

GOSPEL

Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Happy are the poor in spirit.

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.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

1 FEBRUARY 2026

TRUE BLESSEDNESS

What is discipleship about? This becomes the focus of Matthew's Gospel over the next few Sundays as we turn to Jesus' first major moment of teaching, what we know as the 'Sermon on the Mount'. Jesus, like Moses in the Old Testament, gathers with his disciples on a mountain. They surround him and listen to his teaching. He teaches them about blessedness in eight 'Beatitudes'. Each Beatitude begins with 'Blessed are those...' and then names those who are blessed by God.

Some translations unhelpfully have 'Happy are those...' There is a theological distinction between being 'blessed' and 'happy'. Being happy relies on one's self-referential internal disposition. The focus of 'blessedness' is different. It is God. The Greek (*makrios*) is about God's action to those who are without status ('poor in spirit'), know their own humble status ('gentle'), seek comfort amidst life's sadness ('mourn'), are passionate for justice ('hunger and thirst for what is right'), show compassion to others ('merciful'), are thoughtfully genuine and authentic ('pure of heart'), seek to bring about peace where there is division ('peacemakers') and who suffer for their conviction to act justly with integrity ('persecuted in the cause of right').

Those named as blessed have an ultimate openness to God in all life's experiences. God will respond to them, will bless them and will allow the Kingdom (rather 'Kin-dom') to be revealed in them. The Beatitudes are framed with the promise, 'the kin-dom of God is theirs'. A final Beatitude is tacked on to the original eight. It acknowledges the suffering and persecution now experienced by Matthew's community. A lingering contemplation of any of these Beatitudes can remind us how much we are blessed by God now.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

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.

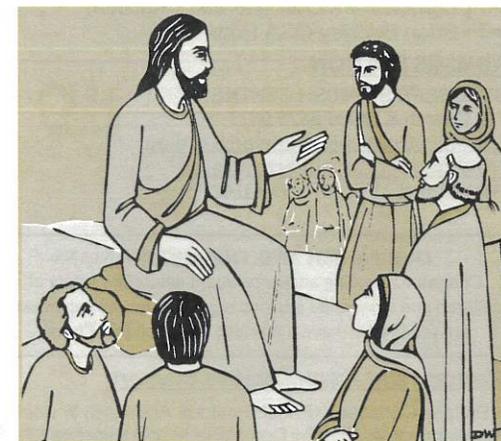
■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145: 7-10

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

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 Cor 1: 26-31

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

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 up 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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!



Est. 1887

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st February 2026
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 Francis Park 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) ▶ Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joel Sanchez (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Sat)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

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: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, 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.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 1st February 2026

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 31 st January	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 1 st February 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 2 nd February Presentation of the Lord		
Tuesday 3 rd February Bl Stephen Bellesini	10am Anointing/Healing Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 4 th February 4 th Week in Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 5 th February St Agatha	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 6 th February Sts Paul Miki & Companions	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 7 th February Bl Anselm Polanco	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE 2nd FEBRUARY 2026

This special day instituted by St. Pope John Paul II, highlights the importance of religious vocations and the commitment of those in consecrated life. It coincides with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, emphasizing the light of Christ in the world. We especially pray today for our Augustinian priests in South Yarra.



EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ **RCIA:** Resumes in February 2026 -5th Feb
- ▶ PPC Executive: Wed 4th Feb 6pm
- ▶ Baptism Preparation: Tues 3 Feb 7pm

POPE LEO XIV: ON CONSECRATED LIFE



We continue to cherish the experience of the Jubilee of Consecrated Life, which called us to be pilgrims of hope on the path of peace. This is not a slogan or a formula. We experienced it concretely even in the

journey that prepared our gathering in Rome. Rather, it is an evangelical style to continue to embody every day, wherever dignity is wounded and faith is tested. We entrust each and every one of you to the Lord, that he may make you steadfast in hope and gentle in heart, capable of remaining, of consoling, of beginning anew: and thus to be, in the Church and in the world, a prophecy of presence and a seed of peace.

HEALING / ANOINTING MASS 10AM FEB 3rd

Our monthly Anointing/Healing Mass for those who are frail, elderly, mentally or physically ill, is scheduled for 10am Tuesday 3rd Feb at St. Joseph's. If anyone has a friend or relative who is unable to attend but would like to receive communion at home, please speak to one of the priests.



BE PART OF OUR AUGUSTINIAN STORY

If you want to know more about the Augustinian way of life, contact us at The Augustinian Vocation Office and join the discernment program. www.osa.org.au



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, Anne Rigg, Mitos Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaiio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Andrea Dreher., Greg Sutton, Charles, Tom Greene.

MASS COLLECTIONS 25/01/2026

Clergy (Augustinian Community)
 1st Collection, CDF & bank deposits... \$ 744.75
Church (Parish Ministries)
 2nd Collection \$ 377.95
 Envelopes..... \$1050.00
 Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...\$ 115.00.
 Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 435.00
Thank you for your generosity



IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased

- ✦ Ellen Allery ✦ Juan Escalona

Anniversaries

- ✦ Agatha Tong ✦ John Morley
- ✦ Margaret England ✦ Leslie McMaster
- ✦ Kevin Quealy ✦ Anacleto Duran
- ✦ Giovanna Malice ✦ Julita Lim
- ✦ Maurice Wallin



BECOMING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN



If you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith, the Parish of South Yarra is here to accompany you. Our

meetings resume this coming Thursday Feb 5th. Please contact the Parish office for more details. 9826 9677

VALE - ELLEN ALLERY

The parish is saddened at the loss of our long-standing parishioner Ellen Allery. We extend our sincere condolences to Ellen's family and friends. Ellen's funeral is on Friday 13th February 10am at St Thomas Aquinas church.

JUNE COCHRANE EULOGY

June was a much-loved pastoral associate here from 1992 until 2005. June died on 6th December and her funeral was held in Adelaide on 14th January. For those who remember June, a copy of her eulogy is in the church foyer.

BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING

We invite families of infants to be baptized to an online ZOOM meeting Tuesday 3 Feb at 7pm. Contact the parish office.