

## BEATITUDE ATTITUDE

The Beatitudes. Doesn't it just make you smile to say that out loud, to think of Jesus going up that mountain, sitting down, and then speaking those beautiful words?

The challenge is that to Jesus and therefore to us, the Beatitudes are more than words. They are a way to follow him. They lay out an exceedingly difficult road map to live. Be meek? Me? Be a peacemaker? Me? Find something positive in mourning? Me? Yes, you. And all of us.

You are blessed. Not tomorrow, not when the kids go off to college, not when you get that next promotion. Now. Today. How do I know that? Because Jesus told us. Note the Beatitudes are not in the future tense, or the past, for that

matter. You are blessed now, today and always. Always count your blessings which abound whenever two or more are gathered in his name.

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** Jesus does not comfort the proud, but those broken in spirit. He assures them that they are the true recipients of God's saving love. In the Old Testament, God's poor are called the *anawim*, the Hebrew word for the poor, humble and afflicted. Only those who are "poor in spirit" understand that salvation is a free gift from God.

**"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted."** Those who are now mourning recognize their need for God's healing and forgiveness. In Matthew's Gospel, "Those who are well do not need the physician, but the sick do" Only those who admit their sickness or sin are open to God's saving love.

**"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."** For some, the word *meek* may suggest weakness or spinelessness. The biblical meaning of meek, however, indicates respect and forbearance. Jesus describes himself as "meek and humble of heart," and yet he is anything but spineless. Indeed, the Jesus we know has immense inner strength.

**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."** According to Jesus, they are already blessed who dedicate themselves to building a world of justice and righteousness, a world where everyone's rights are respected and all people will find a place at the table—and enjoy a fair share of the gifts of God's creation.

**"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."** The Peace Prayer of St. Francis repeats the same dynamic in these familiar words: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." And this triumph of mercy happens not only in the next life. It happens now. No sooner do our hearts imitate the mercy of God than God showers on us the gift of his own overflowing love and mercy!

**"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God."** Sometimes, after a spring rain, we come across a clear puddle of water. If we stir the puddle with a stick, it clouds up and turns muddy. When our motives and intentions are clouded, we lose our purity of heart and our ability to see God—and our neighbour as an image of God.

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."** The Hebrew word *shalom* means peace—a state of wholeness and total health. When we wish someone peace in the biblical sense, we are wishing them this same kind of wholeness. If we go about spreading God's love as instruments of peace, we bring wholeness and reconciliation to our world—and become "children of God."

**"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."** As we look at this eighth beatitude—and look back at each of the preceding beatitudes—we see that Jesus is a great model for all of them.

We would each do well, to take a few moments to reread slowly this series of eight beatitudes and to contemplate Jesus, who followed them so lovingly during his life here on earth.



**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER**

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourage more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you and don't put yourself above the people you have been called to help.

**VERMONT CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

At St Timothy's School Ground  
6 weeks to 5 years old includes  
3 and 4 Year Old Kinder

A funded Kindergarten program available.

Please call: Celine on  
(03) 98075208 or email  
info@vermontchildcare.com.au



**ACCEPTING ENROLMENT**

May the Lord bless and protect you always!



**THE WOUNDED SHEPHERD**

"...Masterfully told, with exquisite detail, probing insight, and good humour, Wounded Shepherd is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the Church of today – and tomorrow." This deeply contextual biography centres on the tensions generated by the Pope's attempt to turn the Church away from power and tradition, and outwards to engage humanity with God's mercy.

With entertaining anecdotes, insider accounts, and expert analysis, the book journeys through the key episodes of Francis' reform in Rome and the wider Church brings into sharp focus the frustrations and fury, as well as the joys and successes, of one of the most remarkable pontificates of the contemporary age. Wounded Shepherd (Author: Austen Ivereigh) is ideal for those seeking to understand the complexities of a papacy that is very different from those of the recent past. This insider account of the inner workings of the Vatican will be a revelation to some.

Garratt Publishing. Phone: 1300 650 878

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Peter Shannahan, Leo Belot, Alan Maher,  
John Desmond O'Hagan, Robert Withers.  
Wanda Rusc, Anthony Rusc, Lina Natoli,  
Michelle Gooden, William Mullane,  
Patrick O'Reilly, Marcella O'Reilly,  
Gwen Cruise, Annamma Mathai,  
Sis Paulline Hunt, Ann Hilal,  
Luisito Natividad.

**ROSTERS:**

**6:00PM**

**9:30AM**

**EUCHARIST MINISTERS**

◆ This Week	M. Italiano P. Naughtin	L. Cigana P. Kawalevski E. Mendes
◆ Next week	S. Samarasundera Sr June	C.L. Tay A. Benedict L. Cigana

**PROCLAIMERS**

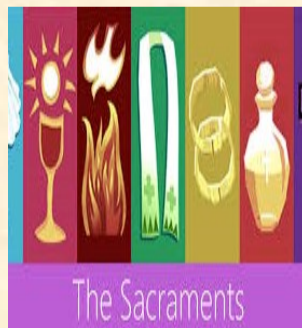
◆ This Week	C: H. Lobo P: P. Kelly	A. Lee Sr. Betty
◆ Next week	C: R. Grealy P: P. D'Cruz	P. O'Reilly B. Ross

**COUNTERS**

This Week: Owen Grealy / Anthony Yeo  
Next Week: Raj Fonn / Violet Fonn

**SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement**

- ◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass )
- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



**2020 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION**

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

**MASS TIMES:**

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
  - ◆ Sunday: 9:30 AM
  - ◆ Indian Mass: 12:00 NN every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
  - ◆ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
  - ◆ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.**

**WEEKDAYS:**

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ◆ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am





## NEW CHURCH BLUEPRINT FOR RESPONDING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

A new whole-of-Church initiative to help people and communities recover from the bushfire crisis will set the blueprint for how the Church responds to domestic natural disasters in the future. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*.

