

MASS TIME CHANGES: Please note there will be no weekday masses on Tuesday, 31 January, Wednesday, 1 February and Thursday, 2 February.

OFFICE NEXT WEEK: The office will be **closed on Wednesday, 1 February** and open **Thursday and Friday, 2 & 3 February.**

WELCOME: This weekend we welcome Frs Roel Dela Cruz, SSS and Fr Rudsend Paragas, SSS. Fr Roel is the Provincial Superior and Fr Rudsend the Vicar Provincial Superior of the Societas Santissimi Sacramenti and are visiting from the Philippines province. Please come along to morning tea after 10am mass and welcome them to our Parish.

VINNIES NEWS: We would like to extend a big thank you for the amazing contributions from St Mary's and Carroll College to our Christmas appeal. We supported 70 families with food and toys who would otherwise be unable to celebrate this special occasion. You may recall a special project that we were involved in last year where your donations were put towards a Milk Buffalo project in India. The five families are very grateful for the opportunity to provide an income for their household and to have plenty of fresh milk for their own use. The above photos show the recipients of this grant.



MY AGED CARE: Please come along to a My Aged Care Talk and Question Time on **Friday, 3 February from 11-12pm** in the **Kennedy Room** which is next to the Presbytery. The talk will be given by Lisa who is an Aged Care Specialist Advisor on Navigating My Aged Care and associated topics.

JAMBEROO RETREAT 2023: Time is running out to register your interest in this year's retreat from 20-23 March. Payment is required at time of booking and for more detailed information including prices and accommodation options, please contact Susie McCosker 0426 820 860.

PASTORAL CARE GATHERING INVITATION: on Tuesday, 14 February Patrick (Paddy) McGrath, St Vincent de Paul, Director of Community Engagement & Spirituality will facilitate sessions on: **The Wounded Healer – in our Woundedness we become a Source of Life.** Registration: 9-15am for 9-30am start – 12noon, St Bernard's Church Meeting Room. Cost Free. BYO morning tea to share. **Bookings are essential by Tuesday, 7 February.** Please contact: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057 or Carolyn Evenden 0400 021 119. **ALL ARE WELCOME**

START OF SCHOOL TERM DATES AT ST MARY'S:



TERM ONE 2023
Mon, 30 Jan System Professional Learning in Canberra (Front Office open)
Tues, 31 Jan Staff Professional Learning (Front Office open)
Wed, 1 Feb All students (Kinder —Year 6) classes begin

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
 Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au
 Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
 Priest: Fr Anthony Riosa, SSS
 Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
 Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9am—2pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6:00pm Sun: 10.00am
 Tue: 5.30pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8am

Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am and 5:15pm-5:45pm before Mass

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass

Tuross: Sun: 8am

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A - January 28 & 29 2023

“Happy are the poor in spirit”

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven

Today's readings define our Christian goal of eternal happiness and explain the attitudes and actions necessary to reach it. The beatitudes contain the most essential aspects of Christian behaviour that we need to live in order to reach Christian perfection. They form the outline for Christ-like living. They give the personal qualities expected of a disciple of Jesus, or the way of life to be lived by his disciple. They show us the values that Christ cares about. In essence, the beatitudes both fulfil and complete the Ten Commandments. While the Ten Commandments, given to Moses on Mount Sinai in the Old Testament, as related in the Book of Exodus, are a series of “Thou shall not” Jesus presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, as virtues in life which will ultimately lead to the reward of salvation—not in this world, but in the next.



Zephaniah, in the **first reading**, calls a “moral minority” of the Jews of his time blessed because they seek justice, humility, truth and righteousness, thus making a declaration of dependence on God. In the **second reading**, Paul advises his Corinthian Christians to use their gifts and heaven-sent beatitudes for the good of the community, because God has chosen to give them life in Jesus, by whom He justified, sanctified and redeemed them. In today's **gospel**, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow and persecution. In poverty, we recognise God's reign; in hunger, his providence; in sorrow, true happiness; and in persecution, true joy. In other words, the blessed in Jesus' list are poor in spirit, compassionate, meek, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers and those who are willing even to be insulted and persecuted for their ideals and values. Each of the inspired authors of today's readings, Zephaniah, Paul and Matthew “makes a motion” that each of us should consider making a *Declaration of Dependence* on God, thus beginning to lead holier and happier lives.

Entrance Antiphon: 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.

Communion Antiphon: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

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

All: Thanks be to God

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

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

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

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:1-12

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you O Lord

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

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) We need to respond to the challenge of the beatitudes in daily life. Millions are starving, persecuted, homeless and leading hopeless lives. The Beatitudes propose to us a way of life, inviting us to identify with the poor, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst after justice. They challenge us to be compassionate people, to be men and women who are pure in heart, and to become peacemakers in our dealings with one another, in our families and in the society at large, even when this approach to things exposes us to ridicule and persecution. "As long as you did it to one of these, my brethren, you did it to me" is the criterion for our Last Judgement. Mother Teresa and her Sisters accepted this challenge and demonstrated that we can "live the beatitudes" in the modern world. Let us remember that each time we reach out to help the needy, the sick and the oppressed, we share with them a foretaste of the promises of the beatitudes here and now. This is why, down through the centuries, individuals, congregations and church bodies have practiced charity in creative, faithful ways. They have operated soup kitchens, food banks, clothing centres, homeless shelters and housing programs. Such enterprises represent wonderful outpouring of good will and Christian faithfulness to the challenge of the beatitudes. Let us have the good will to participate in such activities in our parish and in our community.

2) Choose the way wisely. "There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death, and there is a great difference between the two Ways". These are the opening lines of the Didache, a first-century Christian catechism used to teach new Christians the essence of the Christian faith. The way of life is the way of Jesus that leads to eternal life. The challenge of the beatitudes is: "Are you going to be happy in the world's way or in Christ's way?" If we choose the world's way, we are seeking our blessings in the wrong place. Sometimes we think that good health, a long life, happy relationships and a good job are blessings we "deserve" for being honest, not cheating on our taxes, coming to church, and giving a little to charity. This is the easy way of the world, but the hard way of Jesus requires toil and suffering endured in working for and with the poor, the sick and the hungry. God wants us to live as brothers and sisters who care for one another. Doing so yields an "eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (II Cor 4:17). In the final analysis, the blessing of the beatitudes is the possession of the "kingdom of God."

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, and the sick members of our Parish: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry, Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette Moore, Annette and John Nader, John Harnett, Ross Hay, Bernard Carroll, Taine Woodford, Jaijing Greenwood, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales and Lyn Timms.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE LIST