

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

LOVE THE ENEMY

We are now into the heart of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. We are also presented with the most important Gospel teaching that characterises Jesus' followers: Love and forgiveness of the enemy. But this is also dangerous teaching, for it is easy to misunderstand what Jesus is asking of his disciples. He is not addressing disciples individually, but together. The response to the 'enemy' comes from the total gathering of the Gospel household who support each other as they deal with the enemy. It is not the individual disciple who bears responsibility for enemy love. It is a collective response.

The response is also agential or active, never passive or submissive. Disciples disarm by their attitude of 'love'—a desire that the aggressor comes to know their own self-worth in their relationship to God and others. It is not about feeling affection or warmth towards the enemy, an impossible response in the face of suffering or hurt. 'Turning the other cheek' is a form of passive resistance to the aggressor, rather than responding with tit-for-tat assault, a response culturally expected. Luke's audience who are wealthy are encouraged to be generous. Jesus encourages disciples to act compassionately, like God.

Today's Gospel is challenging, especially in the context of the issues that today's believers are concerned about. Luke offers sage advice. A spirit of kindness and non-aggression towards the assailants of our world can help create a society shaped by peace rather than violence. Such a spirit ideally characterises our faith communities imbued with today's Gospel.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING 1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8
R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**



2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 15: 45-49
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Croker
 ph. 0428 190 759
 Presbytery Ph: 02 8331 7609
 Fr. Kose : 0470 498 321
 Fr. is at Bombala Parish
 Mass: 9.30am Bombala &
 10.30am Delegate 2nd Wed

Parish Secretary:
 Mrs Sharon Nesbitt 02 8331 7608
 Office Opening Hours
Mon Wed & Thu:
 open 9am-1pm 2pm to 4.30pm
 Email: cooma@cg.org.au
www.cg.org.au/cooma
 Sacramental Program
 Fr Mark Croker

St Patrick's Parish School
 Principal:
 Dr Sean Mangan
 Cnr Murray & Vale Street, Cooma
 Phone: Holidays 6452 1721
<http://stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au>
 Parish Pastoral Council:
 Darren 0429 904 291
www.cg.org.au/cooma
www.cg.org.au/jindabyne
www.cg.org.au/bombala

ST PATRICK'S PARISH FAMILY THREE PARISHES TOGETHER



Baptism Request forms can be located on Parish website/at Parish Office, Fr Mark and Fr Kose will be available to celebrate Baptism during mass on 2nd Sunday of the month
 CatholicMarriagePrep
<https://catholic.org.au/marriagefamily/engaged>

St Patrick's Cooma Mass
 Mass Sunday's at 10am
 Cooma Reconciliation available as requested following Mass
 Adoration - Fridays 5.30-6.30pm

St Patrick's Weekday
 Mass: Tues, Thu, Fri 10am
 Except Third Friday of Month for Nursing Home Masses -3rd Friday
 9.30am Yallabee Lodge
 11am Hudson House Respect

Adaminaby -2nd Sunday month
 Next date =9th March at 9am
 Nimmitabel
 Mass 3rd & 5th Sunday
 *5pm Sat Vigil Mass
 1st 2nd, 4th Sun- LITURGY Sat 5pm

Numeralla
 Liturgy of Word
 LITURGY 2nd 4th Sunday 5.00pm

Berridale-
 3.30pm Sat 2nd & 4th Sundays
 Liturgy of the Word 10am Sunday's
 1st 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month

Jindabyne
 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th =Vigil Mass 5pm Sat
 5th Sunday Liturgy 5pm Sat

Welcome home to Fr Kose

We have an **EFT TAP n Go** available in Church entrance for your cashless donations (Archdiocese split 70/30: 1st & 2nd JUST TAP! The **New Smart Device** at door has the option to Choose donation \$amount
 Thank you for supporting our Parish

FLOWERS: Claire Neumeyer

Next weekend Readings
 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time / C
 1st Reading Book of Sirach 27: 4-7
 2nd Reading 1 Cor 15: 54-58
 Gospel Luke 6: 39-45

Please Pray for our Recently Deceased,
 "We have loved them in life, let us not forget them in death":
 Fr Kevin Flynn, Doug Payne, Walter Neumeyer, Debby Merrill, John Alexander, Joan Taylor, Lola Povey
 Anniversaries & Special Intentions: "In loving memory of" our departed family and friends: Harry Flanagan, Daphne Bell



Archdiocesan News - Fr Tony Percy
 Pope Francis has appointed Fr Tony Percy, currently the parish priest of St Gregory's parish, Queanbeyan, as the next Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney.
 Before Fr Tony's departure for Sydney, there will be a Mass and Farewell for Fr Tony at St Christopher's Cathedral.

INVITATION
The Rite of Election and Enrolment 2025
RCIA Sunday, March 9, 2025
 1st Sunday of Lent

Catechumen and Candidates are encouraged to attend and will be formally welcomed by the Archbishop at the 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka
The Rite and Signing of the Register by the Catechumen will take place in the Haydon Hall, Forrest at 10am. Please arrive and sign in by 9:50am

All Catechumens and Candidates, along with their families, sponsors and RCIA team members, are invited to attend. Following the Rite, our Catechumens and Candidates will be formally welcomed by the Archbishop at the 11am Mass.
For enrolment & rsvp details Please see Fr Mark / Fr Kose

You are warmly welcome to celebrate
 Fr Hilton Robert's 90th birthday in Kaleen on
 Saturday 8 March, 2:00-4:30pm. To confirm your attendance and for more information please call Debby on 0402062415.

Part Time Parish Secretary-
 People are invited to apply for the position Parish Secretary for St Patrick's Cooma. This is a part-time permanent position (12 hours pw/ days Tue/Thu/Fri 9am to 1pm)
 Essential Requirements:

- Experience with database packages.
- Strong communication and liaison skills
- Strong organisational skills
- Ability to work on your own, and as part of a wider team and take direction.
- Understand and administer areas of regulatory compliance (eg. WHS, child protection, copyright)
- Understanding and respect for the Catholic Church and its teaching
- Current experience in an office environment.

Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. Please phone 02 83317608 for a copy of the duty statement. Applications addressing the Selection Criteria above with attached resume to the Parish Priest Fr Mark Croker

That's Cricket (as Explained to a visitor):
 You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.
 Each player that's in the side that's in goes out, and when they're out they come in and the next player goes in until they're out.
 When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.
 Sometimes you get the players still in and not out.
 When both sides have been in and out including the not out's, that's the end of the game. *Howzat!*