

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 19 February 2023



Readings for  
this Sunday

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 3:16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48



Readings for  
next week:

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11



## Liturgical Jottings

### Significant Lenten Days

1. Shrove Tuesday The day before Ash Wednesday is also Pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday (from the French Mardi Gras). A day to empty the larder and have the last fling or party until the end of Lent, Easter.
2. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Season of Lent a season of penance, prayer and reflection, giving to the poor and fasting.
3. First Sunday of Lent, originally the first day of Lent and now day the Catechumens progress to next step of Election before the Bishop
4. Third, Fifth & Sixth Sundays of Lent: three Scrutinies of the RCIA
5. Palm (Passion) Sunday blessing and distribution of palms and the readings of Christ's entry into Jerusalem and his Passion.
6. Holy Week includes the Chrism Mass, the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgy and Way of the Cross.
7. During the Lent we have three major feasts: St Patrick, St Joseph and Annunciation of the Lord.

### Focus on the Gospel

In recent years I had to sign several “Codes of Conduct” as part of the requirements to work/visit/volunteer in hospitals, aged care facilities, schools, kindergartens, parish ministries and church agencies and organisations, as a director of a company, a member of boards, an emergency services provider and a person with control and management. After three years I have to start again. From altars servers to elderly all need to sign a Code of Conduct. These codes are not new. The passage in the first reading (Leviticus), is from a series of regulations in the Law called the ‘Code of Legal Holiness’ that God’s people must obey. It calls the people to be holy as God is holy. In dealing with their brother or neighbour who wrongs them, they must not dismiss their wrong action thus cooperating in their sin, nor must they be vengeful. They must walk a fine line, which Moses instructed: *Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. (Lev 24:17)*, “the Law of Talion” in order to avoid retaliation and escalation of violence.

The Gospel goes further, replacing the Code of Holiness and the Law of Talion with the call to perfection: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” and the law of love: “Love your God and your neighbour as you love yourself” and. “Love your enemies.” This seems too much, but remember, God’s love and forgiveness enables us to do so much.

### Quote of the Day

Only through a creative love of enemies can we be children of the Father in heaven; love and forgiveness are of absolute necessity for spiritual maturity. Comes the hour of trial, Christ, the innocent Son of God, is hanged on a raised cross in a painful agony. Is there still any room for love and forgiveness? What is Jesus going to do? ... Father forgive them, they know not what they do.” It is Jesus most beautiful hour. Martin Luther King Jr

### Prayer of the Week

Heavenly Father, in Christ Jesus you challenge us to renounce violence and to forsake revenge. Teach us to recognise as your children even our enemies and persecutors and to love them without measure or discrimination. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *On the Lighter Side:*

*Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults.*


*Benjamin Franklin*

*The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend.*

*Abraham Lincoln*

*Love your enemy, it will scare the hell out of them. Mark Twain*



	<b>Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving</b>	Anna Rosa Mercuri (1 month), Maria Corbo (1 month)
	<b>For those whose anniversary occurs at this time</b>	Margaret Kearney,
	<b>Our sick and their carers</b>	Vito Prinzi, Leona Ablett, Lesley Kennedy

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sun 10:30 am 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Rob Miller	Dean Filgate	Sheila Gregg	Nita Basile Marg Normington	Leo McGrath	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Carol Coulston	Anne-Marie Nihill	Ricki Waters	Shelia Gregg Mary Vraca	Denice Bourke	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett

## Two Week Mass Timetable Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> February

### Weekday Mass

Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> February	No Mass
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	9:15 am Mass – Ash Wednesday School and Parish
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	No Mass
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> February	9:15 am Liturgy

### Weekend Mass

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30 am Mass

### Weekday Mass

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9:15 am Mass
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	No Mass
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9:15 am Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30 am Mass

## Saturday Masses

Please remember there are no 6pm Saturday Masses in February or on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The next Saturday Mass will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March.



Fr Michael Grace will celebrate Mass on Ash Wednesday for Sacred Heart Tatura, Parishioners and school students.

**9:15 am Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

## What are you doing for Lent?

With Lent starting next week it's time to think what we are going to do during the 40 days of Lent. How are we going to prayer during Lent, maybe select 40 people and prayer for a different person each day?

How are we going to fast, will we give up social media for 40 days, or our streaming channels? How are we going to support our Alms Giving – will we give to a local charity, will we support Project Compassion, will we volunteer our time with the Food Bank?



## Themes for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A focus on holiness and loving our neighbour. The first reading tells us not to bear grudges and gives us the Golden Rule. The second reading reminds us that all of us are God's temples. And in the gospel, Jesus tells us that we must love everyone, even our enemies.

- Holiness
- Mercy
- Morality

## More Thoughts for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The command to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us seems impossible at times. When we have truly been wounded by another person, forgiveness is much more difficult than flipping a switch. It takes time and patience.

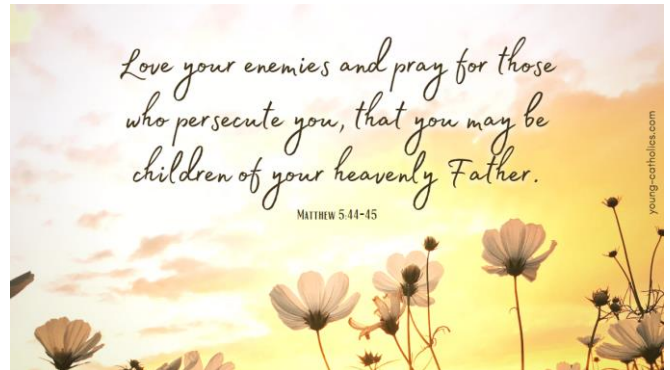
A good first step is to ask the Divine Physician to heal the wound. For a raw, hurting wound makes it almost impossible to focus on anything else. When we become focused on the hurt, replaying the memory in our heads, ask the Lord for healing. Speak to Him about how you feel. He knows better than any of us what it feels like to be betrayed and wounded.

It might also be necessary to pray for the desire to forgive the other person. Our natural instinct is to want revenge. We need God's help to change our hearts to truly want to forgive. When the desire to forgive is growing in our hearts, then we can pray for the person who has hurt us.

It is also important to realize that none of this process requires interacting with the person who hurt us. That is completely optional. We might never get an apology or an understanding of what caused the incident. Waiting for that just keeps us held hostage. Letting go and forgiving sets us free

## Reflection Questions for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

- Is there someone in my life whom I consider an "enemy"?
- How can I be more Christlike in my interactions with people who oppose me?
- How can praying for someone who has hurt me be beneficial for me also?



## World Day of Prayer

**Date:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
**Time:** 2:00pm  
**Location:** All Saints Anglican Church  
20 Francis Street, TATURA  
**Contact:** Shirley 0419 521 905

## Project Compassion Sunday

Today is Project Compassion Sunday – boxes and envelopes are available for you to take home.

The theme for Project Compassion 2023 is:  
**For All Future Generations.**

This year, the theme asks us to think about the great 'yes' that Mary said when the angel told her that she was to become the mother of Jesus. She freely accepted a unique place in the history of the human family. The great prayer she shared with her cousin Elizabeth, says 'all generations will call me blessed.' Her 'yes' is **For All Future Generations.** Hopefully, ours can be the same this Lent.

## Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice

**Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura.**

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The presbytery office is open on Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm