



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023

### REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

We have become so familiar with Matthew's beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing it. With the escalation of violence across the globe and with powerful leaders opting for military rather than diplomatic solutions to global conflicts or threats, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of the "Sermon on the Mount".

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor, on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know what it means to mercy, on the pure in heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of 'blessed are...' (a better translation of the Greek makarioi than "happy are ...") provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit, and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus of Nazareth. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is righteousness or right relationship.

God's favour or blessing on those who live the gospel message comes in diverse forms: the basileia or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven were only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented it is little consolation to hear that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. "Heaven" is both present and future. Maybe the most urgent invitation is to mourn strategically the displacement, through war or climate crisis, of so many of earth's inhabitants who long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and a share of the earth's resources. As we prepare for the Synod on Synodality (walking together on the journey of faith) to begin in October this year, we might take time to ponder the meaning of Matthew's beatitudes and the message of hope they offer to those who espouse their vision.

**In recognition of Pope Benedict XVI's  
life of faith and service to the church**

**You are invited to join Archbishop Comensoli  
to celebrate a  
"Months Mind Mass" on  
SUNDAY 29 JANUARY at 6.30pm.**

**All are most welcome to join us at St Patrick's Cathedral  
on this evening.**

**The Archdiocese of Melbourne will hold  
A Memorial Mass for the Repose of the Soul of  
His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC,  
which will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on  
FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2023 at 6.30pm.  
Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli  
will be the main celebrant.**

**All are most welcome to join us at St Patrick's Cathedral  
on this evening.**

**A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:**  
ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting  
the suffering and persecuted  
Church.

*Aid to the Church in Need*  
is asking for support to aid



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and  
formation centre for their local community. Hunger, illiteracy,  
and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately  
poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life  
incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya.

The diocesan congregation of the "Visitation Daughters of the  
Immaculate Heart" were established in order to help this  
needy population - but to continue their work they need your  
help! The sisters' work includes caring for expectant  
mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring  
for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who  
are frequently abandoned by society.

Your support will help these sisters to continue their mission  
by providing them with a permanent convent.

To make an offering and learn more visit [https://  
aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject](https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject) or  
scan the Qr code.



TODAY’S LITURGY—YEAR C

Entrance Antiphon

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.

Entrance Hymn CWBII 520 v1,2,3,4

Antiphon: In faith and hope and love  
with joyful trust we move  
towards our Father’s home above

Christ, our star, our map, our road,  
to the Father’s high abode. Antiphon

Christ, our bread along the way;  
Christ, our rescue when we stray. Antiphon

Christ, our shelter, Christ our friend;  
our beginning and our end. Antiphon

Christ, our hope and our reward;  
our redeemer and our Lord. Antiphon

Text: James Phillip McAuley 1917-1976  
Music: Richard Connolly

1st Reading Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,  
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.)

2nd Reading 1 Cor 1:26-31

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad;  
Your reward will be great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:1-12

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 NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation



he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,**

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

### Communion Hymn

CWBII 456

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven,  
blessed are the gentle for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they, that hunger and thirst after justice.  
blessed are they that suffer gladly for justice' sake

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted,  
blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God.

Blessed are you when they revile and harm you,  
and speak all evil against you untruly for my sake.

Blessed are the merciful for mercy they will find,  
blessed are the peace-makers for they shall be called  
God's children.

Text & Music by Peter Kearney; © J Albert & Son Pty Limited.

### Hymn after Communion/ Recessional Hymn

CWBII 595

Antiphon: *Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near,  
trust him, speak to him in prayer, and he will hear.*

God, be with us in our lives,  
direct us in our calling,  
break the snares the world contrives,  
keep us from falling.

Antiphon

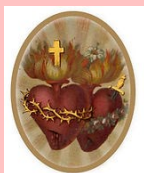
God, increase in us the life  
that Christ by dying gave us.  
Though we faint with mortal strife  
his blood will save us.

Antiphon

Strengthen in our hearts  
the love we owe to one another.  
How can we love God above  
and not our brother?

