



SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY, 2026. **4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

We have become so familiar with Matthew's beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing it.

With the escalation of violence across the globe and with powerful leaders opting for military rather than diplomatic solutions to global conflicts or threats, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of the "Sermon on the Mount".

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor, on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know what it means to mercy, on the pure in heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right.

The repetition of 'blessed are...' (a better translation of the Greek makarioi than "happy are ...") provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit, and on those whom God forgives.

The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus of Nazareth. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is righteousness or right relationship.

God's favour or blessing on those who live the Gospel message comes in diverse forms: the basileia or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven".

If heaven were only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented it is little consolation to hear that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven".

"Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. "Heaven" is both present and future.

Maybe the most urgent invitation is to mourn strategically the displacement, through war or climate crisis, of so many of earth's inhabitants who long for the blessing of God's kingdom in the form of comfort and mercy and a share of the earth's resources.

This week, we might take time to ponder the meaning of Matthew's beatitudes and the message of hope they offer to those who espouse their vision.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for those who have died recently
and for those whose anniversaries
occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.

First Reading: Zephaniah 2-3; 3:12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find
shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in
the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong, will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10

**(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26–31

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

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were
called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary
sense of the word, how many were influential people,
or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the
wise that God chose what is foolish by human
reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose
what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the
world thinks common and contemptible are the ones
that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to
show those who are everything. The human race has
nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has
made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he
has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our
holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if
anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad;

Your reward will be great in heaven. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he
sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he
began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is
right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of
right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and
persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny
against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for
your reward will be great in heaven.’

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 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

The Archbishop has initiated and encouraged a process of Parish renewal that seeks to ensure that all Parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne be Vibrant, Vital and Viable communities of Faith. As a part of the process of ensuring that this is happening we have been asked to look more closely and intentionally at these three areas and see how best we can flourish as a community of Faith.

The 2 Parishes of Kingsville and Yarraville with the 3 communities and schools of Annunciation Brooklyn, Corpus Christi Kingsville and St Augustine's Yarraville have already been working together very closely for over 18 years, with one Priest working over the 3 communities. The Archdiocese has set out a goal of reducing the number of Parishes from over 200 about 5 years ago to 129 by 2030. For us this means we need to formalise what we have already been doing well over the last 18 years. Our three Parish Primary Schools are leading the way, already collaborating with Sacramental programs and preparation as well as combined Staff formation days and school events.

Taking the Way of the Gospel also will afford us an exciting opportunity for real parish renewal, ensuring that we are Vibrant, Vital and Viable faith communities into the future. We have a rare and exciting opportunity to reshape who we are as Church here in the Inner Western Suburbs of Melbourne. We are working with Suzette Diaz from the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Carmel Crawford who will lead and guide us in a synodal process that will shape the future of who we are. More information to follow in the coming weeks.
Fr Werner

PARISH VISITATION

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has started a process of Parish Visitation by the Archbishop and the Auxiliary or Regional Bishops. Each Bishop is trying to get to about 6 or 7 Parishes per year, aside from their very busy Confirmation Schedules.

This is an opportunity for the Bishops to visit, meet, listen and speak with individuals and groups in a Parish both in a formal and informal setting over 3 days. The Parishes of Yarraville and Kingsville have been invited to join this process in 2026.

Our Parish Visitation will take place early this year in the next few weeks with Bishop Martin Ashe our Regional Bishop coming to spend time with us on

FRIDAY 13TH - SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Friday 13th will be spent mainly in our 3 School Communities meeting children, teachers and Principals as well as with the Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Transition Team.

Saturday 14th will see Bishop Martin visit a few of our elderly Parishioners as well as facilitate a Parish Forum on Saturday morning to which everyone is invited.

Sunday 15th Bishop Martin will celebrate all the weekend Masses and call into the Polish Mass towards the end of Mass. We will have hospitality after most Masses on that weekend.

There will be more information next weekend.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**

**First Reconciliation 19 March 2026
First Eucharist 23/24 & 30/31 May 2026
Confirmation 9 August 2026**

Parents of children not attending our Parish Primary School who desire their children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation, please contact Fr. Werner or the Parish Office or email yarraville@cam.org.au

LOURDES DAY MASS

Saturday 14 February 2026 from 10.30am – 11.30am at St. Patrick's Cathedral with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

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

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413**CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE &****ANNUNCIATION BROOKLYN**

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413**QR Codes for one off donations.**

This QR code is unique to the **Parish of St. Augustine's** and gives you access to giving a donation via **Credit card**.



This QR code is unique to the **Parish of Corpus Christi Kingsville**

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate at Mass or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

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.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(31st Jan & 1st February 2026)**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Tere Tutai

Sam Polzella

COUNTING:.....John Ryan**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Nic Fusca

9.30am.....Gerald Bain-King

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Joe Fusca

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(7th & 8th February 2026)**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Rose Thomas

9.30am Pina Guzzardi

Anna Messina

COUNTING:...Phillip Marques**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Joseph de Bono

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Julianna Barr

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre

St. Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown

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