

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

CANBERRA INNER NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

PASTORED BY THE CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (SSS)

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD)**

YEAR A | 31 JANUARY-1 FEBRUARY 2026



REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN

BY DON SCHWAGER

www.dailyscripture.net

What is the good life which God intends for us? And how is it related with the ultimate end or purpose of life? Is it not our desire and longing for true happiness, which is none other than the complete good, the sum of all goods, leaving nothing more to be desired? Jesus addresses this question in his sermon on the mount. The heart of Jesus' message is that we can live a very happy life. The call to holiness, to be saints who joyfully pursue God's will for their lives, can be found in these eight beatitudes. Jesus' beatitudes sum up our calling or vocation - to live a life of the beatitudes. The word *beatitude* literally means "happiness" or "blessedness".

God gives us everything that leads to true happiness

What is the significance of Jesus' beatitudes, and why are they so central to his teaching? The beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every heart. They teach us the final end to which God calls us, namely the coming of God's kingdom (Mt 4:17), the vision of God (Mt 5:8; 1 Jn 2:1), entering into the joy of the Lord (Mt 25:21-23) and into his rest (Heb 4:7-11). Jesus' beatitudes also confront us with decisive choices concerning the life we pursue here on earth and the use we make of the goods he puts at our disposal.

The beatitudes are a sign of contradiction to the world's way of happiness

The beatitudes which Jesus offers us are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy. How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression.

God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: "No one can live without joy. That is why a person deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures." Do you know the happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

CHURCHES

ST PATRICK, BRADDON

SUN 8:00 am Mass
TUE-FRI 12:10 pm Rosary
FRI 12:30 pm Mass
11:30 am - Adoration &
12:30 pm Confession

ST BRIGID, DICKSON

SUN 9:30 am Mass
5:00 pm Vietnamese
Mass
(1st and 3rd Sundays)
TUE-SAT 8:40 am Rosary
9:00 am Mass
WED 8:00 am - Adoration
11:00 am
5:00 pm - Adoration
8:00 pm
SAT 9:30 am - Adoration &
10:00 am Confession
5:30 pm - Confession
6:00 pm Vigil Mass

Healing Service takes place after the Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

SUN 8:30 am Mass
TUE-FRI 8:15 am - Adoration
9:10 am (Confession during
Adoration every
Friday.)
9:15 am Mass
SAT 8:15 am Novena
to Our Lady of the
Perpetual Help
8:30 am Mass
5:15 pm - Confession
5:45 pm
6:00 pm Vigil Mass

Anointing of the Sick is within the Mass at 8:30 am every 1st Saturday of the month.

Recitation of the Rosary takes place after the 9:15 a.m. Mass, Tuesday to Friday.

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

SUN 10:00 am Mass
FRI 11:00 am - Adoration*
11:45 am
11:45 am Mass*

Confession is every Friday, 11:00 am to 11:40 am *
Anointing of the Sick takes place every 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.

*Will recommence in February 2026

HOLY ROSARY | BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

SUN 9:30 am Rosary
10:00 am Mass
5:00 pm Mass
TUE-FRI 5:30 pm Mass
SAT 4:00 pm - Confession
4:30 pm
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
FRI 6:00 pm - Adoration
7:00 pm



SUNDAY READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 105: 47

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145(146):6-10

R: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

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)

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)

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 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves for instance, 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

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.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS...

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Joseph Lucero, Damian Smith, Shelagh Williamson, Rosalinda Salazar, Rosa Mangeruca, Jim Smith, John Walton, Patricia Aileen Sloan, Clare Palm, Fr Francis Fuchs PP, and Phillip Collett

IN LOVING MEMORY

Terry Bird, Tony Boyle, Hazel Petry, Heather Pook, Aniceto Castro Agulto, John Collett, Florina Cabardo, Bill More, Alice McDonald, Jack (John Joseph) O'Brien, Domenico Musolino, Pasquale Laria, and Domenica Maria

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Paul Thorpe, Brian Brown, Maggie McKeown, Sally Grant, Genevieve C., and Fr Michael Mullen



FROM THE OFFICE

- The RCIA meeting will recommence on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, 6:00 pm in St Brigid's Hall.

CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

- **Unfolding the Mystery of the Bible.** Everyone is warmly invited every Thursday evening at 6:45 pm to attend the special presentation of a DVD series that explores the richness of the Bible. This program will recommence on Thursday, 5 February 2026. Please contact Najib Raya on 0439 581 204 for further details.
- **Craft Group.** All are invited every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in St. Brigid's Hall from 1:00 pm onwards. It will recommence on Wednesday, 4 February. For queries, please contact Trish Moore at 0412 324 644.
- **Adoration.** Every Wednesday from 8:00 am to 11:00 am, then 5:00 to 8:00 pm. It will recommence on 4 February.

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

- **Saturday Vigil Mass Readers/Acolytes/Collectors.** Please talk to Fr Thonn after Mass if you would like to join the February-April roster to read, serve or take up the collection at the vigil Mass on Saturdays
- **Legion of Mary Adoration.** Everyone is invited to adoration every 1st Friday of the month from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the Parish Centre. It will recommence in February.
- **Children's Liturgy.** All children are welcome. It will begin again on Sunday, 8 February 2026, during the 8:30 am Mass. Those under five years old should be accompanied by a parent or grandparent.
- **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.** There will be mass at 7:00 am, Monday, 2 February. All are invited!
- **Choral Vespers.** On Sunday, 15 February, 4:00 pm, everyone is invited to join! Start your evening with a peaceful hour of beautiful sacred music, featuring psalm, hymns, and motets, followed by Benediction. Afternoon tea will be served in the hall afterwards. New voices are always welcome! Rehearsals are held every Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Church. For more information, please scan the QR code.



ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

- **Altar Cloth and Linens - Volunteers.** Inviting anyone to join in caring for our altar cloth and sacred linens. If you're able to help, please speak to Monica Phelan or email her at monphelan@bigpond.com. Your support helps keep our parish thriving!
- The funeral of Damian Smith is on Friday, 6 February at 1:00 pm.

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

- **Morning Tea.** Everyone is invited to join for refreshment after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, 1 February. We'd love to share this time of fellowship with you!
- **Rosary Volunteers.** Those who want to lead in the recitation of the Rosary 30 minutes before Mass, please approach Fr Renoir. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
- **Weekend Retreat.** Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW, from 13-15 February 2026. For further details, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL> and see flyers at the foyer.
- The funeral of Jim Smith is on Monday, 2 February at 11:00 am.



“BE WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE AND YOU
WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE”
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

“He loves, he hopes, he waits. Our Lord prefers to wait Himself for the sinner for years rather than keep us waiting an instant.”

~Saint Maria Goretti



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Canberra Inner North Catholic Community (CINCC) acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Owners 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 peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: **Central Presbytery Fund**, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248

Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g., Campbell Smith 1st collect)

Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

~ **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon:** A/C Name **Canberra Central Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013150, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Joseph, O'Connor:** A/C Name: **St Joseph's Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00012798, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Thomas More, Campbell:** A/C Name: **St Thomas More Parish**
BSB: 062-786 A/C: 00014869, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **Blackfriars, Watson:** A/C Name: **Blackfriars Parish Watson**
BSB: 062-786, A/C:00013341, Ref: Name & Giving Number

By discerning your vocation, you can discover what God is calling you to do with your life and how you can best use your gifts and talents to serve Him and others.

If you are interested in learning more about discerning your vocation, please visit the Archdiocesan Vocations website:

www.cgatholic.org.au/vocations



PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The Canberra Inner North Catholic Community (CINCC) is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all of our thinking and action.

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon: Barbara & Catherine | CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Joseph, O'Connor: Noel | OConnor.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

St Thomas More, Campbell: Margie | Campbell.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

Blackfriars, Watson: Nicole | Watson.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

While the abovementioned email addresses are not available currently, please send any concerns or enquiries to: Maria Hicks, Manager Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or 02 6239 9806.

CONNECT WITH US...

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