

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 21st January 2024 ~ 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B

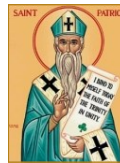
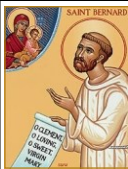
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Responsorial Psalm: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.



Reflection © Anthony Doran

Sometimes, it seems as if God gets it wrong. That of all the things God could have done, God just stuffs it up. Take one look at today's Gospel Reading. He calls as his followers four fishermen. Simon and his brother Andrew; and James and John, the sons of Zebedee. **What is going on here?**

Fishermen back then would not have been the obvious choice for Jesus to choose as his followers. For they would not have been well educated. Certainly, they would have known about tides and climate and the price their catch might bring in. But they certainly would not have been the educated elite. The brief account we have today in Mark's Gospel does not specify if Simon and Andrew and James and John were up with the religious elite of their time. I suspect they were not. But Jesus calls these four fishermen to follow him. And not just to follow him, but also to share in his work. To become fishers of men and women.

What are we to make of this? It is tempting to think that God does get it wrong. That if we were in charge, we would have made a better fist of things. That is the temptation to look at things with human eyes. That is a temptation we must avoid.

Actually, God does not get it wrong. **God never gets it wrong.** Yes, Jesus does call the four fishermen to follow him. But Jesus does not wait for them to be perfect. He calls them as they are. With their imperfections, with all their faults and failings.

And perhaps the more surprising thing is that these fishermen do indeed follow Jesus. These fishermen do not wait until they are perfect, until they have it all together before they decide to follow Jesus. They follow Jesus when he calls them.

The story of these four fishermen is also our story. We too are called by Jesus to follow him. And Jesus does not wait until we are perfect. Jesus does not wait until we have it all together and have all the answers. If he did, Christian life would be a bit boring. And reasonably lacking in disciples.

God calls us in the midst of our life. Whether we are priest or layperson, married or single, young or old, or whatever. **We are called to follow Jesus.**

And, like Simon and Andrew and James and John, we are not called just to follow Jesus. Like them we are called to share in the task of proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom. All of us share in this task of proclaiming the Kingdom. It is not a task restricted to bishops and priests. Certainly, ordained ministers have a special role in the task of evangelisation. But they are not the only players. Thank God! All of us share in bringing the Kingdom to birth in our time.

For it is not just about preaching the Kingdom in words. We preach the Kingdom in what we do far more eloquently and powerfully than by any words which we may speak. And that is why bishops and priests are not the only players in the evangelisation stakes. All of us who are baptised are called to proclaim the reign of God's love.

But we don't do it by the number of hours we spend in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We don't do it my how many rosaries or novenas or chaplets we might say. **Prayer is important, but it is only the beginning, only half the story.**

- + We do this when we hold out our hands to someone in need.
- + We do this when we walk together with our brothers and sisters who may need our companionship and accompaniment.
- + We do this when we help someone else find their place in the world.
- + We do this when we get our hands dirty helping someone else.

As Pope Francis has reminded us, the Church should be like a field hospital on a battle field: ready to bind up the wounds of those who are hurt. When we can be the sort of Church that Pope Francis challenges us to be...when these things happen, as our Gospel Reading tells us: the Kingdom of God is close at hand.

Indeed, very close.



WEEKEND COLLECTIONS ~ Please consider carefully how the funds you place on the plate are administered ...

1st Collection: LEAVES the parish and goes to a common fund **outside the Parish** to support priests.

2nd Collection: STAYS in the parish to pay for all our costs, including insurance, maintenance, telecommunications, wages, pastoral programmes, church and office expenses, the Priests' cars & petrol etc, etc and is **ESSENTIAL** for our **PARISH** to **FUNCTION FINANCIALLY**

