

**Gospel Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37
(or longer form Mt 5:17-37)**

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

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St Patrick's Parish Cooma
St Columbkille's Parish Jindabyne
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
15 February 2026

First Reading Eccl 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1
(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

- 1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
- 2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)
- 3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)

- 4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!



St Patrick's Parish Cooma
St Columbkille's Parish Jindabyne



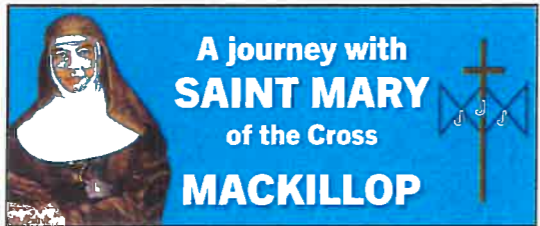
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A **15 February 2026**

PARISH CONTACTS

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School Principal
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
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WEEKEND MASS & LW&HC TIMES
Adaminaby
No Mass until further notice
Berridale
2nd & 4th Sunday
Vigil Mass Saturday 3.30pm
All other Sundays
LW&HC 10am Sunday
Cooma
Mass Sunday 10am
Mass Tue, Thu & Fri 10am
Except 3rd Friday of month
Mass Yallabee Lodge 9.30am
Mass Hudson House Respect 11am
Jindabyne
Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm
Except 5th Sunday
LW&HC 5pm Saturday
Nimmitabel
1st Sunday
Vigil Mass Saturday 3pm
All other Sundays
LW&HC at 5pm Saturday
Numeralla
2nd Sunday LW&HC 5pm
4th Sunday Mass 5pm

POPES INTENTION FEBRUARY

For children with incurable diseases
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



6PM
Cooma
6PM
Jindabyne
9.30am
Bombala



St Patrick's Parish Cooma
Women's Lenten Group 2026
Women of the Parish are invited to join a Lenten Discussion Group during the 6 weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. The group will use the Wollongong Lenten Booklet. The meetings will be held on **Wednesday morning from 10-11 am** at 56 Bligh Street Cooma. For further information please contact :
Jo Hofner on 0407 006 709

PARISH CALENDAR

Week 16 Feb 2026
MON -
TUE 10am Mass
'ASH WEDNESDAY'
WED Bombala Parish 9.30am
MPS Delegate 11am
6pm Jindabyne
6pm Cooma
THU **NO MASS**- Deanery Meeting
FRI 10am Mass
4th Sunday of the Month
FIRST SUNDAY of LENT'
SAT 3.30pm Berridale Mass
5pm Jindabyne Mass
5pm Nimmitabel Liturgy
SUN 10am Cooma Mass

REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

We pray for For those who have recently departed this life;
Tom Fitzgerald funeral Mon 11am
Anglican Church Nimmitabel,
Bruno Nosek, Peter Upton,
Magid Sukkar, Luigi Giuliani
Anniversaries & Intentions
for those anniversaries is remembered at this time, and special prayers requested, may they be welcomed into the glory of the Risen Lord and rest in eternal peace. We pray to the Lord.
Wendy Hain, Fr Kevin Flynn,
William McLean, Tony Heaton,
Terry Redden, Rene Kingston
"We have loved them in Life: Let us not forget them in death."
∞
For the sick within our families, friends and parish community and all who have asked for our prayers, may they be granted strength, comfort and healing.
We pray to the Lord.



FEBRUARY - MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family is a model for all families everywhere because God the Father made it so. He could have sent Jesus to earth in any number of ways, but He chose to place Jesus in a family with a father and mother. In addition, the Holy Family is a model for domestic life. When we centre our family life on Christ and live the life of the Church in our homes, this is referred to as the domestic church. The Holy Family is the icon of the domestic Church, called to pray together. The family is the domestic Church and must be the first school of prayer....pray together as a family at the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth and thereby really to become of one heart and soul, a true family."



Prayer of the Faithful

Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer

PRIEST: Having listened to God's Word proclaimed for us, we now bring our needs and the needs of all those suffering in our modern world, to our Heavenly Father.

COMMENTATOR:
For the church: that we may seek ever-greater holiness in actions and thoughts and never be satisfied with merely fulfilling the letter of the law. We pray to the Lord.
For all who have suffered from the terrible evil of sexual violence in our church: that God will heal their painful memories and that the healing love of Christ will bring them to wholeness. (pause) We pray to the Lord.
For all who have experienced divorce: that God will heal their pain, renew their self worth, and help them to draw strength from the community of faith. (pause). We pray to the Lord.
For all who are recovering from storms, floods and bushfires: that God will give them strength and guide them to the assistance which they need. We pray to the Lord.
For those who have died, we pray for Tom Fitzgerald and family that they will know true peace in the presence of our loving God. (pause) We pray to the Lord.
For all those who exercise power over the lives of others, that they will show compassion towards people who live in poverty and undertake action to alleviate their situation. We pray to the Lord.
We pray with Mary for own intentions : Hail Mary
PRIEST: Loving God, we bring these, and all our prayers, through your Son Jesus Christ. Amen

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM * 2026 *
If your child or grandchild is 7-12 years and wishing to enrol in this year's Sacramental program, please see Fr Mark Croker for a registration form after mass.
This includes the Sacrament for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, dates for each will be advised.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY
The First Sunday of Lent-Year A
First Reading: GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Second Reading: [Romans](#) 5:12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

JOKES:
A teacher addressed a class and asks: "How many kidneys do we have?"
"Four!", The student responds.
"Four? Haha," The teacher was one of those who took pleasure in picking on his students' mistakes and demoralizing them.
"Bring a bundle of grass, because we have an ass in the room," the teacher orders a front bencher.
"And for me a coffee!", the student added.
The teacher was furious and expelled the student from the room.
On his way out of the classroom, the student still had the audacity to correct the furious teacher:
"You asked me how many kidneys 'we have'. We have four: two of mine and two of yours. 'We have' is an expression used for the plural. Enjoy the grass."
Life demands much more understanding than knowledge. Sometimes people, because they have a little more knowledge or 'believe' that they have it, feel they have the right to underestimate others.



Project Compassion Donation Envelopes:
How do I use them?
This Lent, like we did in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home.
You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready. Thank you for *Uniting* this Lent.