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FIRST READING *Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13*

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL *Matthew 5:1-12*

Happy are the poor in spirit.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1 st Collection	- Thanksgiving Offering.....	\$922.00
	- Loose Money.....	\$283.00
2 nd Collection	- Presbytery/Priests.....	\$283.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 03/02/08

6.00pm (SAT) – MALTESE MASS (Selected)
 9.00am (SUN) – C Monforte & A DiRico
 10.30am (SUN) – R Gravina & G Donnini

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 10/02/08

6.00pm (SAT) – G Canavan & E Saliba
 9.00am (SUN) – G Tempone & M Crupi
 10.30am (SUN) - J & J Kearney

CHURCH CLEANERS

09/02/08 S Dakin

MONEY COUNTERS

04/02/08 R & E Cornelious, R & G Silvio
 11/02/08 J & J Kearney, E & K Bartlett & C McMahon

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Raffaele FACIN, Damiano FULGIONE, Vincenza GENTILE, Costantino RASO, Elena VILLELLA, M Montagna RASO, Antonio CALIGIURI, Ines LUNELLA, Pasquale, Angela & Mario LUNA, Paola PRECOMA, Carmelo & Santo RENNA, Anthony PASSAR, Maria & Antonio DE SILVA

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

Beati i poveri in spirito.

CANTO AL VANGELO

Alleluia alleluia! Rallegratevi, esultate, perche' grande e' la vostra ricompensa nel cielo. Alleluia alleluia!

SPECIAL MINISTERS

MALTESE MASS (Selected)
 P Sparano, R Pino & P Leggiaro
 J Tanti & D Lucato

SPECIAL MINISTERS

D Herbert
 D Biasibetti, R De Zan & G Barbaro
 S Dakin & S Rottura

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

NORTH RESERVOIR

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SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Sat 6.00pm - English
 Sun. 9.00am - Italian
 Sun. 10.30am - English

Fr Emmanuel Bonello–Parish Priest

Sr Doreen Bentley-Pastoral Associate
 Mr Peter Chowne -School Principal
 Mrs Liz Pistoni – Parish Secretary

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon. Communion Service
 Tue. 10.00am Italian
 Wed. 9.10am - English
 Thur. 9.10am - English
 Fri. 9.10am - English

Maltese Mass

1st Saturday of the Month

Baptisms – Sunday 12.00pm

Marriages - By Appointment



Reconciliation: Sat. 10.30am

4th Sunday of Year A

February 3, 2008

The Beatitudes: God's Attitude

In one of the reconciliation rooms at our church in North Perth there is a picture of Jesus looking down over Jerusalem.

When I am talking to someone who is feeling down about themselves because of their failures and inadequacies, I often suggest that they look at the picture and ask themselves “When Jesus looks down at me, what does he see?” The question usually takes the person aback. It’s not the sort of thing they ever think much about. What is Jesus’ or God’s view about me or us or about the lives we lead? Today’s gospel, the Beatitudes, gives us an insight into God’s view of people like us.

Although the Beatitudes are among the most well-known and popular verses in the gospels, listening to them might leave us scratching our heads about what they really mean. How is it that, according to our gospel today, people who are weeping, or persecuted and abused, can be said to be happy? It sounds odd, and it is odd. The word “happy” might put us on the wrong track. When we speak of being happy, we are generally talking about our personal feelings. We could be talking about happiness at various levels. It could be the happiness that is involved in simply enjoying an ice-cream or a cold beer on a hot day, or it could be the happiness involved in a much more significant event such as getting married or having a baby. However, when I talk about being happy, I am usually talking about *my* feeling, *my* experience. This is not what today’s gospel is talking about. The gospel translation we read at Mass uses the word “happy” where other translations use the more traditional word “blessed”. “Blessed are the poor in spirit...blessed are those who weep...” While the word “happy” often refers to *me* and my experience, “blessed” suggests a reference to *God*. To be “blessed” means that God regards someone in a particularly special way. The Beatitudes reveal God’s attitude towards people who are poor in spirit, who weep, or who hunger or thirst for righteousness. No matter what anyone else thinks of them, God has a particular regard for them. So, the Beatitudes are not about us feeling happy. God does not ask people who are grieving because of the pain of others, or who are being persecuted, to throw their hats into the air and dance for joy. The Beatitudes are about a future blessing or reward. In the present time we might experience suffering because of our commitment to Jesus. But, despite that, we are blessed because in God’s time there will be a future free from pain. In the words of the gospel “the kingdom of heaven” will be ours. It has been said that the Beatitudes are about attitudes – the “be-attitudes”. If this is so, they are firstly about the attitude of *God* towards our world. God’s first thought is to bless. The Beatitudes offer us a bigger picture. They empathise with our present situation but invite us to take a larger view. They remind us that in God’s timing we will be blessed with the fruits of our endurance, an endurance which is itself God’s gift.

