

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 15 February 2026



Readings for
this Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37



Readings for
next week:

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



Liturgical Jottings

Season of Lent I

PASTORAL NOTES

Lent begins next Wednesday. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL 97, 1251f).

In Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Other celebrations' in Lent (e.g. marriage) must take account of the spirit of penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing, and floral decorations are very simple. Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year, in Australia and New Zealand between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. (from the Aust-NZ Ordo 2026 p 39)

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Focus on the Readings

Jesus Ben Sira, the author of the Book of Ecclesiasticus (also called the Book of Sirach) shared his wisdom and insights on the dilemma of human freedom and God's initiatives. However, the reading exposes more questions for us about freedom, our choices, God's law and the wisdom of the Lord. The poem below reflects on this apparent paradox:

Jesus crucified, Wisdom of God

The law is fulfilled in Christ,

Salvation of every believer.

Wiser than human beings is the folly of God

One sole glory: the Cross of the Lord.

Here is the new commandment:

To live in love

Jesus crucified, Wisdom of God

The readings of this Sunday affirm the gift of human free will and the conviction that God has set before us the moral choice between goodness and evil, blessing and curse, fire and water, life and death. They also challenge hearers to embrace their moral freedom by choosing a life transformed by the spiritual wisdom reflected in God's commandments and revealed ultimately in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. We are called to a deeper, interior righteousness, reflected not just in external action, but in the innermost depths of our hearts.

Prayer of the Week

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.

For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name. *Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 30: 3-4*

Quotes for the Day

All the great things are simple, and can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honour, duty, mercy, hope. Winston Churchill

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought. Pope John Paul II

On the Lighter Side

Two lawyers walked into a pub, ordered two drinks, took sandwiches from their briefcases and started to eat. The barman said, "You can't eat your own sandwiches in here!" The lawyers shrugged their shoulders then swapped the sandwiches. A man walked into a pub with his alligator and asked the barman, "Do you serve lawyers here?" "Sure do," he replied. "Good," said the man. "Give me a beer, and I'll have a lawyer for my 'gator".



 Please email or contact the office to add names to the prayer list	For those who have died and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Josephine Caroline Zollo, Dominic Muto, Phyllis Newman, Joe Ciavarella, Coral Reilly
	Our sick and their carers	Harney McKinnon, Rita Fairchild

ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 22nd February 10:30am

Commentator: Anne Hutchison
Reader: John Keane
Gospel Procession: Debbie Turvey
Gifts: Cheryl & M Vraca
Eucharistic Minister: Steve De Lai
Screen Operator: Debbie Worm
Music Operator: Mary Gale
Money Counters: S & S De Lai

Sunday 1st March 10:30am

Commentator: Rob Miller
Reader: Gem Reyes
Gospel Procession: Steve De Lai
Gifts: D Corrigan & P Moroney
Eucharistic Minister: Danny Reyes
Screen Operator: Debbie Worm
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: E Worm & M Gale

Saturday Mass times for 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

6:00pm (Oct – Mar) 5:00pm (Apr-Sep)

We thank all of our volunteers for their assistance during Mass.

Two Week Mass Timetable Week Commencing 15th February

Liturgy & Weekday Masses

Ash Wednesday 18th February 9:15am (Fr D Wellasden)
Friday 20th February 9:15am (Liturgy)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 22nd February 10:30am (Fr Grace)

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 25th February 9:15am (Liturgy)
Friday 27th February 9:15am (Liturgy)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 1st March 10:30am (Fr Grace)

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am

Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church

Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month (30 minutes before Mass)

Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

4th Sunday of the month: Shared lunch in St Mary's Hall

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. All welcome.



The next one will be Wednesday 4th March.

Project Compassion Sunday

Theme for 2026 - Unite Against Poverty

Please collect your envelopes or donation box today.

BAPTISM PREPARATION INFORMATION SESSION:

next Wednesday 4th March at 7:00pm

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS: Please note that gluten free hosts are available to parishioners who are gluten intolerant. Please see the Trish or Fr Uday. For further queries contact the parish office.

NAMES ON PRAYER LIST: Please contact the office or by email to add names on the prayer list.



Donation QR Code



Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the parish.

May God bless you always.

Last week: \$ 718.00



The next Shared Parish Lunch will be on Sunday 22nd February following 10:30am Mass.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19

There will be no Saturday Masses while Fr Uday is away. Fr Michael Grace will be celebrating the Sunday Masses at 10:30am in February and the first weekend in March.

Weekday Masses will be replaced by Liturgies on Wednesdays and Fridays (with the exception of Ash Wednesday on 18th February – this will be celebrated by Fr. Des Welladsen).

There will be no Anointing Masses or Reconciliation during February & March while Fr Uday is away.

Each Friday during Lent there will be the Stations of the Cross following Mass (or Liturgy while Fr Uday is away) at 9:15am.

Lenten Group

We are planning to meet weekly to talk about the Sunday Mass Readings of Lent. We will meet at 7pm on Wednesdays. If you would like to come along on any/all of the weeks during Lent, you will be most welcome. Please add your name to the list in the Narthex. Denice Bourke

Living God's Way Today

The readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A help us think about our choices. God gives us the freedom to choose between good and evil. He doesn't force us. But He wants us to choose life. His commandments are there to guide us, not to burden us.

In the Gospel, Jesus says He didn't come to get rid of the law. He came to bring it to its fullest meaning. He wants more than just the outside actions. He calls us to go deeper—to be honest, to be pure, to let go of anger, and to speak with truth.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

The theme for this year is **"I will Give You Rest: Come."** Matt 11:28-30 is prepared by WDP Nigeria.

This year the Prayer Service will be held at St Augustine's on Friday 6th March at 10am.

