ND JAN	8:00 am Mass, Macksville 9:30 am Mass, Bowraville 11:00 am Mass, Taylors Arm 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Nambucca Valley Catholic Parish will be proudly hosting this Year's World Day of Prayer 2023
Motto: *Informed prayer and prayerful action*

**Please keep the date free:
 Friday 3rd March 2023**

Details of venue and time will be in your future bulletins.

The World Day of Prayer service is an international event, celebrated in over 170 countries around the world. It is held on or near the first Friday in March. This year's focus country is Taiwan and in 2023 the service is prepared for us by Christian women in Taiwan. Their wish for you:

*May God grant you peace –
 a peaceful relationship with God and with one another*
 Both women and men, as well as all Christian denominations are invited to attend.

At this service we will be informed about Taiwan, pray for Taiwan using prayers sent from that country, and commit to action by giving to the WDP 2023 project and dedicating ourselves to keep praying for Taiwan in the days ahead.

If there are any parishioners who have links with this beautiful country of Taiwan and can assist with our organizing of this event with cultural information we would love to hear from you!



Saint of the week
St Fabian

Eusebius, tells us how Fabian came to Rome after Pope Anteros died in 236. A layperson, and not a very important one, he may have come for the same reason many still come

to Rome today during a papal election: concern for the future of the faith, curiosity about the new pope, a desire to grieve for the pope who had passed. Seeing all the important people gathered to make this momentous decision must have been overwhelming. Which one would be the new pope? Someone known for power? Someone known for eloquence? Someone known for courage?

Suddenly during the discussion, a dove descended from the ceiling. But it didn't settle on "someone known" for anything at all. The dove, according to Eusebius, "settled on Fabian's head as clear imitation of the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove upon the Savior." There must have been something of the Holy Spirit working because everyone suddenly proclaimed Fabian as "worthy" to be pope and this stranger was elected.

To us the dove signifies peace, and this dove was prophetic. Starting close to Fabian's election, the suffering and persecuted Church began a time of peace. The emperor, Philip, was friendly to Christians and not only was the persecution stopped but Christians experienced acceptance.

In this era of peace, Fabian was able to build up the structure of the Church of Rome, appointing seven deacons and helping to collect the acts of the martyrs.

But, in a timeless story, the people who had always been in power were not happy to see the newcomers growing and thriving. There were many incidents of pagans attacking Christians and when Philip died so died the time of peace. The new emperor, Decius, ordered all Christians to deny Christ by offering incense to idols or through some other pagan ritual.

In the few years of peace, the Church had grown soft. Many didn't have the courage to stand up to martyrdom. But Fabian, singled out by symbol of peace, stood as a courageous example for everyone in his flock. He died a martyr in 250 and is buried in the Cemetery of Calixtus that he helped rebuild and beautify. A stone slab with his name can still be found there.

Prayer:

Pope Saint Fabian, it's so easy to believe that peace means a life without conflict or suffering. Help us to see that the only true peace is the peace Christ brings. Never let us as a Church or as individual Christians choose to deny our beliefs simply to avoid an unpleasant situation. Amen

Ministry Roster - 21st & 22nd January 2023

	Nambucca Heads 6:00pm, Saturday	Macksville 8:00am, Sunday	Bowraville 9:30am, Sunday	Taylors Arm 11:00am, Sunday
Commentator	A Orrego	C Cresswell	P Buchanan	S Spear
Reader	G Lewis	I Allan	C Doolan	H Spear
Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M Dallas B Goswell	J Hasson S Allan		
Procession of Gifts	Volunteers please	Testor Family	Volunteers please	
Altar Servers	M & Z Dillow	J & J Testor	T & I Leece	
Sacristan	M Tait	S Nebauer		
Counters	B & R McFadyen			



Caritas Australia launches urgent appeal for Democratic Republic of Congo

Caritas agencies are responding to support communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who have been facing escalating conflict and displacement since the rebel militia group M23 seized a swath of the east of the country just over a year ago.

While the world is busy and nobody is looking, we have M23 occupying villages forcing people to flee en masse from their homes. We must act quickly, because in one camp there are nearly 20,000 people crammed into one place, without water, sanitation or even shelter. This is a recipe for disaster.



Village communities have faced ongoing attacks from armed groups in North Kivu, a region bordering with Uganda and Rwanda. Since October 20, the conflict has escalated despite pledges for a ceasefire. It is believed that over 300 people were killed in an attack on a village in eastern North Kivu province in early December.

The near-constant fighting has forced a staggering 188,000 people from their homes. Nearly nine in ten people are currently staying in overcrowded shelters and improvised sites, many even sleeping outside.

"Huge numbers of children have lost their parents to conflict or illness and are now extremely vulnerable with almost no support. They are really struggling with basic needs.

Nearly 18,000 households have found refuge in Kanyarucinya, north of the city of Goma. Caritas agencies and the WFP have distributed emergency food rations to 14,000 households in the camp, but people still do not have access to hygiene, clean drinking water, sleeping supplies, protection for children and education.

"People urgently need emergency shelter, sleeping supplies, clean water and food," said Lulu Mithabu, Caritas Australia's Program Coordinator for Democratic Republic of Congo.

Caritas Australia's partner CAFOD and the Anglican Church are on the ground responding to support communities who require immediate assistance and assessing the most urgent needs. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster.

Your support today can help communities affected by emergencies in Africa, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo crisis.



To Donate: *You can use the Caritas Envelopes in your church to donate, mark them, "Emergency Appeals Democratic Republic of Congo" Or go to: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/democratic-republic-of-congo/>*

WE PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

*Lord we ask healing for those who are sick.
 We thank you for those who have recovered.
 We pray for all who have died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.*



Mass intention envelopes are located at the back of the church

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Eva Smith, Susan Ang, Jodie Bowron, Wendy Tuck, Roy Gore, Rayleen Keaton, Leonie McLachlan, Shaun Forrester, Karen Hasson, David Grimes, Malou Atayde, Therese & Terry Parkhouse, Monica Dunbar, Tui Smith, Ern Thorne, Neville Stewart, Kath Mitchell, Eloise Spear, Eileen Barbellar, Fr Anthony Lemon, Jim Garland, Michael Foley, Lorraine Freeman, Elizabeth Armer, Lynn Tonkin, Jacob Ingold, Peter Finlay, Jerry Barber, Neville Ennis, Gloria Connors, Julieanne McIntyre, Adam Connolly

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Fr Thomas Patrick Cusack, Peter Owens, Frank Walsh, Rita McLeod, Marie McPherson, Len Smith, Noel Scrivener, Pam Cross, Maureen Harper, Eulalie Glover

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
 George Cardinal Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Danny Martinelli, Claudette Parkinson, Rosemary Laws, Patricia Grant.

If you wish us to visit any family members who are in hospital or infirm, please notify the parish office so the Pastoral Care team or Father can arrange a visit and administer the sacrament for the sick.

MUSICAL VOLUNTEER NEEDED – ORGAN SUPPLIED

Do you play the piano (and interested in learning the organ) or organ and would be open to playing at our Macksville or Bowraville Masses?

Joye Thorne (former organist at Macksville Church) has an organ in good working order available **FREE** for pickup from her Macksville home. Joye has kindly offered to help someone ease into playing for our masses—she has sheet music, experience and willingness to help pass on the baton (so to speak).



So don't be shy, step up lets help our other musicians to share the music and celebration of our masses. Please call Joye 6568 2500 or the parish office 6568 1107 if interested.