



SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 2025.
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR C
REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL (LUKE (6:27-38))

This classic Gospel message is addressed to those who listen. To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible for those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives.

It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

The recipients of this Gospel, the members of Luke's late first century communities, were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (*hesed*) and womb-compassion (*raḥamîm*). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (*mishpat*) and right relationship (*sedeqah*) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing.

The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct.

God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship. Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division.

There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of the world. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES:

We pray for **Lynette Azzopardi and Weronika Bal** who died recently;
and for **Marija Jelenic and Rae Dorey** whose anniversaries occur about this time.
May they rest in peace.

BAPTISMS:

We welcome into our Parish community
Zelie Ryan, Dray Grima, Shakira Moncrieff,
Lachlan Harris, Olivia Harris,
Noemi Bottiglieri and Maya Bottiglieri.
May they, their Parents and Godparents
be blessed with the Holy Spirit.

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial 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 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34

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

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;**

through him all things were made.
 For us men and for our salvation
 He came down from heaven, *(All bow)*
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
 he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 is adored and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 I believe in one, holy, catholic and
 apostolic Church.
 I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 9:2-3

I will recount all your wonders. I will rejoice in you
 and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most
 High

SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday,**
5th March. Masses will be as follows:

Tuesday 4th March

6pm Vigil Mass St. Augustine's Yarraville

Wednesday 5th March

9.15am Corpus Christi Kingsville

10.30am St. Augustine's Yarraville

11.30am Polish St. Augustine's Yarraville

11.45am Annunciation Brooklyn

LIGHT IN THE DESERT: 2025 Lenten Resource

This small group resource is designed to bring
 people together in prayer and conversation.
 Each week includes an excerpt from the Sunday
 Gospel, a short reflection and questions to
 prompt deeper thought. This Lent we encourage
 you to be part of a weekly group reflection on
 Thursday evenings commencing at 7pm at St.
 Augustine's on Thursdays –
 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March
 3rd and 10th April 2025

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Jubilee years happen every 25 years and are
 times of reconciliation and renewal. **Pilgrim
 Places across the Archdiocese of Melbourne**
 will offer various experiences for Pilgrims from
 February 2025 to 6 January 2026. Visit the
 website of each Pilgrim Place for details of
 what is offered and times, etc.

St. Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.

St. Mary's Star of the Sea, West Melbourne.

St. Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs.

St. Luke's, Lalor.

Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie.

St. Dominic's, Camberwell East.

Sacred Heart, Croydon.

Divine Mercy Shrine, Keysborough.

Our Lady of La Vang Shrine, Keysborough

St. Patrick's, Mentone.

St. Macartan's, Mornington

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

- Parents of children attending State Schools
 who require their children to receive the
 Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or
 Confirmation please contact Fr. Werner at
 the Parish Office.
- We are looking for volunteers to lead the
 Sacramental Preparation for children who are
 not attending our Parish Primary Schools.
- Volunteers will need the Working with
 Children Check and all the requirements from
 the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

SAFEGUARDING

We ask that all volunteers, please provide a copy
 of your WWCC card and complete the online
 training program ASAP. If you have difficulty in
 obtaining any of the above, please contact the
 Parish Office.

We have new rosters coming up soon and we will
 be unable to include people who haven't
 completed the requirements.

**ORGAN RECITAL,
 FEATURING ELEN KEVENTSIDOU**

Friday 7 March 2025, 6pm -7pm, at St. Patrick's
 Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place East Melbourne.
 The program will include works by Bach, Liszt,
 Reger and three Greek composers.
 Adults \$30; Concession \$25. Children aged 15
 and under are admitted free.

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Werner Utri

Mobile No. 0401 158 113

Parish Website:

www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

(03) 9314 7710

yarraville@cam.org.au

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

(03) 9314 5613

kingsville@cam.org.au

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation....8.00 am

St Augustine's...9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

Thursday March 6th at

11am at St. Augustine's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code below and fill in your details.



PARISH SCHOOLS

ST. AUGUSTINE'S (03) 9314 5996

www.sayarraville.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Matthew Stead.

office@sayarraville.catholic.edu.au

CORPUS CHRISTI (03) 9314 7303

www.cckingsville.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Anthony Hyde.

principal@cckingsville.catholic.edu.au

ANNUNCIATION (03) 9314 6271

www.asbrooklyn.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Anna Yorston.

principal@asbrooklyn.catholic.edu.au

VIETNAMESE LEGION OF MARY

Meets at 3.00pm Saturdays

at Corpus Christi Kingsville

ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP

Meets at 10.00am Thursdays

at St. Augustine's Yarraville

TRUE NORTH YOUNG ADULTS

Contact Kim: ktruong49@gmail.com

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTERS FOR THIS WEEK

(22nd & 23rd February)

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Pat Mc Laughlin

Anna Messina

Counting..... Krystyna Biront

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Edith Fletcher

Robyn Miller Portillo

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Joseph De Bono

9.30am..... Gail Pearson

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Hong Nguyen

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

(1st & 2nd March)

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Anthony Vassallo

Sam Polzella

Counting.....Les Vella

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Greg Buhagiar

9.30am.....Thiago C. Ameida

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Imelda Gibson

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Baskets are left in the churches for regular donations of non-perishable food for St. Vincent de Paul throughout the year.

Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta sauce, washing powder/liquid, baked beans, spaghetti, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and tooth brushes are always needed.

Many thanks for your generous support.