Guest speaker: Mary Connolly-Gale.

All welcome and encouraged to come along and support this prayerful event.

For inquiries Mary 0427 190 282



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Project Compassion Sunday 14–15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Lord, you call us to live with truth and love. Help us to follow your ways, not just in words but in our hearts. Teach us to choose what is right and to turn away from anger, dishonesty, and selfishness. Fill us with your wisdom so we may walk in your light. Amen.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child safety officer Debbie Turvey on 0407 804 317.

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 First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura

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<http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au>

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Tatura

DIOCESE NEWS – 15-2-2026



Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia – retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more.

Visit www.CathEvents.org.au to find opportunities to grow in faith and community. Event organisers can also list their events for free, helping more people connect and participate.

Link for 2026 Lent Reflections on the Diocese Website:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3010-lent-reflection-resources-2026>

The latest Along the Track can be found on our website under the heading of **Sharings / Along the Track**



Diocese Website: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>

Donation QR Code

Diocese Facebook Page: Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst



GET OUR SEAL OF APPROVAL
THIS EASTER AND BEYOND!

Treat yourself with responsibly sourced chocolate this Easter, supporting brands committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain.

Learn the truth

A significant portion of chocolate available in Australia is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and exploitative working conditions.

Indulge responsibly, select ethically sourced chocolate, and support companies working towards eliminating slavery from their supply chain this Easter.

Here is how:

1. Join the one billion people who read the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard (<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>) last year to discover their chocolate's true origins and evaluate their favourite brands' ethical practices.
2. Seek out the Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications on chocolate packaging.

Note: these certification seals mean the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Take action and make a difference today!

LENT 2026 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful.

This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://brucedownes.org/len-2026-sign-up/>

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

REFLECTION for PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

Many people were astonished, to say the least, last year when one of the richest people in the world proclaimed that 'the fundamental weakness in Western civilisation is empathy.' The gentleman was clearly not familiar with the New Testament. Compassion is the calling card of Christians. We announce our presence by acts of love. That is what Jesus did and taught.

If you look at the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-37), we get an idea of just how empathy and compassion are signs of strength, not weakness. The story says that the Samaritan came across somebody who'd been assaulted and robbed. The stranger 'looked at him with compassion.' He doesn't just look. In the next few lines, he takes ten separate actions: he goes over, he bandages the man, he pours oil on his wounds, he lifts him onto his donkey, he takes him to an inn, he looks after him, he pays the innkeeper, he asks the innkeeper to help, he promises to return, he commits to meeting the bill. Compassion is an action not just a feeling.

This week, we begin our annual journey of Lent and with it our annual commitment to Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia. For generations, Project Compassion has helped us express our Lenten commitment to prayer, personal sacrifice and almsgiving. Our focus this year is a call to 'Unite Against Poverty.' It is a powerful call.

Every day, the news brings us distressing stories about how the divisions in the world bring disastrous consequences for the most vulnerable people. Our work for Project Compassion is a significant way to bring healing to God's family. This week, the readings ask us to travel to deeper places in our lives. The Gospel warns us against shallow virtue which 'goes no deeper to that of the scribes and Pharisees.' St Paul speaks about mature wisdom, a view of the world that is at odds with those who have power. 'The masters of this age' seldom understand compassion and the way in which 'the Spirit reaches the depths of everything.' Those depths will take us to the margins and stir in us a longing to Unite Against Poverty.



After receiving communion today, you are invited to take a Project Compassion Box & a set of Envelopes. This action reminds us of the challenge which is Eucharist.

As we say "AMEN" to the Body of Christ, we are also saying "AMEN" to **being** the Body of Christ.

We who eat must be the healing, loving, transforming presence of Jesus in our world today.

Weekly Envelopes are a great way of sharing our lives through Lent.

It's a good idea to keep a Box on the dinner table as a reminder, then each week transfer the contents to your envelope to bring to Mass.
Bringing the envelope to Mass each week links

OUR LENT, OUR LIVES & OUR LITURGY
so let's UNITE AGAINST POVERTY - together, we *can* make a real difference and bring hope in our world.

Prayer of Intercession

For those who exercise power over the lives of others, that they will show compassion towards people who live in poverty and undertake action to alleviate their situation. We pray to the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 FEBRUARY 2026

HONOURING THE TORAH

As we continue to hear Jesus' teaching in Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount', we now move into a very Jewish-oriented section. Matthew's audience were Jewish followers of Jesus. They were very familiar with the teachings of the Old Testament, from the Torah (the 'Law') and the Prophets. Jesus now reflects on these teachings stressing that he has come, not to abolish them, but to 'complete them'. In other words, Matthew is not rejecting the Jewish teaching heritage of the audience but deepening it. This preservation and honouring of the Torah is central in Jesus' teaching.

In fact, the one who keeps and teaches others the injunctions of the Torah will be regarded as 'great' in God's Kingdom. Matthew moves to explicate some of the key moral injunctions of the Torah. Each begins with the same formula: 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors...' Then follows Jesus' interpretation of the Torah for Matthew's Jewish listeners. It is important to note how this teaching is presented. The usual translation has '...But I say to you...' This is not what the Greek text has. There is no contrast, no 'but', between what the ancients said and what Jesus teaches. There is no contrast between the old (the Torah) and the new (Jesus' teaching), and no rejection of Judaism or its ancient wisdom summed up on the Torah.

Jesus deepens the meaning behind these different aspects of Jewish law concerning murder, adultery and oath-breaking, getting to the heart of each. Undergirding each is the invitation to integrity of relationships. This, too, is the invitation to us, to live with a wholeness of being to others, God and the world.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age,



it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.