

GOSPEL

Lk 6: 27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

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.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

LOVE THE ENEMY

We are now into the heart of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. We are also presented with the most important Gospel teaching that characterises Jesus' followers: Love and forgiveness of the enemy. But this is also dangerous teaching, for it is easy to misunderstand what Jesus is asking of his disciples. He is not addressing disciples individually, but together. The response to the 'enemy' comes from the total gathering of the Gospel household who support each other as they deal with the enemy. It is not the individual disciple who bears responsibility for enemy love. It is a collective response.

The response is also agential or active, never passive or submissive. Disciples disarm by their attitude of 'love'—a desire that the aggressor comes to know their own self-worth in their relationship to God and others. It is not about feeling affection or warmth towards the enemy, an impossible response in the face of suffering or hurt. 'Turning the other cheek' is a form of passive resistance to the aggressor, rather than responding with tit-for-tat assault, a response culturally expected. Luke's audience who are wealthy are encouraged to be generous. Jesus encourages disciples to act compassionately, like God.

Today's Gospel is challenging, especially in the context of the issues that today's believers are concerned about. Luke offers sage advice. A spirit of kindness and non-aggression towards the assailants of our world can help create a society shaped by peace rather than violence. Such a spirit ideally characterises our faith communities imbued with today's Gospel.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

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.**

RESP 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 Cor 15: 45-49

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia!

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



Est. 1887

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (23 Feb 2025)
St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Marydas Arackal OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677
secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au
www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
 Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141



OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joss Honour (St Joseph's Outreach Services)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 23rd February 2025

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 22nd February	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 23rd February 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass Children's Liturgy	9.00am Mass
Monday 24th February 7 th Week in Ordinary Time		
Tuesday 25th February 7 th Week in Ordinary Time	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 26th February 7 th Week in Ordinary Time	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 27th February St Gregory of Narek	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 28th February 7 th Week in Ordinary Time	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 1st March 7 th Week in Ordinary Time	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	



PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

Loving and Merciful God, we pray for your servant, Pope Francis, in his time of need. May you, the Source of all healing, surround him with Your loving presence, and grant him strength and a full recovery. May Your divine grace rest upon him, restoring his health and fill him with vigour to continue leading Your Church. Amen.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month.
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm, or by appointment.

ANOINTING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ SJOS Committee: Wed 26 Feb 6pm
- ▶ Children's Liturgy: Sun 23 Feb 10.30am Mass

AUGUSTINE 'LOVE YOUR ENEMIES'



" Strive to love all people, even your enemies; love them, not because they are your brother or sister, but that they may become so. In this way you will always burn with fraternal love, both for those who are already your brother or sister and for your enemy, that they may by being loved and by loving become your brother or sister. For when love them, you love a friend. Now they are with you, now they are knit to you in unity, a catholic unity. If you live righteously you may make a friend out of an enemy. (Homily of 1st Letter of John 10)

POSITION VACANT

Parish Business Manager

The parish is seeking applications for a part-time permanent role as business manager (20-24 hours a week). Contact the parish office for details. Ph: 9826 9677
 E: secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au

CHILDREN'S LITURGY & MORNING TEA

This Sunday 23rd Feb 10.30am. Parents may also participate. All parishioners are welcome to morning tea after mass.

UPDATED PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

The updated Parish Pastoral Plan has been finalized and printed in a new leaflet format for distribution at our church doors this weekend. Please take your copy. Thanks to the members of the Parish Council sub-committee who have worked on this plan.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Ellen Allery, Robert Huggins, Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gloudemans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Stephen Soh, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Christine Rodrigues, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaiou.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased

✦ Troy Selwood

Anniversaries

✦ Eileen Powell ✦ Margaret McManus
 ✦ Doreen Brady ✦ Ellen Beams
 ✦ Consolacion Garcia
 ✦ Edward Lavery-Bellman

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council convened last Wednesday evening for the first meeting of 2025. Joss Honour operations manager of SJOS addressed the Council. Preparation for the Parish AGM (23rd March) and arrangements for Lent & Easter were discussed. The Parish Calendar and Parish Pastoral Plan were also presented.

Mary Greene (retiring) and **Kris Marsh** who along with his family, Gillian & Gregory are moving from the area, were thanked for their contribution to the Parish. Congratulations were extended to Fr Matteo Cho OSA on his appointment as superior of the Augustinians in Korea. He will leave Melbourne early in March.

PARISH BAPTISMS

We welcome the family and friends of Dominic Ballingal who is to be baptised in our parish this weekend



COFFEE AFTER ST THOMAS' 9.00AM MASS

After mass at St Thomas Aquinas this Sunday 23rd February, join us for coffee at Botanical Hotel, 169 Domain Road. All welcome!

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE

The Autumn edition Australian Catholics magazine is available in churches this weekend. Please take your free copy.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Enrolments are open for the sacraments of First Reconciliation & Holy Communion. Contact Stephy at the parish office.

MASS COLLECTIONS 16/02/2025

Clergy (Augustinian Community)	
1 st Collection, CDF & bank deposits.	\$ 546.40
Church (Parish Ministries)	
2 nd Collection	\$ 271.35
Envelopes.....	\$ 80.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...	\$ 445.00
Tap Point Terminals.....	\$ 540.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	