

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

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.**

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

A reading from the letter of St James Jm 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to

be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

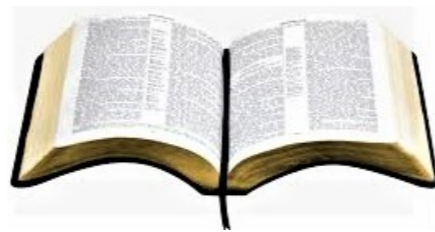
Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Next Weeks Readings:

First Reading	Is 7:10-14
Second Reading	Rom 1:1-7
Gospel	Mt 1:18-24

Copyright© Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright© 1996, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: copyright© 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah

St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Noraville

St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah

Vision

To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community



Pastoral Team

Administrator

Rev Tomy Kuruvelil Ouseph CFIC
Phone: 0408 632 015
Email: tomy.kuruvelil@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest

Rev Baby Thomas CFIC
Phone: 0400 568 491
Email: baby.thomas@bbcatholic.org.au

Deacon

Rev Paul Simmons
Phone: 0410 438 832
Email: paul.simmons@bbcatholic.org.au

Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation

Convent 4396 9128
11 Pandora Pde Noraville
Sr. Josefa Mabini OSA
Sr. Jennifer Canillas OSA

Parish Office 4396 4455
458 Main Rd Noraville NSW

Parish Secretary Mrs Jan Lovett

Office Assistant: Mrs Lorrie O'Brien

Mail PO Box 1 Toukley NSW 2263

Email toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Website www.bbcatholic.org.au/toukley

Catechist Coordinator

Mrs. Di Healey 0401 162 287

Sacramental Coordinator

Please contact parish office 4396 4455

Sunday Parish Bus Service

Mrs. Joan Haslam 4392 6892

Parish Schools

St Mary's

Principal Mr Kevin Williams 4396 5100

St Brendan's

Principal Mrs Luanna Fletcher 4358 1501

St Brigid's College

Principal Mrs Julie Terry 4358 4278

Third Sunday of Advent Year A 15th December 2019

John the Baptist - The Voice That Questions



In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, there is no suggestion that John the Baptist recognised Jesus as the Messiah. But in Matthew's version of Jesus baptism, John, actually recognises Jesus; but Matthew also maintains the tradition that John had his doubts about Jesus as we hear John's voice asking the question from prison, if Jesus is in fact the one.

We know that John is not released from prison, but before his death, he sends his own disciples, to find out from Jesus if John's life of preaching and baptising has its fulfilment in Jesus himself.

John is confused because his image of the 'one to come' is an image of a strict judge who would bring a fiery judgement, someone who would dispense such wrath and from whom people would have to flee. But, when John hears what Jesus is doing; healing the sick, blessing the gentle and the peacemakers, telling people they must not judge one another but rather love their enemies; and he doesn't require his disciples to fast, unlike John's disciples. It's no wonder John the Baptist is confused, because if Jesus is the Messiah, it seems he is a world away from what John imagined the Messiah to be like.

When John's disciples do come to Jesus, he doesn't say to them "of course I am the one". Instead he tells them to pay attention to what is happening; the afflicted are healed, the dead are raised to new life, the good news is preached to the poor. Those who meet Jesus must work out, from what he says and does, as to who he actually is. This is a decision of faith, Jesus can't make that decision for anyone, he can't make it for John the Baptist, and he can't make it for us. We have to make that act of faith ourselves.

And so, when John's disciples return to him in prison, and they tell him what Jesus is saying and doing, does John believe that Jesus is the Christ? Does he continue to doubt? Of course, the Gospel doesn't tell us because the gospel is more interested in Jesus. John's time, Preparing the Way for the Lord, has come to an end because 'the one' for whom he has prepared has come.

The question of John, perhaps, may be our question too. Is Jesus the one for us, or are we waiting for someone else? Do we find in Jesus the true answer? May we pray, during this Advent Season, for the answers to our questions.

