

Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish



C/- 7 Mann Street, Mount Barker
South Australia 5251



We are a Community learning to be disciples of Jesus.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 17 February 2019

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**Our Lady of Mercy
Mt Barker**

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6.00 PM
SUNDAY MORNING 9.00 AM**

**The Good Shepherd
Strathalbyn**

SUNDAY MORNING 10.45 AM

Weekday Masses This Week

Tue 19/02		8.15am	St Francis de Sales College
Wed 20/02		12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 21/02		9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 22/02	The Chair of St Peter The Apostle	7.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 23/02	St Polycarp	9.30am	The Good Shepherd

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass on Thursday and Saturday mornings for half an hour.

Reconciliation is available during and after Exposition, and by appointment.

True Prayer is Compassionate, no Hypocrisy or Tricks

In his ongoing catechesis on the "Our Father", Pope Francis told pilgrims gathered in the Paul VI hall for the General Audience on Wednesday, that "true prayer is made in the intimate depths of a heart visible only to God. "It is a silent dialogue", he said, with love at its core. "To look at God and to let oneself be looked at by God is to pray".

In this way, the Christian does not forget the world, but rather brings its people and its needs into prayer. The person who prays tells God about the pain of someone he or she met that day. "If you don't realize that there's so many people who suffer", the Pontiff underlined, then that means one's heart is withered. "Feeling compassion" is "one of the key verbs of the Gospel".

"Let us ask ourselves", said the Pope, "when I pray, do I open myself to the cry of so many people near and far? Or do I think of prayer as some kind of anaesthesia so you can relax?"

He stressed that "Jesus doesn't want hypocrisy. "True prayer is that which is accomplished in the secret of conscience, of the heart: inscrutable, visible only to God... It avoids falsehood: with God it is impossible to pretend". Before God, he said, tricks have no power.

Pope Francis noted that in the Our Father there is the absence of the word "I". Jesus teaches us instead to pray: "your kingdom come, your will be done". The second half of the prayer then moves from "your" to "our": "give us our daily bread; forgive us our trespasses". "This use of the plural shows us that Christian prayer never asks bread for just one person, but always on behalf of others." There is no room for individualism in dialogue with God."

Jesus makes us pray, the Pope emphasized, even for those "who apparently do not seek God", because God seeks these people "more than anyone else."



The Parish Team:

Fr. Richard Morris PP 8391 1053

Fr. Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri) 8391 1053

Sue Eckert, Ministry Coordinator, Strathalbyn 8537 3053

Fr. Richard's email address: morrisri@bigpond.com

Website: www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Email Address: mbstparish@adam.com.au

Our Lady's Rosary Garden 8391 1471

St Francis de Sales College

Gavin McGlaughlin - Principal 8393 1000

Please Pray For...

Sick

Win Mott, Ashlee Lloyd, Bill Weir, Helen Meijer, Rose Carr, Patricia Jones, Susie White, Ingrid Szandro, Peter Szandro, Alida van Dijk, Rina Papini, Pauline Hoskin, Noelene Kane, Tanya Jane Vallejo, Geraldine Griffin, Margaret Nykiel, Leanne Sersli, Brian Hockings, Helen Malan, David Neville, Kevin Moroney, Dorothy Scott, Ros Mattner, Maureen Richardson, Fr Richard Morris, Kerry Woolston.

Recently Deceased

Fr Jim Honner, Fr Laurie Quinn.

Anniversaries

Adelina Costa, Bessie Cooke, Betty Schirmer, Erminio Papini, Peter Fiora, Franz Laudenbach, Joe Kavenagh, Audrey Penter.

Vocations

Olek Stirrat, Anthony Beltrame.

Parish Pastoral Council

Neil McGoran (Chair), Fr Richard Morris (Ex Officio), Gavin McLaughlin (Ex Officio), Sandra Lloyd, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry, Jo Manalo, Navin DeSilva, Jan Sobotta, Andrew Wajwoda, Catherine Wajwoda, Gerrard Doyle.

Parish Finance Council

Tom Hardy (Chair), Fr Richard, Michelle Muller (Secretary), Noel Duffield, Jim Mann, John Barton, Hilary Raimondo.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests)	\$ 996.40
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 933.00
Loose plate	\$ 373.80

Parish Meetings this Week

Mon 9.45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon 10.00am	Level 1 Atrium	St James the Less
Wed 4.00pm	Level 2 Atrium	St James the Less
Tue 7.30pm	Parish Pastoral Council	OLOM Foyer
Thu 10.30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu 6.30pm	Sacraments Family Session and BBQ at Our Lady of Mercy Church	

On the Noticeboard

Mar 1 World Day of Prayer - Mt Barker / Strathalbyn
Mar 2 Child Protection Training @ Our Lady of Mercy
Mar 17 Children's Liturgy Training @ Our Lady of Mercy
Mar 25 Catholic Clergy-Laity Golf Day @ West Lakes
And much, much more - check your Church noticeboard!

