



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

16 FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Jer 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 waterside
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.

RESP PSALM

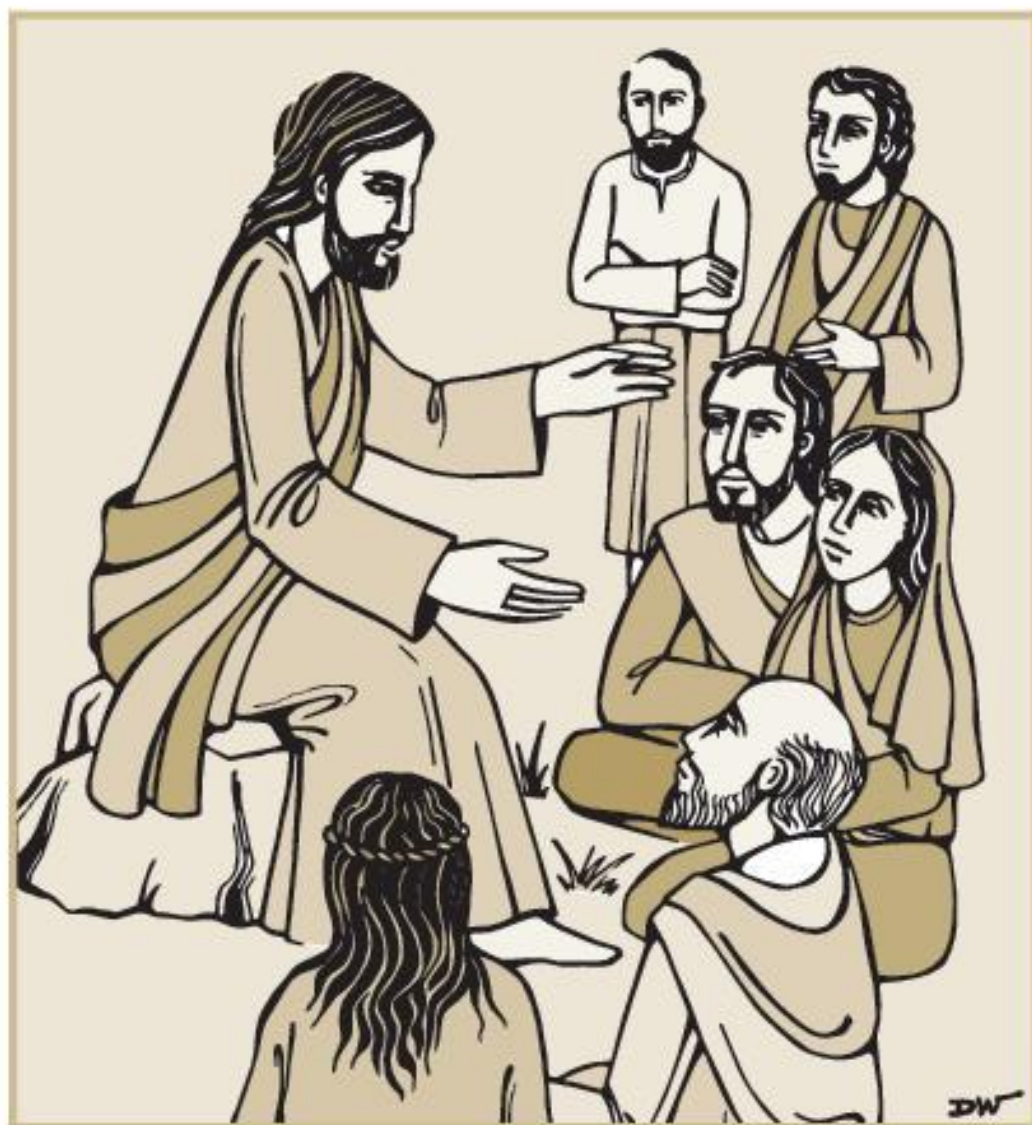
Ps 1: 1-4. R. Ps 39: 5

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 6: 23

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: S Bettoni

Lector - Sunday: P Donohue

Counters: No Counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: A Powell

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sat 22 Feb: The Chair of St Peter, Apostle

Sun 23 Feb: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was a beautiful idea of our late Fr Varghese - built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church.

The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 30:3-4)

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 3:16)

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Josie Lane, Anthony Michael

Recently Deceased: Mireille Messawarati

Death Anniversary: Selim Messawarati

Preparing the Parish Calendar

All our Ministry Groups are requested to come up with their tentative dates for any program or activity related to the ministry they are involved in through the year 2025.

If possible, please submit your tentative program dates to the Parish Office by Monday, 17 February.

Once the information is made available to the Parish Pastoral Council they will be able to allocate dates for them all. Thank you and God bless!

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The young people from our 3 parishes will come together on the 4th Saturday of each month to host the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick. This will be followed by fellowship at the Presbytery.

Please encourage the young adults of all our parishes to participate in this initiative. It is an opportunity for them to meet and socialise among their peers in the safe space of our parish. For info, email elsternwick@cam.org.au

Learn to Pray with with André Regnier

André Regnier is the founder of Catholic Christian Ministries, Canada and a leader in missionary outreach and ministry.

Do you desire a deeper encounter with God? Do you want to be consistent with your prayer routine, and deal with distractions that come up? Join us for a practical evening for the distracted and busy that will unlock a richer prayer life!

André will guide you through 5 steps to a daily prayer life. You will come away with a clear, step-by-step approach to establish a prayer routine that fits your life and practical strategies to turn silence into sacred moments.

All welcome. Tuesday 18 February 2025, 7pm – 9:15pm, St John Vianney's Parish Hall, 23 Police Road Mulgrave.