Deacon Paul

PARISH LITURGIES

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Saturday: Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am

9:00am

Children's Liturgy 1st & 3rd Sunday
(except school holidays)

6:00pm

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday: Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday 7:45am

Tuesday 7:45am

Wednesday 7:45am

Thursday 7:45am (Ordinariate of Our Lady
of the Southern Cross)

Friday 9:15am (Except 1st Friday of Month)

First Friday of Month Anointing of Sick

11:00am

Saturday 7:45am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Wednesday 9:00am

First Wednesday of Month Anointing of Sick

9:00am

Thursday 9:00am

EXPOSITION BLESSED SACRAMENT

St Mary's Church Toukley

Each Saturday – After Morning Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Toukley

Saturday 8:15am—9:00am

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday 4:30—5:00pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Mary's Toukley

7:25am Monday to Thursday & Saturday

8:45am Friday

WELCOME



We welcome all of our parishioners and visitors, who have joined us for the celebration of Holy Eucharist this weekend. You are all most welcome here in our Parish Family. Please feel free to make yourself known to us, and we look forward to speaking with you.

Formation of Mission Councils

We wish to form two new Mission Councils next year, one for Toukley and one for Lake Munmorah, to ensure representation, from across the parish, to assist in the efficient functioning of the parish community. Each Mission Council will be formed of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and two members. The policy we have in the parish is **one person, one position**. Two members from Mission Council will represent the Parish Pastoral Council.

Membership: Members of the Mission Council are to be representative of the life of the Parish community, not representing a particular group or ministry to which they may belong.

The members are expected to possess at least some of the following qualities: A commitment to the practice of the faith, the parish community and its mission. The ability to collaborate and consult with others for the mission of the church and active in the life of the parish, to plan strategies to implement Pastoral Plans. It would be most appreciated if you could assist in this mission. Please feel free to contact the Parish office or the clergy if you could help in this exercise of serving the Church.

Fr Tomy

Formation of Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance committee is composed of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and two members. I would really appreciate if members of good will can come forward for this important structure of the Church. The Role of Finance Committee is to assist the Parish Priest perform his role of the administering the ecclesiastical goods of the parish. To advise on financial policies and transactions for the parish; Prepare Annual Budget of Income and Expenditure; to assist the priest to keep current and accurate financial records; implementing and supervising Fund-Raising programmes etc.

Fr Tomy

Formation of Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee is an important structure in the Spiritual Life of the Parish. Its main role is to help the Clergy in the liturgical events and Sacraments of the Parish. I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance and Liturgy Committees for the past years. If you are able to help in the exercise, please contact me, Fr Baby or the Parish Office.

Fr Tomy

Sharing God's Light—A Gift in Your Will



Our parish is very grateful for the bequests that have been left to the parish in the past. These bequests have supported our Faith Community and enabled us to maintain our parish church and buildings and implement pastoral initiatives. By leaving a gift in your will, or honouring the memory of a loved one, you are supporting your Family of Faith. Booklets are available the at doors of the church.

Upcoming Parish Events

Thank you

Fr Baby and I would like to thank everyone for joining us at Mass last Sunday for the renewal of our Vows. We would especially like to thank Christine Buckman for her organization of the morning tea. Fr Tomy

St Mary's Rosters

New roster for Christmas and January are available now at the front of the Church.

St Brendan's Rosters Christmas Day & Jan—Mar

Rosters are now being prepared for Christmas Day and for the period January to March. **Please add your details to the sheets provided at the rear of the Church.** More volunteers are required for all ministries, training will be provided, please consider assisting.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

In order to prepare worthily for the Christmas Season, the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be available in these parishes, on these days.

St Mary's Toukley Tuesday 17th December 6pm

St Cecilia's Wyong Wednesday 18th December 6pm

MacKillop Warnervale Thursday 19th December **7pm**

OLR The Entrance Friday 20th December 6pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Christmas Eve

St Brendan's Vigil 5:00pm

St Mary's Vigil 6:00pm,
Carols 11:30pm,
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

StBrendan's 8:00am

St Mary's 7:30am, 9:00am
NO EVENING MASS

New Year's Day

Solemnity Mary Holy Mother of God

St Mary's 9:00am

St Brendan's 9:00am

Parish Bulletins

There will be NO BULLETINS during January

Copies of the Readings will be available at the front of the church each week during January, for those who are hard of hearing.

