

IN THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL WE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Dianne Hutchinson, Malo Samoa Tiumalu, Mariana Milford and those of our community.

Recently Deceased: Sybil Weeraratne

Repose of the Souls: Those whose anniversary occur about this time and those whose names are on the memorial wall.

Church Cleaning	Saturday 7th February — Spanish Community
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Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people.

St Dominic's Community holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A cultural of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. **We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

Attention Parents and Carers!
If your child goes to the toilet or just outside of the Church, one of the parents must accompany him/her.

**THANKSGIVING
OFFERING ONLINE TO:
ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH
BSB: 083 347
ACCOUNT NUMBER:
67441 1404**

PLEASE TYPE YOUR THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPE NUMBER WHEN YOU DO
THE TRANSACTION.

The Parish has the facility of
**EFTPOS DEBIT, VISA CARD
and MASTER CARD.** This is a
good option for those who do
not carry cash and would like
to contribute to the church.
**The set up is of: \$5.00;
\$10.00; \$20.00 and \$50.00**

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.

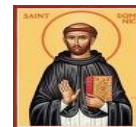
Helpers are needed for Cleaning the Church Garden.

Would you spare a couple of hours to clean the church garden at your convenience. If so, please ask Fr Octavian for any tools needed.

Thank you to all those who are already helping, very much appreciated.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING UNWANTED ITEMS INTO THE CHURCH
AND DO NOT PLACE ANY DECORATION OR ITEMS IN THE GROTTOS.**

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Octavian Masao, CSSp; Email: Octavian.Masao@cam.org.au

ASSISTING PRIEST: Fr Rogasian Msami CSSp;

PARISH SECRETARY: Ana Miriam Guardado

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8.00am-2.00pm

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL—PRINCIPAL: Katie Broadbent, Phone: 03 9309 4146

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday evening)
9.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Vietnamese Mass
9.00am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: English Mass
11.00am: English Mass
1.00pm: Spanish Mass

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am Mass
Morning Prayer of the Church: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.25am

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday before Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Benediction: Every Friday following the 9.00am Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday to Saturday before or after Mass.

Baptism Information/Preparation: Every First Sunday of the month at 3.00pm.

Anointing of the Sick: Every Third Wednesday of the Month at 9.00am Mass.



Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time — Year A 1st February 2026

First Reading: Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145: 7-10

R/ 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

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

Happy are the poor in spirit.

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS: Isaiah 58: 7-10 ; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; Matthew 5: 13-16

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Matthew is keen to cast Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'. Moses was revered in Jewish history not only as the one who led the people out of Egypt, but even more importantly as the one who received the Ten Commandments from God. The first five books of the Bible, known to Jews as the Torah, or the Law, were accredited to Moses for a very long time. So Moses was seen as the one who received the Commandments from God and who also wrote down the Law of the people, the Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the Jewish people. When the gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses it emphasises the way in which Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses to fulfilment and bring about a new understanding and appreciation of both the Law and God. Jesus introduced a new way of perceiving God; as a God of compassion and mercy, rather than the jealous, vengeful God that is often expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time.

Historical Context – Purity

Purity and impurity was a major issue in 1st Century Jewish society. The Priests and Pharisees maintained that only pure adherence to the Law could make a person acceptable in God's eyes. Impurity came to be associated with physical disease and injury. Those with severe disease or disability were regarded as sinful and punished by God. Jesus' statement, 'Happy are the pure of heart', would have scandalised those who maintained that purity came through strict observance of Law. Jesus suggests that purity (and impurity) comes from within a person rather than from the outside – regardless of their observance of the Law.

Living the Gospel – Be-attitudes

One way to read the Beatitudes is that Jesus was commending and blessing the various people who found themselves in those sorts of conditions. Another, is as a list of qualities that all people should strive to exhibit. It's not just some people who happen to be economically poor who are blessed. Rather, we must all have a poverty of spirit – a humility about our need for God's merciful action in our lives. All are called to hunger and thirst for justice and all are called to be merciful. The Beatitudes are not a menu to select from, but rather an essential list of ingredients.

Gospel Focus – Covenant

The structure of the Beatitudes can be seen as yet another attempt by God to re-establish a covenant between Godself and the people. Throughout Jewish history, God called the people back into relationship and re-established God's covenant with them. Like all the previous versions of the covenant, the Beatitudes contain both a series of demands and a series of promises. It is a two-way deal. The first part of each Beatitude is a statement of what the people are called to do and the second part is God's promise of how they will be rewarded for their right action.

Ash Wednesday - 18th February 2026

Masses: 9.00am, 12.00pm School Mass and 7.00pm

On this day, Catholics around the world will receive ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross, accompanied by the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." The observance calls the faithful to conversion, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as they begin the 40-day journey of Lent in preparation for the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord at Easter. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence, underscoring the Church's call to humility, repentance, and renewed commitment to the Gospel.

Please bring the blessed palm from last year on Sunday 15th February and place them in the box at the entrance of the church. Thank you.



Sacramental Program 2026

The Parish is now taking enrolments for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation for those children who attend government schools.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to attend Saturday or Sunday Masses if they would like to enrol their children.

Please contact the parish office for more information.

Please Note:

Monday 2nd February there will be mass at 9.00am for the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord and blessings of candles.

Thursday 5th February: School Mass at 12.00pm

Congratulations and Prayers to Lucas Navas who is receiving his **First Holy Communion** this Sunday. May he grows in the Lord's love each day of his life.

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

The start of Lent is fast approaching and is the perfect opportunity to reflect on our call to live justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God - and to see how our actions can make a real difference for communities in need.

This year's stories remind us of the challenges faced by vulnerable communities around the world – but also the hope that comes through our action. Project Compassion 2026 introduces us to Sisilia in Tanzania, Mon-oranjon in Bangladesh, Manaini in Fiji and Ahmad in Gaza - four inspiring individuals facing challenges of water, food, livelihoods and crises.

Please collect your box or envelope for your donation. Thank you.