PASTORAL CENTRE: 1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082; P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights
Hours: 9am – 3.30pm. P: (02) 9456 2450; E: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au; W: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp
 Parish Priest Rev Dr Biju Jose, OSH Assistant Priest Fr Joy Thomas, OSH
 Parish Secretary Margaret Cooper Vol. Office Assistant Jan Favaloro
 Bookkeeper Karen Price Sacramental Team Peta & Phill - kccpsacraments@gmail.com
RECONCILIATION: Fridays: 9.30am at St Bernard's Berowra; Saturdays: 9.30 am at St Patrick's, Asquith
WEEKEND MASSES: St Bernard's, Berowra Heights: Saturday Vigil 5pm and Sunday 9am
 St Patrick's, Asquith: Saturday Vigil 6pm and Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm
WEEKDAY MASSES: St Bernard's, Berowra Heights: 9am Wednesday & Friday
 St Patrick's, Asquith: 9am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday



The Parish Office RE-OPENS on Tuesday 23 January 2024.

Please be patient while staff 'catch-up' on (non-urgent) emails and phone messages.

Please note: Friday 26th January 2024 is a **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

and therefore the office will be closed.

To leave a message phone 9456 2450.

REMEMBER: If in URGENT NEED ONLY of a priest, call: 0468 341 841.



ROSTERS & READINGS FOR W/end – 27th/28th January 2024 - 4th Sunday Ordinary Time - Year B - Deut 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Garth Graham	Volunteer needed	Sue Lum	Francis Lizardo	Volunteer needed	Sue Lum
Altar Servers	Archie Tod Harry Tod	Sophia Cottrell Bronte Tonkin	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Lucy Henao Vila Mia Nguyen	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed
Reader (1)	Jerome Gomez	Paul Maher	Penny Loughland	Vivienne Schreiber	Simone Noel	Mary Stokes
Reader (2)	Alodie Wheeler	Barbara McMullen	Paul Worthington	Russell Schreiber	David Massa	Les Fogden
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	GC (Ch); Cecilia Waite (f); Gisela Muschal (s)		Cynthia Gilbertson, Sue Watts, Cathy Gray, Maria Hon (f)			
Maintenance	Team A & B - <i>additional help always</i>		January: Les Fogden, Graham Palmer, Richard Fellow			

LITURGICAL SERVICES & PASTORAL CARE

Rosary After weekday Masses both Churches
Visits to Housebound Dr Biju & Fr Joy - 9456 2450
Nursing Home Visits By request
Emergency Priest 0468 341 841 (Out of office hours only)
Clergy Days Off Fr Biju — Monday / Fr Joy — Tuesday
Home Visits For House Blessings/Pastoral Requests, please phone the office 9456 2450.
HOSPITAL ADMISSION: If admitted to hospital, please write your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services. *Please notify the Office, if hospitalised and would like our own priests to attend.*

Pope's intention for January: For the Gift of Diversity in The Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Felice Daidone, Shelly Schreiber; O'Malley; **ANNIVERSARY:** Patricia Margaret Patterson, Pat Bowden, Sosefo Ali, Bill Holmes, Cita Del Rio, Chris Enright, Philomena & Rex D'Souza, Mary Mathew, Isabel Henson, Chichi Datoc, Mary Burns, Georgina Hughes, Patrick Dorahy, Rey Hilario, Roger Okell, John Cosgrove (Snr), Rosemary Pendlebury-Grainger.
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Margaret Patterson, Pat Bowden, Sosefo Ali, Bill Holmes, Cita Del Rio, Chris Enright, Philomena & Rex D'Souza, Mary Mathew, Isabel Henson, Chichi Datoc, Mary Burns, Georgina Hughes, Patrick Dorahy, Rey Hilario, Roger Okell, John Cosgrove (Snr), Rosemary Pendlebury-Grainger.
Please NOTE WELL: *It is our practise during January, to delete names from the Sick list whose situation hasn't been updated. Please send an email to: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au to have a name reinstated.*



This Friday, 26 January 2024, is **Australia Day** here in Oz, and **Republic Day** over in India ~ home of our wonderful priests.
Please join us for Mass, 9.15am, St Bernard's, Berowra Heights.
We bless you, God of the universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. We bless you for our history, with all its struggle in adversity, its courage and hope. Give us in our diversity, tolerance and respect for each other a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The businesses here support our parish by advertising, please support them in turn.

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Rebecca Pincott
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