

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C

First Reading *Jeremiah 17:5-8*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. 'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the water-side that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night.

2. He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper.

3. Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life

only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 6:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 6:17. 20-26*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. 'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

We cannot be authentic followers of Christ if we adore riches to the neglect of the poor. Followers of Jesus, Pope Francis reflects, 'do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on.' In fact, he adds, true disciples of Jesus are 'content to share even the goods they possess, because they live according to the logic of God.' The Beatitudes, the Pope explains, 'may sound strange, almost incomprehensible to those who are not disciples.' But as challenging as they are, they ultimately 'define the identity of the disciple of Jesus.' For Christians, they are non-negotiable. What the Beatitudes do, the Pope suggests, is remind us that 'disciples allow themselves to be challenged, aware that it is not God who must enter into our mindset, but we into his.' 'Disciples,' the Pope reminds us, 'in the end, are those who let themselves be led by Jesus, who open their heart to Jesus, who listen to him and follow his path.' Such a path involves openness to the joys of the present, wherever we may find them. It also involves a readiness and willingness to become Christ's blessing to others.

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If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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 Tuesday-Friday

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WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR C



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
 1PM Every second and fourth Monday

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
 Fridays after Mass

Enjoy the Good News
 Wednesdays after 9am Mass

Wrap with Love
 WEDNESDAY 26TH
 February 1-3pm CMR

Parish Sacramental Program—TERM 1
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Enrolment Evening
 Thursday 13th @ 5pm
Commitment Masses
 Saturday 22nd @ 5pm,
 Sunday 23rd @ 9am

Lenten Program
 Wednesdays after Mass
 5 March—9 April

Craft Group 10am
 Thursdays Church Meeting Room

ADORATION TUESDAYS
 @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
 Thursdays after 9am Mass

HAPPY ARE THEY WHO HOPE IN THE LORD!

Pope Francis in naming this year a Pilgrimage of Hope said " **In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come despite our not knowing what the future may bring.**"

The readings this week all highlight trust, hope, resurrection and true happiness: the importance of relying on God and the hope found in the resurrection of Jesus.

Jeremiah strongly advocates that we trust in God rather than trusting in human strength/ourselves. Paul explains that our faith depends on the truth of Jesus' resurrection, giving us hope for eternal life. Luke, in the Gospel tells us that Jesus, when addressing the 'large gathering' continually addressed them "Happy are you who ..."

What could these readings be asking us to consider or how are they related to my life today? Or are they as Pope Francis suggests " *That this Jubilee Year be the opportunity we need to renew our hope and trust?*"

Brendan Byrne, in his book *The Hospitality of God* a reading of Luke's Gospel opens up and explains Luke's Sermon on the Plain- today's Gospel. He describes the Beatitudes as being "provocative" and "constitute a series of oxymorons." (page 76)

He further explains that in the biblical tradition, blessed/ happy does not strictly indicate a moral attitude to be adopted. It is an indication that those people are in a position to accept or understand a "coming action of God." Jesus is not endorsing poverty, hunger or other limiting circumstances. He is insisting that what people think to be advantages and disadvantages are reversed and relativised in view of the coming action of God. We must not forget the context in which this Gospel was written and orally delivered.

In today's society there would be many people who would not appreciate or want to be told " Happy are you who are poor/ hungry ..." Current economic climate, uncertainty about the future may cause feelings of anxiety, apprehension and doubt. People are more likely to be happy when they are not constantly worried about money and are being treated with respect. The general state of the world also adds a layer of uncertainty and distrust. There is also the issue of " your reward will be great in heaven" if heaven is a place to be enjoyed only in the afterlife.

Bishop Robert Barron(USA) reminds us that our heart is the deepest centre of our being. He then poses the question " *To whom does my heart belong? Does it belong to God or has it been taken up with money, consumerism, power or other recognisable signs of success in our world?*"

Is this the time or opportunity for us to look at and ask - where is my heart? To whom or to what is my heart aligned? Am I or are we aligned with the wealthy, powerful or are we concerned with the ordinary people around us? Do our concerns relate to safety, well being, security and health care? Is Jesus able to say blessed/congrats to us as we feel discouraged by the state of our lives, country and the world but waiting and trusting in Him? Are we hungry for justice, feeling spiritually poor? Congratulations WE are ready to be the people of the Beatitudes and help build the Kingdom here on Earth.

Our life with God is anything but passive. We know that despite all the pain and challenges, we encounter the grace of God- He is there for us.