Trivia Lunch @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

Join us on Wednesday, 19th February at 12-noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the trivia session and a catchup. All are welcome.

Update: Proposed Amalgamation of St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South

On Friday 14 February 2025, we formally submitted our petition for amalgamation to Archbishop Peter Comesoli. The Archbishop will then consult with the Council of Priests and College of Consultors regarding this matter.

Meanwhile, the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document has also been updated and copies can be found on our church notice boards. Extra copies have also been printed for those interested in taking home a copy to read.

As we move through this process, we will continue to engage with all of you and provide important updates once available.

Please feel free to speak with Fr Leenus, the Parish Office or any of our PPC and PFC members if you have any questions. Additionally, you may send us an email or continue to use the 'Questions / Concerns' boxes.

Facebook

Thank you @TuNinh, for taking the initiative to start a Facebook page for St Joseph's Parish. To follow us, scan the QR code or <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephcatholicchurchelsternwick/>



Morning Retreat with Mary



On Monday 24th February at St Anthony's Church there will be Holy Mass at 9:15am.

Mass celebrated by Fr Peter Ferwerda, Fr Patrick Jackson and Fr Leenus Neetany.

Program

- *Holy Mass*
- *Confession*
- *MMP Cenacle Rosary*
- *Reflection on Reading from Blue Book*
- *Eucharistic Adoration*

All welcome. If possible, please bring a plate to share. Tea/coffee supplied.

For further information please contact: Thomas Ho, Carol Kelly or Grace Mizzi via the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA sessions held at St Joseph's Presbytery every Thursday at 6:30pm have resumed.

Please share with anyone interested in becoming a Catholic.

Tony's Café CDS Recycling Donations

The Container Deposit Scheme Vic provides a 10 cent refund for every eligible drink container returned. Each bottle, can and carton that you return helps to divert valuable containers from landfill.

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150mL and 3 litres are eligible. You can keep the lids on, they can be recycled too. Look for the 10c mark on the drink container label. It is often located near the barcode.



Return your containers to Highgate Cellars, 1265 Glen Huntly Rd, or any other collection depot, and use the bar code printed here to direct your refund to Tony's Café, or any other charity of your choice. Thank you.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear friends

We all know that there are 150 Psalms in the Bible. The first word of the very first Psalm is "Happy". At times, instead of the word 'Happy' the word 'Blessed' is used, as in today's Gospel.



Today's psalm says that to be blessed or to be happy is to be like a tree, planted near a running stream. The Prophet Jeremiah, in today's first reading, continues this imagery and says that a person, who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is in the Lord, is like a tree, planted besides the running stream. What he means is that without a continuous flow of God's life giving water, one cannot be happy.

We think we know, in what or the way to find happiness; in wealth, in health, in comforts. And so on. Therefore, we might think when we are not wealthy, healthy or comfortable that we cannot be happy. We think that our condition is far from one which brings about true happiness. But God looks at our conditions differently, that is why Jesus gives us the beatitudes.

The beatitudes are paradoxical. That is, one might think that the opposite should be true. In the eyes of the world the rich are blest, while the poor are cursed. Jesus says while the riches are good, there is a danger of missing the everlasting happiness. The rich tend to rely on themselves and their own wealth, while the poor trust in the Lord and turn to God. Jesus insists that in miserable conditions there is more chance for one to be happy.

Therefore, Jesus spoke of the strange wealth of the poor and the strange poverty of the rich; the strange joy of those who weep and the strange sorrow of those, who laugh. The beatitudes are not advocating us to become poor, hungry, mournful or afflicted so as to be blessed. These beatitudes speak of a variety of sad experiences that the people go through, for no fault of their own, and cannot get over on their own. It is our strong belief that none of them go un-noticed or uncared for. They would be rewarded.

Jesus Himself lived in poverty, went hungry, experienced untold sorrow and pain, and showed mercy and offered everyone gift of peace and joy. He is truly like the tree planted by the side of a running stream, bearing fruits of salvation and everlasting happiness to all who trust in Him.

Be Happy!

Fr Leenus

The Sunday school teacher was just finishing a lesson on honesty. "Do you know where children go if they don't put their money in the collection plate?" the teacher asked.

"Yes ma'am," little Johnny blurted out. "They go to the movies."

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

GOSPEL

Lk 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.**

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Breaking Open the Word

‘BLESSED’ ARE YOU ...

Like Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount, Luke has Jesus teach his disciples. It occurs on a plain with the teacher surrounded by a great crowd of his disciples and others. We learn that his audience comes from around Judea, even from ancient Syria (Tyre and Sidon, in present-day Lebanon). In Luke, Jesus teaches about the primary qualities of discipleship and warns of the subtle attractions or seductions that compromise that discipleship.

Wealthy and poorer Greco-Romans make up Luke’s late first-century Gospel audience, and Luke directs Jesus’ words deliberately at them. The first half of his teaching is to those who are economically poor, hungry and grieving. Those are the members of Luke’s world who do not have the power or status to respond to their social, economic or personal situation. They are utterly powerless and live, perhaps, on the margins of Luke’s Gospel household. God will reverse their status. Luke reminds them that they are ‘blessed’ by God.

The translation, ‘happy are you...’ doesn’t capture the powerful sense of Jesus’ teaching. To be happy is a personal emotive response to good fortune. To be ‘blessed’ comes from above. This is God’s act, God’s gift, independent of one’s emotional state. Blessedness places one in the realm of the holy. The second half of Jesus’ teaching is addressed to those in the Lukan household who are wealthy, have all they need and are dismissively laughing, perhaps at others’ misfortune. Their situation will also be reversed. Jesus’ words are insightful and sobering. They invite us, contemporary disciples, to identify what we struggle with and what seduces us.

Fr Michael Trainor