Antiphon

Text: Antiphon based on Isaiah 55:6 Quærite Dominum.  
James McAuley, 1917-1976.



**THE COMBINED SOCIETIES OF MARY**  
invite you to join them to celebrate

***Our Lady of Lourdes***

**Sunday 12th February at 1.30 pm**

**Adoration, Prayers, Benediction, Mass**

**St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church**

**91 Manning Road East Malvern**

**Further Enquiries phone Joy Hunt 9509 2207 or  
visit: [www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com](http://www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com)**

**We welcome with joy through the sacrament  
of Baptism this weekend .**

**Marshall Si Hua Du  
Mase Si Zhong Du  
Edward Mario Myszka  
Luna Gigi Lyon**



### ***Wedding Congratulations***

***Carla Tarascio & Joseph La Rosa***

***Mary Bao & Johnny Tran***

***Lucianna Pelligra & Giuseppe Piperno***



### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Tuesday 31 January - St John Bosco (Memorial)**

**Wednesday 1 February - St Brigid**

**Thursday 2 February - The Presentation of the Lord  
(Feast)**

**Friday 3 February - St Blaise & St Ansgar**

### CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 7.00am and 1.00pm (1.00pm live  
streamed - Link: [www.youtube.com/user/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb))

Saturday 8.00am and 6.00pm. (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am , 11.00am and 6.30pm. (11.00am  
televised on C31. and live streamed on CAM)

Link: [www.youtube.com/user/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)

Reconciliation will be held Tuesday to Friday at 12pm and  
on Saturday mornings at 8.30am (After the 8.00am Mass)

### EXTRAORDINARY FORM LATIN MASS

In the Sacred Heart Chapel at St Patrick's Cathedral  
every Wednesday at 5.30pm

**HOLY HOUR WILL RECOMMENCE ON  
THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.30PM**

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday at the conclusion of the  
1.00pm Mass, in the Sacred Heart Chapel  
Exposition until 2.15pm.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**We pray for the sick and for all who have asked for our  
prayers.**

**We pray for all those who have died recently, and  
those whose anniversaries we remember at this time,  
especially Pope Benedict XVI, Giovanni Triarico, Alma  
Francescato and Joseph Tiep Nguyen.**

**May they enter into the eternal life of God's kingdom,  
as promised to us all.**



## BACK TO SCHOOL

This week most primary and secondary students will return to school after their summer break.

We keep in our prayers all students, teachers and all who work in the Education sector as they begin this new year.