Ken and Carolyn Evenden

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 17th—Sunday 23rd Feb

Monday 17th : NO MASS

Tuesday 18th: Mass 5pm

Wednesday 19th: Mass 9am

Thursday 20th: Mass 9am

Friday 21st: Mass 9am

Saturday 22nd: Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30

Sunday 23rd: Mass 9am

FUNERALS IN THE PARISH:

Mrs Patricia Totterdell
Thursday 13th February, 2025
11am
St Bernard's Church

ROSTERS

15/16 FEBRUARY Cleaning

17-21 D & L May

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer B Oerder:
Commentator: S Ebejer
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers
K Lovering
Computer Screen
K Connway

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M Britt
Commentator L Page
Reader: .JO'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers
K Corbin, L Stevens
Computer Screen .T
Jones

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty/M deSmet

COUNTERS:

D & L May

22/23 FEBRUARY Cleaning

24-28 M DeSmet J
Maher

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer K Conway
Commentator: M
Weatherall
Reader: B Maynard
Eucharistic Ministers
N Buick
Computer Screen
M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M deSmet
Commentator B Basevi
Reader: N Beatty. ..
Eucharistic Ministers
A Scicluna, J Whiteford
Computer Screen D May

MORNING TEA:

M Vidovic/Zdenka

COUNTERS:

T Priest/J Whiteford

EASTER MUSIC PREPARATION.

In addition to our regular Monday practices, extra choir practices to prepare for Easter will take place at 1pm Monday 17 March, Monday 31 March and Monday 7 April.

**New and previous
singers....All welcome!!**

GATHERING:

'We are Called to Minister to Others'

Facilitated by Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. Tuesday February 25th, 9.15am registration for 9.30am start—3pm in the Church meeting Room.

Sister Virginia specialises in Adult Faith Education & Spirituality and is travelling from North Sydney to be with us.

Recommended by Sr Marie McAlister.

Morning tea provided.

BYO Pot Luck Lunch. **COST = Free**

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL by Monday February 17. For further information call: Marie Weatherall, 0405 028 057
Email. marieweatherall87@gmail.com

LENTEN GROUP

Will be held after Mass on Wednesdays beginning March 5 Ash Wednesday—April 9
Booklets ordered.
\$5 donation

Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

Bereavement Team Meeting Saturday March 1st in the Parish Office.

Wrap with Love members would love to welcome newcomers who may be interested in knitting crocheting, or sewing together squares to create blankets for people in need in Australia and abroad.

An afternoon meeting 1pm-3pm will be held on Wednesday 26/2 in the church meeting room.

Information and instruction sheets available.

Enquiries: Jenny 0414 664 077

CUPPA WITH MARY MACKILLOP

Will be held on Tuesday March 4th at the home of Carolyn and Ken Evenden.

*Enquires: Carolyn 0400 021 119
ALL ARE WELCOME*

MINISTRY SUNDAY 2025

Ministry Sunday is held every year in the Parish.

This year there will be week-end masses on Saturday March 1 & Sunday March 2.

Please consider joining a ministry in our Parish .

WE NEED YOU !!

Support and guidance will be provided.

A fill-in sheet will be placed in the church foyer and once you have nominated yourself, we will be in contact with you.

For further enquires please contact Marie Weatherall on 0405 028 057

Cursillo Retreat, 4-6 April, St Clement's, Galong

Renew and deepen your faith-life through a program of talks, meditations and prayer. Contact michaelderaadt@gmail.com. Info: <https://bit.ly/cursillo2025>

Cursillo Retreat, Fri 4 – Sun 6 April, St Clement's, Galong

A Cursillo is a short course in Christian living. In a series of talks and meditations, we will explore and reflect on faith and its relevance in today's world. The three days grow into a personal experience, as we encounter faith in relation to self, Christ and others. Contact Michael and Erica michaelderaadt@gmail.com. Or <https://bit.ly/cursillo2025>

Remembering the Sick:

Jeanette Clarke, Margaret Priest, Chris Bowditch, Sheree Jackson, Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O'Neill, Karen Nixon, Kevin & Pat Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Fr John Walter, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Vince Burns, Patrick Burns, Carolyn Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Patricia Totterdell, David Cowley, Joanne Rogers, Gerald Lewis, Josephine Beckhaus, Cyril Noyeaux, Frank Simic, Sr Paulinus Croker, Marion O'Grady, Patricia Suhl, Neil Leonard, Letitia Baz, Trent Fisk, Kevin Carew, Margaret Kelly, Arthur Hurrell, Vicki Lukasik, Paul Skinner, Suzanne Melton, James Quirk, Giovanni Menon, Tony Puconja, Hazel Nolan, Else McGahey, Richard Smart, Patrick Dunn, Laurence Foran, Lynton Ryan, Jacki Harding, Keith Cooke, Sarah Good, Robert Mitchell, Joyce Hurrell, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Ruth O'Malley, Julie Morgan, Suzanne Houssard, Nancy Sykes, Lillian Burkinshaw, Lynette Arundel, Patricia McKeough, Ivan Trojkovic, Brian O'Connor, Annie Scicluna, Francis Bezzina, Pam Wilson, Drago Bandur, Vin Taylor

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our
brother, and the flame
of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your
Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of
the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos, in
the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth, when,
with the powers of Evil
vanquished, your glory will shine
eternally.

May the grace of the
Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of
Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of
heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our
Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Pope Francis Monthly
Prayer Intentions
FEBRUARY
For vocations to the
priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the
ecclesial community
might welcome the
desires and doubts of
those young people
who feel a call to
serve Christ's mission
in the priesthood and
religious life.

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