Facilitators for Reconciliation Sacramental Programme

Our parish needs volunteers to facilitate parents to prepare their children worthily to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The four week programme commences week beginning Monday 2nd March. If you are able to assist as a facilitator, please contact the parish office.

In your charity, please pray for those who have died and those who are sick.

Recently Deceased

Joseph Costa, Anthony Abdilla, Isileli Tupou, Mary Patricia Mahony,

Anniversaries

Deacon Dave Huntley, Judith Kemp, Alfred Mitchell, Lorna Simms, Denis Newey, Shirley O'Neill

Remembrance

Carol Brown, Valmai Joseph, Fred Stephens, Mary McBride, Philomena Boyle, Dennis, Mitchell, Ross, Wade & Stark Families & Holy Souls

Please Pray for the Sick

Elizabeth Hollis, Doris & Toni Temlett, Eileen O'Kane, Vicki Buttell, 4 year old Ethan, Brendon Andrews, Brett Harkins, John Daniel, Shanon Bradler, Daisy Realo, Maureen Baxter, Ron McDonough, Brian Torrington, Kevin and Therese Harvey, Teresa Wegrzyn, Luc Bouquet, Margaret Downing, Donatus Morrison, John and Helen Loader, Maria Loisa Etello, Brenda Durley, Jeff Henshaw, Len O'Shea, Ray Slucher, Mary Mahony, Michael Wiggan, Koby Thomas Bourke, Lina Phillips, Vanessa Miller, Alexis Hagen, Francis Lim, Tony Hodges, Wendy Lott, Eleanor Matthews, Arne Jensen, Fred Butterfield, Betty Carroll, Leanne Knight, Arnold Fletcher, Stephen Knight, Adrienne Gibson, Heather Niblett, Kathleen Strong, Evan Shepherd, Rosa M Santos, Betty Tattersall.

Prayer for Victims of NZ Disaster

Loving and merciful Father, you guide everything in wisdom and love; we pray for the victims, survivors, families and emergency service personnel of the recent tragedy in New Zealand. May they experience your love and healing power. Amen

Safeguarding

We the people of the Catholic Parish of Toukley/Lake Munmorah are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us and we are seeking one parishioner from St Mary's, and one from St Brendan's, to be contact people for the parish. Please speak to any of the clergy if you are able to assist with this important matter.

Prayer for Rain

Dear Heavenly Father, source of love & mercy. We thank you for all the gifts you have given us. We pray most earnestly for your precious rain, to fall on the parched earth of our country. We pray especially for those who work the land, and are suffering severely at this time. Please help the people of Australia to have the courage to become good stewards of the gifts you give us. Please give us generous hearts, so that we can share our bounty with all others in need. Amen

THE GARAGE SERVICE CENTRE
at BP Lake Munmorah
4358 1302
ALL MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL REPAIRS incl...
Pink Slips • Wheel Balance & Alignment • Logbook Service • Brakes etc.
335 Pacific Hwy Lake Munmorah 2259 ABN 38 1358 79515 MVRL 56148

CHARMHAVEN
ARPETS
ABN: 43 660 345 590
DOUG CASHIN
Unit 4, 11-13 Arizona Road, Charmhaven 2263
Ph: (02) 4393 2443
Email: charmhaven@internode.on.net

Mackay Family Funerals
In Association with Mackay Family Crematorium
A.B.N. 79 085 423 589
Head Office: 249 Pacific Highway West, Ourimbah 2258
PO Box 89 Ourimbah NSW 2258.
Phone: (02) 4362 2733 Fax: (02) 4362 2899

TOUKLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

HEADOR STREET, TOUKLEY
Ph: 02 4396 1555 / Fax: 02 4396 5818
www.tnc.org.au

Volunteer Angels

Male & Female

Do you have a caring heart & time to become a friend to a lonely person in an Aged Care Facility
Please call Anne-Marie 4396 1555
The Community Visitors' Scheme