St Brigid's Parish

Stuart - Wulguru - Woodstock

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C — 16 February 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-8

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.'

Psalm

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.

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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 .

Gospel Acclamation

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

Luke 6:17. 20-26

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.' .

Reflection

We cannot be authentic followers of Christ if we adore riches to the neglect of the poor. Followers of Jesus, Pope Francis reflects, 'do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on.' In fact, he adds, true disciples of Jesus are 'content to share even the goods they possess, because they live according to the logic of God.' The Beatitudes, the Pope explains, 'may sound strange, almost incomprehensible to those who are not disciples.' But as challenging as they are, they ultimately 'define the identity of the disciple of Jesus.' For Christians, they are non-negotiable. What the Beatitudes do, the Pope suggests, is remind us that 'disciples allow themselves to be challenged, aware that it is not God who must enter into our mindset, but we into his.' 'Disciples,' the Pope reminds us, 'in the end, are those who let themselves be led by Jesus, who open their heart to Jesus, who listen to him and follow his path.' Such a path involves openness to the joys of the present, wherever we may find them. It also involves a readiness and willingness to become Christ's blessing to others

On behalf of St Brigid's Parish, our Parish Priest and Parishioners,
We welcome any new members to be part of our community.
"All Members are a gift from God", so a very warm "Welcome" to you,

Parish Notices and Events

Volunteers Needed

We need Readers and Special Ministers for our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. We need people prepared to join a money counting team which will count every six to 8 weeks (at a time suitable to members of the team). If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office via email or phone.

Parish Keys

We are looking into having the keys changed for our Parish, with master keys for SJTW. If you require keys for your ministry, cleaning etc, could you contact the office to enable us to create a new 'Key Register'.

A Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises

Are you interested in deepening your awareness of God's action in your daily life? There are many ways of doing this. One way was developed by Ignatius of Loyola who developed a series of exercises in prayer. He believed that much like physical exercise strengthens the body, spiritual exercises strengthen our souls. His focus was to help us deepen our awareness of God's action in our lives.

During Lent and Easter this year the parish will be offering the First Spiritual Exercises, a short program of exercises developed from Ignatius' exercises. We will meet on five Tuesday evenings (4 March, 18 March, 1 April, 15 April and 29 April) at 7pm for about an hour to introduce the exercises for the following fortnight.

Please ring the office to register your interest so we can ensure we have enough resources for everyone.

Vocation View

Christ's resurrection makes our faith fruitful and our lives worthwhile. Be open to Jesus' great gift

Caritas Australia -Project Compassion

During the month of March, we are asked to again support this charity where we are called to *Unite Against Poverty*. You can support through boxes envelopes or by scanning a QR Code. This information will be published in the next two weeks.

Supervision Formation:

The House of Prayer is hosting a supervision formation program run by Sue Dunbar and Liz Anne Smith from the 29th of July to the 2nd of August 2025. This program is designed as professional development for those who are supervisors, formation for those in leadership and supervisory roles or interested in pastoral supervision as well as those in supervision who may wish to get more out of their experience of supervision. More information is available on our website houseofprayertownsville.org.au

Spiritual Direction Formation

The program offers two streams, those called to the ministry of Spiritual Direction and for those seeking to deepen their own contemplative prayer life and listening skills through spiritual formation. The program will run part time over three years with three intensives each year. Please visit our website for more information and application information. The flyer is attached to this email. Applications close 31st March 2025. houseofprayertownsville.org.au

Have you thought? – Gospel of prosperity

The sermon on the plain challenges our ideas about happiness and success – particularly those of us who live in a relatively prosperous society. Those who are rich and well regarded are actually condemned by Jesus. This also flies in the face of the so-called Gospel of Prosperity that has gained some prominence amongst Pentecostal churches in the last 20-30 years. This teaching holds that God blesses the faithful with wealth and influence. It doesn't take a lot to see how this teaching is out of step with the gospel blessing of the poor and cursing of the rich.

Please keep in your prayers:

Prayers FOR Healing

May Williamson, Anne-Maree Cashin, Debra Craig, Maureen Milchem, Linda Sibley, Laura Farquhar, Lisa Haines, Michael Robertson, Margaret Catchpole, Judy Coorey, Neville & Carolyn O'Sullivan, Matilda Lee, Genevieve Cochrane, Amelia Cart, Henri & Hansel Bekiesch, Sandra Eels, Toni Evans, Anne Burgess, and all in need of our prayers.

