



Liturgy of the Word

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or hymn) Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING ZEP 2:3; 3:12-13
Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3
(R.) *Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 COR 1:26-31

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION MT 5:12
Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL MT 5:1-12
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. *This is what he taught them:*

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn): Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

FOLLOWING THE MISSAL...

Preface III Sundays in Ordinary Time; Eucharistic Prayer III
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A)
Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16



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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
29th 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
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The Beatitude Life

- THE POOR IN SPIRIT** Embracing our need for God.
- THE MOURNERS** Experiencing God's comfort in our pain.
- THE MEEK** Choosing humble submissiveness over ambition and authority.
- THE HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS** Longing for God to make all things new.
- THE MERCIFUL** Extending God's incredible compassion and mercy.
- THE PURE IN HEART** Making our hearts fully God's, in all we think, say and do.
- THE PEACEMAKERS** Bringing healing, togetherness, and fullness to our world.
- THE PERSECUTED** Following Jesus no matter what the cost.

Small Things With Great Love

In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel, one of the most famous in the New Testament, Jesus teaches us about the true nature of happiness and holiness.

The qualities which Jesus highlights in the Beatitudes can seem almost too ordinary when compared to the strategies for survival recommended by worldly sources of wisdom. Nevertheless, Jesus reminds us that it is precisely in our poverty of spirit, in our being gentle, merciful, and humble, and in seeing God's presence in the ordinary, unremarkable and even tragic circumstances of our lives, that we grow in holiness and embody his presence in the world.

In unobtrusive but significant ways, we can bring holiness to our world and so work to bring his kingdom to fruition. Mother Teresa spoke of not necessarily doing "great things, but small things with great love".

Pope Francis, in "Gaudete et Exsultate" offers us practical suggestions for how we might live out the qualities Jesus describes in the Beatitudes. Here is a brief summary of how he encourages us to strive for holiness in our lives:

Perseverance, Patience and Meekness: Remaining firmly grounded in a God who loves and sustains us, enables us to persist in our efforts to bring about his kingdom on earth.

Joy and a Sense of Humour: We live in the certain joy that we are "infinitely loved". This gives us "deep security", a "serene hope" and a sense of humour amidst life's circumstances.

Boldness and Passion: We are encouraged to be bold: to evangelise and to leave a mark in this world. Jesus promises: "Do not be afraid" (Mk 6:50) for "I am with you always, to the end of the world" (Mt 28:20).

Community: We grow in holiness in "a journey in community, side by side with others." "Each community is called to create a God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord".

Constant Prayer: Our lives are to be "distinguished by a spirit of prayer and a need for communion with God." In the process, we discern "the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us."

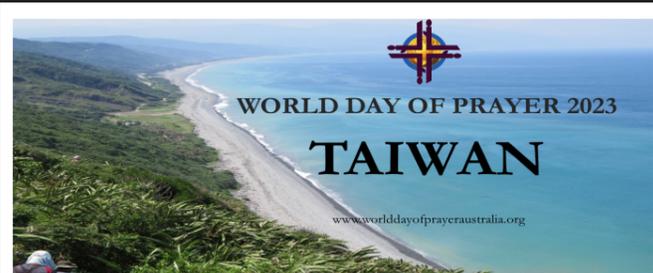
In the Beatitudes, Jesus beckons us to an openness to God: an openness which enables God to enter into even the unlikeliest moments of our lives and to accompany us intimately, allowing ourselves to be surprised and shaped and formed by his grace, his love and his joy.

Sophie Clements

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PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 31ST JAN	5:00 pm Reconciliation 5:30 pm Mass, Macksville ST JOHN BOSCO
Wednesday 1ST FEB	9:30 am Mass, Bowraville ST BRIGID OF IRELAND
Thursday 2ND FEB	NO MASS THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
Friday 3RD FEB	8:30 am Adoration before Mass 9:00 am Mass, Nambucca Heads ST ANSGAR & ST BLAISE
Saturday 4TH FEB	9:30 am Mass, Macksville 5:30 pm Reconciliation, Nambucca Heads 6:00 pm *Vigil Mass, Nambucca Heads * SCHOOL STAFF COMMITMENT MASS ST THEOPHILUS THE PENITENT
Sunday 5TH FEB	8:00 am Mass, Macksville 9:30 am Mass, Bowraville 5TH 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
To be held at St Patrick's Church, Macksville
Friday, 3rd March 2023
Refreshments from 5pm - 5.45pm
Prayer Service Commences 6pm

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 Blaise

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."
 Saint Blaise is believed to begin as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.
 In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.
 In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did -alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all.