Ecumenical Prayer at Strathalbyn

Come, join in, and help begin what God wants to do here.

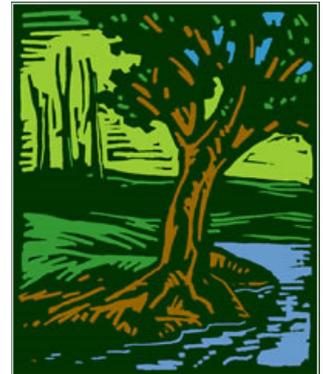
Sunday 17 February at Strath Family Church in the Catholic Church Hall.



Reflection on the Scripture Readings

This gospel passage has great importance for those who claim to be followers of Jesus. It brings his answer to the question: Where am I to find true happiness? – the ultimate concern, surely, in all our striving. Happiness – which is often confused in people's minds with the superficial contentment we call 'a good time' – will only be found in the things that meet our deepest needs as persons. And, in the end, only the things of God will fill the 'depths' that are in every human person (John Paul II). As the world's true Saviour, Jesus shows us how we can fill these depths – all that he stood for as he shared our life shows us the way to true happiness, even in this present life; and he promises to share with us his own happiness in the life to come. In today's gospel he points out the way to those who want to be his true followers.

Note how Luke sets the scene. The audience addressed by Jesus is made up of two groups, 'a large gathering of his disciples' (those who have made a commitment to what Jesus stands for), and 'a great crowd of people from all parts' (those who are drawn to him, but hesitate to commit themselves more fully). Jesus 'fixes his eyes' on the first group, and addresses his teaching concerning true happiness to them. Note, however, that in the scene there is no hard boundary dividing the two groups. Though the words of Jesus are addressed to the first group, they are also an invitation to those in the second group to find the joy that will be theirs if they take his paradoxical invitation seriously. And, because our Christian communities have always contained these two groups, Luke is inviting us to ask ourselves where we stand.



'How happy are you who are poor'. Jesus' teaching on true happiness overturns the assumptions of worldly wisdom. In Matthew we find a different wording: 'Blessed (with true happiness) are the poor in spirit'. There is a subtle difference in what the two evangelists wish to convey of the teaching of Jesus. Luke does not canonise a state of material deprivation - in what follows, as we shall see, Jesus urges those who have material resources to use them with a generosity learned from their heavenly Father: what Matthew calls being 'poor in spirit'. But it must also be recognised that Luke is calling to mind a fundamental biblical theme: those who are materially poor are privileged, not because they are morally superior, but because they are the object of God's special concern: 'God hears the cry of the poor'. Those who have learned to trust in this truth have found great blessings – whether their deprivation has been imposed on them by circumstance, or they have embraced a life of poverty that is voluntary, in imitation of the Saviour's own life.

In our pursuit of happiness, God respects our freedom. As the first reading reminds us, the outcome depends on the choices that shape our lives. Jesus contrasts true happiness with the 'woes' of an empty life. Perhaps we can see in today's troubled world 'a fulfilment of the woes Jesus directed against a rich, abundant, laughing, self-congratulating social order' (Paul Tillich).

John Thornhill SM

Question of the Week

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. (Luke 6:20-21)

Adults: When do I feel really happy?

Young people: What happens in me when I forget about myself and think of others?

Children: When was I made to feel important this week?

Child Safe Environments Briefing for Volunteers

As you may be aware, all volunteers in our Archdiocese are mandated notifiers under South Australian Child Protection Legislation. To ensure we hear the voices of children and have the necessary skills to respond appropriately to their needs, we invite any volunteers who have not yet participated in Child Safe Environments training or an equivalent course to attend a Volunteer Briefing session run by the Archdiocesan Child Protection Unit. These briefings (or an equivalent course) are a compulsory requirement for all volunteers, with Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist having to complete the training prior to being approved by the Archdiocese.

A Volunteer Briefing will be held on Saturday 2nd March, 11am - 12.30pm in the foyer of Our Lady of Mercy.

This is a good opportunity to keep your training up to date, as it must be renewed every 3 years.

Please contact the Child Protection Unit to book into the session, either by phone on 8210 8159 or via email at childprotection@adelaide.catholic.org.au. Thank you for agreeing to help us provide care and safety for our children and young people.

Children's Liturgy Training

You may have noticed that our parish has been blessed with many children who like to attend our Children's Liturgy of the Word program on Sunday mornings.