May the Lord's healing hand rest upon them

FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8 | 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 | Lk 6:17, 20-26

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"It is so good to be poor, to have nothing, to await all from God!" These sentiments of the humble French religious sister St. Jeanne Jugan sum up the spirit of Jesus' words in today's Gospel. Jesus praises poverty, hunger, sadness, and rejection, but certainly not as ends in themselves; God does not take pleasure in our suffering! He does use our suffering, however, to awaken us to our need for him. Poverty can spur us to pursue *heavenly* goods, and thus Jesus assures the poor, "the kingdom of God is yours." Hunger can cause us to seek God who alone can truly satiate our desires, and thus Jesus says to the hungry, "you will be satisfied." Those who weep will laugh, Jesus says – so long as their sadness inspires them to seek happiness in the service of God and the joys of eternal life. For all of us, no matter our means or our circumstances, today's Gospel is a reminder to allow everything – including our difficulties, disappointments, and unfulfilled desires – to turn our hearts to God and rely on his loving care.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It can be difficult to practice the spirit of the Beatitudes (as the "blessings" in today's Gospel are called) in the moment. Suffering, distress, and confusion easily divert our attention from God as we attempt to "make the problem go away." Sometimes we are even tempted to give up, to turn aside from God, and to seek consolation in other things. This is exactly the opposite of what he wants for us, and for good reason! God knows that it is best for us to always rely on him. This is why, as today's first reading explains, the man who trusts in the Lord is secure – "like a tree planted beside the waters ... it fears not the heat when it comes" – and fruitful – "its leaves stay green." For those who trust in the Lord, help comes from the all-powerful, infinitely loving Creator of the universe. When we entrust ourselves to him, we have nothing to fear.

ACCOMPANY

Is there someone in your life who is struggling with fear, loneliness, anxiety, or sadness? Take time to pray with that person and, together, try to discover God's invitation to a deeper reliance on him in the midst of the distress. These moments of suffering are never occasions for us to get "preachy." Instead, accompany your friend and be a reminder of the hope we have in God.

Rosters Weekend of 22/23 Feb		Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 9.00am
	Readers	1. Desley Roberton 2. Pat Argaet	1. Leonie Maxwell 2. Laurie Reilly
	Special Ministers	Joan Neal	Jane Austen & Mary Mudge
		Cleaning Team B	Counting: Patsy (This week)

Sunday Masses 15/16 Feb	
Wulguru	Sat 6.00pm Sun 9.00am
Woodstock	Sun 4.30pm
St Brigid's	Next Mass 2 Mar

Weekdays 17 to 20 Feb	
Mon	5.30pm Wulguru
Tues	4.30 Adoration 5.30pm Wulguru
Wed	5.30pm Wulguru
Thur	5.30pm Wulguru
Fri	NO MASS

Confessions

12pm to 12.15pm Saturday
or by appointment

Our Parish

Parish Priest
Fr Damian McGrath

Admin Assistant
Jo-Anne O'Brien

Contact Us
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Office
Behind St Joseph the Worker
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-noon

Online
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facebook.com/stbrigids.au
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276-280 Stuart Drive,
Wulguru Q 4811

St Christoper's Church
91 Old Flinders Hwy,
Woodstock Q 4816

St Brigid's Church
523 Stuart Drive
Roseneath Q 4811

Southern Cross Catholic College
07 4778 3444
sctsv.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Megan Wuersching

The Pastor's Pen!

After a very bumpy start to the school year, we were able to celebrate a Beginning of the Year mass with the Primary students at Southern Cross Catholic College. This coming Tuesday, I will celebrate Mass with the Secondary students.

For many, if not the vast majority, of the youngest students, this was their very first experience of Mass. I was incredibly impressed by how well the Preps carried themselves during the Mass. They only groaned once or twice when moving from sitting to standing :)

My thanks to the staff of Southern Cross for preparing the students so well for the Mass (and for the Preps it was preparation in a very short amount of time).

I was delighted that you could hear the older students for all of the responses. The best way to learn the responses for the Mass is to participate in Mass—practise making perfect.

Lent is not very far away. Ash Wednesday is on 5 March. Have you already thought about how you will enter into the Lenten Season this year?

As the parish has done many times in the past, there will be a small group gathering to reflect upon the Sunday Readings. This programme will be held on Thursday evenings following Mass (around 6.15pm start) beginning on 6 March. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Parish Office.

Was also have a couple of Spiritual Directors who are members of our parish. One of them has offered to run a program based on St Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises (I started these and am still to complete them!). This is a four week exercise, which we will run over 8 weeks, so that people have plenty of time to undertake the spiritual practices in their own time. There is an advert inside, on page two, with again an invitation to contact the parish office if you are interested.

I have had a couple of volunteers for ministry at Mass. I would love a few more. Thank you to all those who assist in one way or another with our Masses from those cleaning the church to washing the linens, readers, special ministers, musicians and singers, altar servers, collectors. And whoever I have forgotten. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Fr D.

Scan to donate

Through our Baptism we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.
Through the love of Jesus Christ, we live and share the Good news with all.