

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

**SUNDAY – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. - Year A**

### RECENT DEATHS:

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Rene Miles, Sherrill Alexander ( Naylor), Stuart Johnston, John Fraser, Chris Tweddle, Flora Biggs, Jack Flemming, June Lofis, Peter Paul Cushing, Jim Armstrong & Ted Sullivan.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy and all those in need of prayer.

### ROSTER:

#### **Introduction & Reading**

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: John Jess

#### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Charlie Franc

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: Clarrie Johnston

#### **Assembly Leader**

Jan 29<sup>th</sup>: Angela Gerrard & Carita Clancy

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: Sue & Jim Mahony

#### **Special Minister**

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: Therese Jess

#### **Music**

Today: Sue Mahony

#### **Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers**

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

#### **Church Grounds**

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>: Chalie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>: Jim Mahony & Tomm Jess

#### **Newsletter**

January: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

February: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

### MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

February 5<sup>th</sup> LLA 10.00 am

### Columban Calendars

Available now from Sue Mahony for \$8

### **Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023**

Bishop Paul Bird CSSR will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, February 19, 2023 during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

**The Mass of the Oils** will take place on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at St Patricks Cathedral at 6.30 pm. Supper to follow in the hall.

### **The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine**

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

### **What does it mean to be Blessed**

Fr. Mike Schmitz reminds us, to be holy is not to be perfect. Rather, it is to be blessed by God, and when God blesses something he sets it apart so it may more effectively do his will in this world.

### **The Universal Blessing**

In today's gospel, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes. These show us that the promise of a "universal blessing" which was made to Abraham will be fulfilled in Jesus. Unlike the world, God blesses those who are without power and influence.

So God's blessings are for all, but we must work for the virtues which Jesus lists here. We must be poor in spirit, meek, merciful, peacemakers, and more. This is also not the way of the world. But this is the Kingdom which we must strive for.

### **Symbols and images**

The 'poor' are those who are not smug and self-satisfied. Those who 'mourn' are those who grieve at the effects of sin in the world. The 'meek' are the lowly and powerless in any situation. Those who 'hunger for righteousness' are those who long for justice and peace. The 'pure of heart' are those who seek God alone. The 'peacemakers' are those who work to restore broken relationships. Those who are 'persecuted' are those who are ridiculed for their faith. Taken all together, the Beatitudes describe what a Christian should be like.

*The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.*

*The Lord sets captives free.*

*The Lord gives sight to the blind;*

*the Lord raises up those who were bowed down.  
The Lord loves the just;  
the Lord protects strangers*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Happy are the poor in spirit.*

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.’

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

29 JANUARY 2023

## WORKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

There is a consistency between the Old Testament reading and the Gospel of today in that they speak of the qualities that should mark the life of faith in the face of difficulty – integrity, humility, truthfulness, and steadfastness. There is a call to hope that despite the presence of obstacles, misunderstanding, and sometimes rejection, God still has the power to intervene in our world. For the people in exile, it was no easy matter to continue to believe that God would intervene to re-establish the faithful in their own land. Would it have been any easier for the people of Jesus' time to hear the words of the beatitudes that proclaimed comfort for mourners, or a sumptuous banquet for those who were starving? There is a fundamental challenge that underlies both these readings: do we really believe that God's kingdom can be established in our midst? Secondly, are we prepared to work to bring that kingdom into reality?

While the Christians of Corinth felt they were living in that reality Paul knew that while there was division the process of conversion still had a long way to go. Paul was convinced that there is no place for competition or envy. He had already used the example of Jesus' humble death to show them that jealousy is misplaced in the Christian community since Jesus displayed his power in humble service. He now goes one step further reminding the Corinthians that their own humble origin is a sign that God's call is best received with humble gratitude.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

*In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.*

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145: 7-10

**R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (or Alleluia!)**

1. 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.**

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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.*

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Rejoice and be glad:**

**your reward will be great in heaven.**

**Alleluia!**