Children's Liturgy is wonderful opportunity for young people to experience the gospel in a way that is accessible to them, whilst we are listening to the Liturgy of the Word in Mass.

We invite parents and other interested people to prayerfully consider whether this may be a Ministry that you are called to assist in. With an expanded roster, we may even be able to run Children's Liturgy during school holidays.

We have been offered the opportunity to have a 2 ½ hour training workshop for those who lead Children's Liturgy, and those who may be interested in joining the roster. The session is run by Carmen Balales, of the Archdiocese Family and Parish Based Catechesis Office. Carmen will deliver a session for us **on Sunday 17th March after the 9am Mass in the foyer of Our Lady of Mercy.** If you would like to attend to get a feel for what is required, please leave a message for Michelle in the parish office or ring Sandra Lloyd on 0438 987 420.

Lenten Reflection Program

This year we will again be offering a Lenten Reflection Program. We will be using the free resource from the Office for Renewing Parishes. These will be available in a few weeks' time.

Palm Branches Wanted

St Francis de Sales College will be filming a re-enactment of the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, in readiness for a Passion Play liturgy on 10th April 2019. The scene will require a large quantity of palm branches. If you have palm branches which the College could have, please contact Mr Oreste Farrugia on ofarrugia@stfrancis.catholic.edu.au or via the College phone number 8393 1000. Thank you.

More information about the Liturgy on 10th April will be given to parishioners soon, as all are welcome to attend.

Arty Crafty Raffle

This weekend we will be selling tickets in our Annual Raffle. First prize is a beautiful basket of goodies. Other prizes are wines, ports, beautiful crocheted blankets and many other items. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Catholic Cemetery. So get your tickets!

Tuesday Morning Mass

Every second Tuesday during school terms we celebrate Mass at St Francis de Sales College. Now that the new sports centre has opened at the College, we will be able to have the Mass in the Community Room at the Sports Centre.

Parishioners are warmly invited to join us for Mass.

Breakfast with the Knights

The Knights of the Southern Cross are cooking up a free BBQ breakfast this Sunday after 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy. They would love to see you there!

And why not take the opportunity to give them a big 'Thank You' for organising the Christmas raffle which raised \$400 towards the Church Organ Fund. Well done guys! And thank you to all those who bought tickets and supported the Knights in this fundraiser.

World Day of Prayer

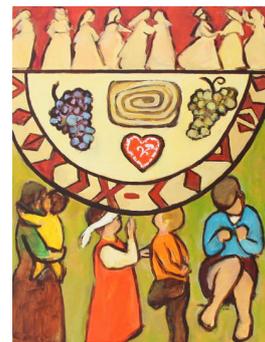
This year's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 1st March.

The theme is 'Come - Everything is Ready' and it has been organised by women from Slovenia in central Europe.

Mt Barker's celebration will be from 7.30pm at the Lutheran Church.

Strathalbyn's gathering will be from 7.30pm at St Andrew's Uniting Church.

All are invited to attend and enjoy the celebrations.



We were assisted in our Liturgy by...

	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am
Commentator		Pat Hickey
Readers	Sam Vaughan John Barton	Anne Bagshaw Jim Mann
Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Vaughan Sandra Lloyd Cecily Barton	Chris Harper Tom de Silva Delia Hughes
Altar Servers	Mackenzie Cushnie-Stock and Aagie Kurian	

... and many wonderful people at Strathalbyn. :-)

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 1:1-4

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **R.**

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **R.**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached,
how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection
of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not
been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still
in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in
Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this
life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-
fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of
level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples
with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from
Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who
had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor;
yours is the kingdom of God.
Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.
Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

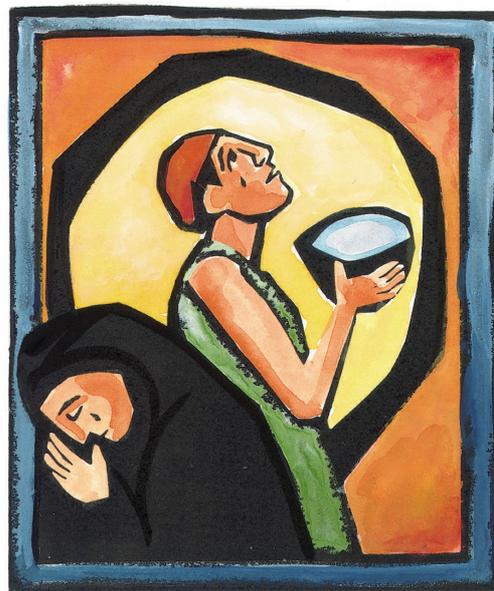
'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse
you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son
of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for
then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way
their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich:
you are having your consolation now.
Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.
Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the
way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



February 24th, 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38