Earlier this month, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a number of other national organisations encouraged Catholics to donate to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal, which is supporting people who have lost loved ones, homes, property and animals.

Those national organisations, representing parishes, religious orders, social service agencies, and community care providers, have spent several weeks working collaboratively in response to the deadly bushfire season – which is not yet over. The new national collaboration is called CERA – Catholic Emergency Relief Australia – and will serve as a coordination point for Catholic agencies responding to natural disasters.

Dr Stephens, CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia said while the national Vinnies appeal continues to be a channel for people to support Catholic agencies responding to the bushfire crisis, CERA will also receive donations that will be distributed through a recovery grants application process managed by Catholic Social Services Australia.

Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said. “One of the Church’s key social teachings is about ‘subsidiarity’, which means that we empower local communities to respond to their realities as they best see fit”.

## KIRIBATI: WHAT MAKES A CLIMATE REFUGEE

The Pacific island of Kiribati is doomed to disappear. Its people are fated to become a generation of climate change refugees. The direction jurisprudence on this will take is not merely of academic interest. *Eureka Street*.

The term 'climate change refugees' is coming into vogue and even Australia, whose politicians resist accepting its gloomy and turbulent realities, risks producing its very own. In the words of climatologist Michael Mann, 'It is conceivable that much of Australia simply becomes too hot and dry for human habitation. In that case, yes, unfortunately we could see Australians join the ranks of the world's climate change refugees.'

In the legal field, the idea of expanding the categories of refugees that arise from climactic disaster is as bold as any, and has generated its share of supporters and sceptics. A remarkable effort to do so came in the New Zealand case of *Teitiota v Chief Executive Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment* (2014), the first recorded instance of climate change being cited as a basis for refugee status, though the man in question, Ioane Teitiota, failed to convince the courts.

New Zealand's various judicial channels found against the Kiribati national, claiming that he did not satisfy the definition of refugee within the conventional understanding of international law. This was a different sort of threat to his livelihood, rooted neither in political oppression nor in tyrannical cruelty.

## SCHOOLS ON ALERT FOR SYMPTOMS OF DEADLY VIRUS

Schools are being warned to look out for students or staff displaying symptoms of the deadly coronavirus, and a Catholic education chief has urged principals to be aware of the latest health advice. Source: *The Sunday Telegraph*.

As tens of thousands of kids return from the Christmas break this week, New South Wales education officials have contacted principals about the contagious disease. “Principals have been encouraged to monitor children and staff closely for any strange illnesses and to follow the NSW Health guidelines. ”School administrators have been encouraged to familiarise themselves with the symptoms of the disease, especially in those who have recently returned from China.

Common human coronaviruses symptoms:

runny nose

headache

cough

sore throat

fever

a general feeling of being unwell.



## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 LISTEN TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING

In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council. In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another’s stories of faith.

More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. This gathered data also reveals some deeper hopes and questions, and the diverse yearnings, that we are now challenged to consider together.

This period for Listening and Discernment will be open indefinitely.

You’re welcome to contact the Plenary Council team at any time. PO Box 747, North Sydney, NSW 2059

## FILM REVIEW: WHY THE TWO POPES IS A WINNER

One of the great successes of the film *The Two Popes* is to be able to meditate on two very subtle and often badly perceived realities: prayer and confession. The two characters talk about their moments of desolation and consolation. In a certain sense, the homily in which Fr Jorge Mario speaks of his moments of doubt echoes the doubt experienced by Benedict XVI before it forced him to resign. Prayer evolves with age and life: the presence of God is perceived, sometimes more easily, sometimes less so. It takes a lifetime to make a man; perhaps a whole lifetime to make a priest and, even more so, a pope. Popes follow one another without being necessarily similar. This is good news. Backed by superb direction, exceptional actors, original and well-chosen music, this film is a winner. Netflix.

## INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

Let your light shine! We all have our special gifts but sometimes we fail to recognize this. We may feel that we have little or nothing to offer to others. That is never true. As Jesus says: “you are the salt of the earth! You are the light of the world!” Let us ask Jesus to help us recognize our unique gifts and share them with others.

## PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you are the salt of the earth .

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you empower the weak and fearful .

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your light breaks forth like the dawn .

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

## FIRST READING: *Isaiah 58:7-10*

Share with those in need and you will be rewarded.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

**Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)
2. The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory. (R.)



## SECOND READING: *1Cor 2: 1-5*

Faith is a gift from God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia! alleluia!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL : *Mt 5: 13-16*

The community of disciples, to whom Jesus has just addressed the Beatitudes is to point the disciples' lives are to bring preservation, flavour and zest to the people (salt) and their good works to give praise to the Father (light). There is no room for self importance.

*Next 6th Sunday Ord Time :*

*1st Read Sirach 15: 15-20; 2nd Read 1Cor 2:6-10*

*Gospel Matthew 5: 17-37*



Dear St Valentine,

Help us to learn to love unselfishly and to find great joy in giving. Enable all true lovers to bring out the best in each other.

“...let all that you do, be done in love”.—1Cor 16: 14