Many German churches are dedicated to Saint Blaise, sometimes called Saint Blasius. Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. His feast day is 3rd February and he is the Patron Saint of throat illnesses, animals, wool combers, and wool trading.

"O GOD, deliver us through the intercession of Thy holy bishop and martyr Blaise, from all evil of soul and body, especially from all ills of the throat; and grant us the grace to make a good confession in the confident hope of obtaining Thy pardon, and ever to praise with worthy lips Thy most holy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.."



The Parish Office is now taking orders (approx. \$9.90)
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. The short daily reflections have been written by 19 fantastic clergy, religious and lay contributors from around the world and features beautiful religious artworks from the Masters.



Congratulations!
Frank & Judy Wesley
58th Wedding Anniversary

May God Bless your marriage with many more years of love, joy and companionship.

Ministry Roster - 4th & 5th February 2023

	Nambucca Heads 6:00pm, Saturday	Macksville 8:00am, Sunday	Bowraville 9:30am, Sunday	Taylor's Arm 11:00am, Sunday
Commentator	School Staff	J Thorne	M Dal Santo	
Reader	School Staff	J Hasson	J Blake	NO MASS
Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	G Lewis M Dwart	H Murphy L McLeod		
Procession of Gifts	School Staff	U Goodwin M Howle	Volunteers please	
Altar Servers	M & Z Dillow	H & T Patton-Low	T & I Leece	
Sacristan	A Orrego	S Nebauer		
Counters		L McLeod, B Wall		

The SYNOD of SYNODALITY
WHY WE SHOULD CARE

Join us for a Zoom event focusing on the current Synod

SYNODALITY is a Church word for inclusive leadership, listening to the sense of faith of the faithful, a rejection of autocratic and patriarchal decision-making.

Pope Francis has called a two-part Synod on Synodality in Rome in 2023 and 2024. The Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific) are meeting in Fiji early February to finalise their submission to the Synod on Synodality. The submissions from all continents will be the basis for the Synod.

Join us and our expert panel to discover how we can continue the crucial need for reform in our local – and indeed – universal Church. The Synod on Synodality is an opportunity for much-needed change to the Catholic Church's culture, leadership and governance structures. Renewal must include a focus on: the role and status of women, acceptance of the spirituality of First Nations people, inclusion of all without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender, marriage, race or relationships, clericalism and the harm done by the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, synodality and the inclusive use of authority.

Our intent is to uncover ways forward for the people of God and the hierarchy to shape the mission of the Church and to play our part in the global movement towards renewal.

After an Introduction from ACBC President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, our expert panel will reveal the real issues facing our Church, and the part we can play as the People of God.

You will hear from: Christina Reymer, Francis Sullivan AO, Susan Pascoe AM, Grace Wrakia and Patricia Gemmell.

EVENT DETAILS
 WHEN: Thursday 2 February 2023
 TIME: 7:30pm (AEDT)*
 WHERE: Online via Zoom
 FREE REGISTRATION: Go to www.garratt.com.au

The convocation will be recorded and made available the week following the event. You must be registered to receive the link to the video.

If you would like more information regarding this convocation please follow the link below to visit our blog.
<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/synod-on-synodality-why-we-should-care/>

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, 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 Cusack, Pam Cross, Len Smith, Noel Scrivener, Maureen Harper, Eulalie Glover, Colleen Owens, Andrew Jones, Mieczyslaw & Emilia Szewczyk

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Marisa Leonetti, John Presland, Ern Thorne, George Cardinal Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Danny Martinelli, Rosemary Laws.

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.

Fellow Parishioners
Your Help is Needed

We have a married couple of parishioners who are in need of their son's assistance to maintain their status in their own home. He wishes to move and reside in or near the Nambucca Valley so that he can help them in their day to day lives. They are seeking suitable accommodation for him in the form of a flat/unit/granny flat/ or a room with some private access.

If you know of anywhere or anyone who can assist in this matter please contact the Parish Office, or Father Shelwin.