



SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 2026.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 5:17-27

A Charter for Reconciliation and Forgiveness

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's Gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words. The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law ("I have come to..."), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaïosunē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kingdom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfils" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself.

In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may otherwise find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration of children and the incarceration of anyone for minor crimes.

The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship.

The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of *porneia*". *Porneia* referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian.

While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace".

The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness eschews "fake news" and calls for honesty and transparency in everyday dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Conrad King** who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

May they rest in peace.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Boxes are available in the churches for parishioners to take home and return at the end of Lent.

First Reading: Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

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.

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

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 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

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.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 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!**

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34. 37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'

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 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

PARISH PASTORAL VISITATION

BY BISHOP MARTIN ASHE

We welcome Bishop Martin Ashe who is visiting the Parishes of Yarraville and Kingsville from **Friday 13 February – Sunday 15 February**.

This weekend Bishop Martin is celebrating Mass at St. Augustine's, Corpus Christi and Annunciation Churches and will meet and talk to parishioners after each of the Masses. Please make him welcome.

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

Last week we launched *Take the Way of the Gospel*: a framework and process for renewal.

Take the Way of the Gospel is the Archdiocese of Melbourne's response to Pope Francis' dream of a 'missionary option'. For parishes, it is an invitation to come together in prayer to discern how they might grow as vibrant, vital, and viable communities of faith, so that fresh energy and vigour can animate us well into the future.

Our parishes are centered in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in prayer and discernment. The framework of becoming a **Vibrant, Vital and Viable Parish** will help us explore the characteristics and qualities that we want for our faith community.

- **Vibrant** parishes are flourishing faith communities actively nurturing a culture of worship, Evangelisation, formation, fellowship and service.
- **Vital** parishes have clear direction and purpose. They have a shared missionary vision, display leadership excellence, and work collaboratively to purpose their vision.
- **Viable** parishes demonstrate responsible stewardship. They make land, property, financial and personnel decisions that reflect a clear missionary vision.

We'll provide some further information in the coming weeks.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The 40 day Season of Lent begins this Wednesday on **Ash Wednesday, 18th February**.

Ash Wednesday is celebrated with a special ritual. The ashes are usually burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The mark of the cross made with the ashes is a sign that we are willing to go on our own journey of preparation, to cleanse our heart through prayer, fasting and alms-giving. The Sign of the Cross reminds us that our journey to Jesus' death and Resurrection. The practice goes back to the early days of Christianity where ashes were a public sign of sorrow.

MASSES

Tuesday 17th February

6pm Vigil Mass... St. Augustine's Yarraville

Wednesday 18th February

9.15am... Corpus Christi Kingsville

10.30am... St. Augustine's Yarraville

11.30am... St. Augustine's Yarraville (Polish)

11.50am... Annunciation Brooklyn

LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS

Thursdays in Lent

You are invited to be part of a weekly Lenten reflection on Thursday evenings at the Presbytery at St. Augustine's,

Week 1: Thursday, 19th February

7pm start for about an hour;

includes an excerpt from the next Sunday's Gospel, a short reflection and questions to prompt deeper thought. The program is designed to bring people together in prayer and conversation.

**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

"TAP AND GO": CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

The Contactless donation terminals are now all working in the foyers of our three churches. Please follow the prompts and choose your nominated amount to donate.

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(14th & 15th February 2026)**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Sam Polzella

COUNTING:...Krystyna Biront**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Joseph de Bono

9.30am.....Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Hong Nguyen

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(21st & 22nd February 2026)**1st Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Agnes Hopmans

Anna Messina

COUNTING:...Val Taylor**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am.....Pat McLaughlin

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am.....Val Taylor

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

16 Esplanade Williamstown. 3016

(03) 9397 6012. mmsm.org.au