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ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6 2008

On Ash Wednesday February 6 2008, Mass times are 9.10am and 7.30pm. We will have blessing and distribution of Ashes at each Mass.

Mercoledì delle Ceneri 6 Febbraio, ci sarà due Messe, 9.10am e 7.30pm.

ITALIAN LADIES

Ci sarà una riunione del comitato femminile Martedì 5 Febbraio alle ore 9.00am in cappella. Tutte benvenute.

PELLEGRINAGGIO ALLA MADDONA DI LOURDES 10 FEBBRAIO 2008

Pellegrinaggio della Maddona di Lourdes al Calabria Club, Bulla. L'autobus partirà dalla parrocchia alle 8.30am. Le persone che si sono prenotate per favore portino i \$15 dollari entro questa settimana. Per informazione, rivolgetevi a Paola Sparano 9460 7990 o Gina Tempone 9462 1641.

VIA CRUCIS

Via Crucis in Italiano e Inglese tutti i Venerdì della Quaresima, con inizio Venerdì 8 Febbraio, alle ore 7.00pm, in chiesa.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be conducted every Friday evening during Lent commencing on Friday 8 February at 7.00pm in the Church. It will be in both English and Italian. All parishioners are warmly invited to come together for this important time of prayer.

WEDDING

We congratulate Frances Ziino and Robert Fenech who will be married here today at St Joseph the Worker. We ask God's blessing on them and their families on this special occasion.

BAPTISM

Congratulations to Noah Pontillo child of Innocenzo and Angela who will be baptised today. We welcome him into our parish community and assure the family of our prayerful best wishes on this happy occasion.

BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING

The Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Monday 4 February at 7.30pm in the church.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Parish Leadership Team will meet on Wednesday 6 February at 8.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

"THE PASTORAL CARE OF ITALIANS IN AUSTRALIA: MEMORY AND PROPHECY."

ANTHONY PAGANONI (Editor)

This is a book in English that gives a detailed history and commentary about the Italian migration in Australia and the response of the church. The cost of the book is \$30. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy please see Lena Cavedon, or Liz at the parish office.



W Y D



163 DAYS TO GO



Project Compassion Sunday, 3 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes and give generously to the appeal this Lent. Your donations will allow Caritas Australia to reduce poverty and hunger in more than 30 countries around the world.

The values of integrity, humility and truthfulness are at the heart of today's reading from the prophet Zephaniah. Those who seek the Lord live justly and find in him their shelter and refuge. Matthew in the gospel reminds us of the inner peace that comes from seeking the Lord. Living with blameless, gentle and merciful hearts is about making present God's kingdom in the here and now! The Season of Lent is about to begin, Today's scripture readings invite us to walk this sacred journey with the Lord in joy and hope. We trust that our daily sufferings, and subtle forms of calumny and persecution will one day be rewarded.

Project Compassion Sunday offers us the opportunity to renew our faith commitment in seeking the Lord with all our hearts. Our Lenten theme this year calls us to action. The theme, just want justice – a call to action together with the gospel passage from 1John 3:18 *Our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active* sets forth a challenge for us. Whilst seeking the Lord with all our hearts, what does God ask us to do this Lent and beyond, to ensure that justice is achieved for those who need it most?

WHAT YOUR PROJECT COMPASSION \$'S COULD DO....

- \$10 could provide food supplements for one month for a person living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya.
- \$15 could support a person who has never completed high school to finish their studies in Manila, Philippines.
- \$50 could provide a village health awareness session in West Java, Indonesia
- \$80 could support one Fijian woman to learn basic cooking and traditional craft skills for income generation.
- \$100 could support one young Indigenous Australian to participate in a workshop in filmmaking and digital video production.
- \$200 could provide basic repairs and a roof of a home for a vulnerable urban family in Manila, Philippines.
- \$500 could support a group of 25 women to enable them to run an income generating project in Manila, Philippines.
Could provide manual arts classes for 25 children for one month in the Centro de Cultura in Brazil.
- \$665 could provide one year of agricultural training for a subsistence farmer in Fiji.
- \$1000 could provide health and hygiene training for one year for a village in West Java, Indonesia.