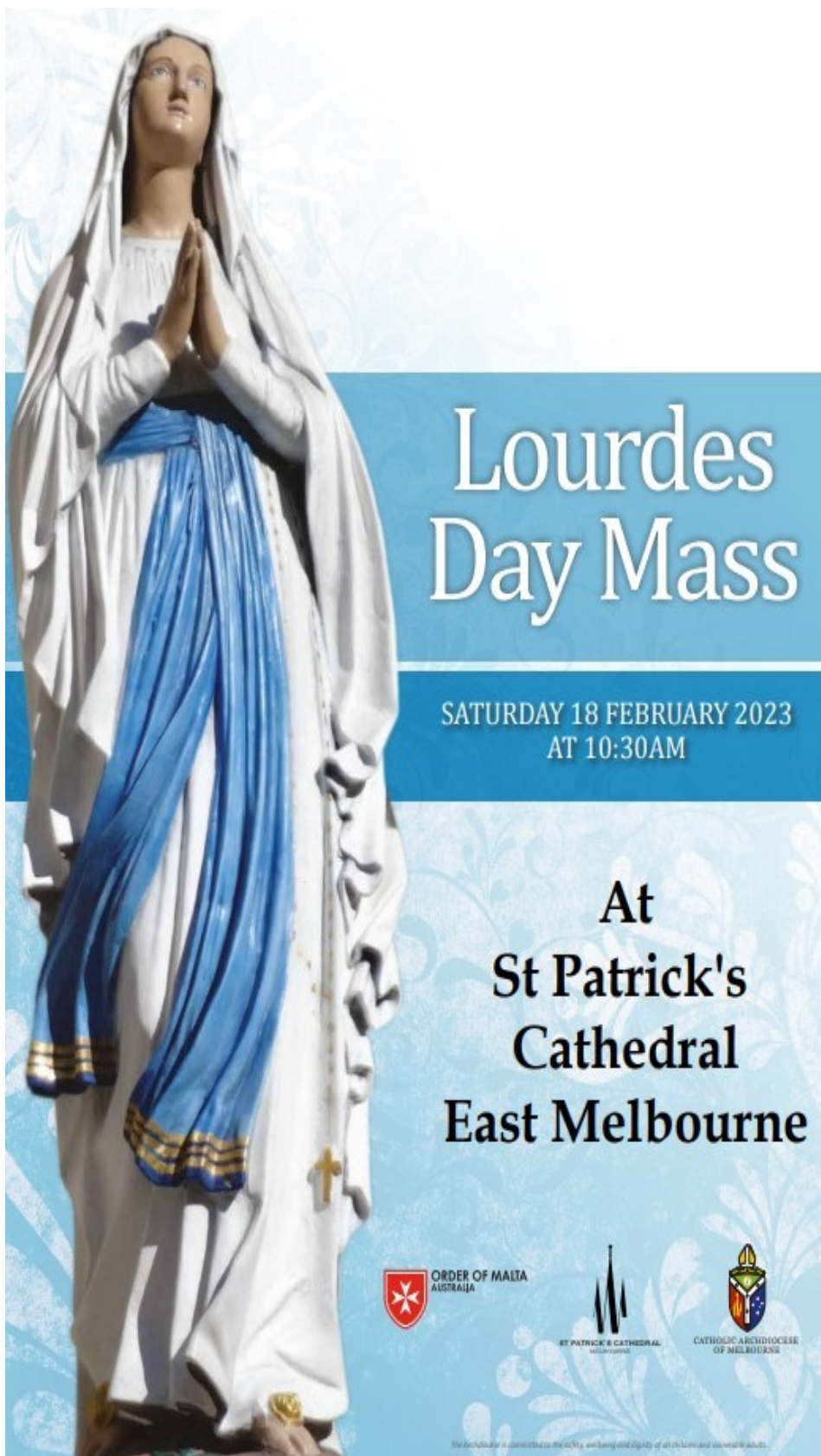
Give hope and support today

## Pastoral Care Appeal

Your support will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to bring hope and comfort to more Victorians.

**Donate Today**

[www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au)  
T: (03) 9287 5513



## Lourdes Day Mass

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023  
AT 10:30AM

At  
**St Patrick's Cathedral**  
**East Melbourne**



The Archbishop is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

You are invited to attend the annual **Lourdes Mass** at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 18th February 2023 at 10.30am.

This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them.

The principal celebrant will be Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

Everybody attending will receive a gift pack containing water from the grotto at Lourdes, rosary beads and prayer resources.

A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the church.

### Archbishop

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

### Dean of

**St Patrick's Cathedral**

Very Rev Werner Utri

### Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Michael Buck

### Assistant Priest of Cathedral

Rev. Alexander Chow

### Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

*Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital*

### Director Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

### Director

### Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

### Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

### Director

Thomas Grubb

### Organist

### Cathedral Parish Secretary

Julie Allan

Cathedral Office

T: 9662 2233

E: [Cathedral@cam.org.au](mailto:Cathedral@cam.org.au)

[www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au)

### Cathedral Administration

### Assistant

Huong Nguyen

### SAFEGUARDING.

### Child Protection Officer:

**Rev Alexander Chow**

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community. Commitment Statement display at the Cathedral's entrance & parish office.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding>

### St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Recommence on Wednesday 08 February 2023, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Cathedral Room, CKC, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne.

In the meantime, please forward any query to Fr. Alex Chow ([Alexander.Chow@cam.org.au](mailto:Alexander.Chow@cam.org.au)) or [info.spcyam@gmail.com](mailto:info.spcyam@gmail.com).