

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1 February 2026

readings

Next Week

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10

Ps 111:4-9

1 Cor 2:1-5

Mt 5:13-16

in a nutshell

Blessed are you. The Beatitudes are among the best known verses of the Gospel of Matthew. They offer an assurance of God's care for those who mourn or suffer persecution. They contain promises that God will bless the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers and those who work for justice. Ultimately, all who put their trust in God and do what is right will rejoice in God's kingdom.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, And For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Ash Wednesday Mass schedule is inside.

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Psalm Response

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in
your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put
to shame, for I call on you.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am

First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm

Mount Evelyn: Saturday

11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings: February 11
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Ash Wednesday Masses—18 February

Yarra Junction, 9:00am (Whole School Mass) & 6:00pm
Mount Evelyn, 11:35am (Whole School Mass) & 7:30pm

Sacramental Program 2026—Time to Register Now

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact the parish office. Lessons will begin at St Mary's on Sunday 1st March after 10:30 Mass for Confirmation and Tuesday 3rd March at 5pm for First Communion.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

At the Last Supper, when He was about to pass from this world to His Father, Jesus instituted this Sacrament as the perpetual memorial of His Passion—the greatest of all His miracles. Also, Jesus left this Sacrament to those whom His absence filled with grief, as an incomparable consolation. (St. Thomas Aquinas)

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we encounter Jesus Christ, who after rising from the dead breathed the Holy Spirit on his Apostles—the first priests—and gave them the power to forgive sins in his name. (Jn 20:23) The Heart of Christ burns with love for us and he wants us to experience his immense and unfathomable mercy by confessing our sins and receiving his forgiveness. (Adelaide Archdiocese)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:3

The phrase "poor in spirit" can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God's providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.

December Thanksgiving/Stewardship Report

Total income: \$1747.60

Total Expenditure: \$2832.52

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Melbourne

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Melbourne provides a warm and welcoming space to explore and nurture your faith. Located on the outskirts of Melbourne's CBD, our Centre is within walking distance of major hospitals, public transport, and key sporting venues. Whether you're seeking peaceful apartment accommodation, attending retreats or reflection days, participating in our educational programs or visiting the museum, we invite you to join us and enrich your spiritual journey. For more information <https://mmsm.org.au/centres/melbourne/> or contact us on admin.mmhc@sosjspirit.org.au or 9926 9300.

Mass on Monday, 2 February

There will be a Mass (Candlemas) on Monday at 9am. The Mass will begin with the blessing of candles.

Prayer Group

Meets Monday at 9:15 am and Fridays at 9:45 a.m. at St Mary's. For more information please call Maria at 0409 793 001 or just come on in and discover peace in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist!

Pelican+ New Catholic Website—more than streaming

In a world where Catholic families struggle to find authentic, high-quality content that strengthens rather than undermines their faith, Pelican+ emerges as the comprehensive solution Traditional Catholics have been waiting for.

We're not just another streaming service. We're building the premier digital platform where Catholic culture thrives—a place where families can safely explore their faith, creators can flourish, and Traditional Catholic values are celebrated without compromise.

What Pelican+ Delivers

Premium Video Content & Podcasts

Professional-quality programming that competes with secular media standards while maintaining authentic Catholic identity.

Comprehensive Prayer & Spiritual Life

A complete Traditional Catholic prayer experience: Professional alternative to secular prayer apps, featuring Traditional Catholic prayers and practices.

Digital Catholic Library

An extensive collection of Catholic wisdom: E-book library featuring Catholic classics and contemporary works. Professional audiobook narrations of essential Catholic texts.

Family-Centered Programming

Content designed to strengthen Catholic households. Family viewing options that bring Catholic values into entertainment.

Catholic Culture & Entertainment

Celebrating the richness of Catholic tradition: Traditional sacred music, Gregorian chant, and contemporary Catholic artists.

For more information: www.pelicanplus.com

This week's Joke!

A Texan rancher travels to Australia for a holiday. There he meets an Aussie farmer. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large." Then they walk around the station, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows." The conversation almost dies when the Texan sees a mob of kangaroos hopping through a paddock. He asks, "And what are those?" Incredulously, the Aussie replies, "Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?"

Readings Reflection

[The Blessed Path](#)

In the readings since Christmas, Jesus has been revealed as the new royal son of David and Son of God. He is sent to lead a new exodus that brings Israel out of captivity to the nations and brings all the nations to God.

As Moses led Israel from Egypt through the sea to give them God's law on Mount Sinai, Jesus too has passed through the waters in baptism. Now, in today's Gospel, He goes to the mountain to proclaim a new law—the law of His Kingdom.

The Beatitudes mark the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham—that through his descendants all the nations of the world would receive God's blessings (see Genesis 12:3; 22:18).

Jesus is the son of Abraham (see Matthew 1:1). And through the wisdom He speaks today, He bestows the Father's blessings upon "the poor in spirit."

God has chosen to bless the weak and lowly, those foolish and despised in the eyes of the world, Paul says in today's Epistle. The poor in spirit are those who know that nothing they do can merit God's mercy and grace. These are the humble remnant in today's First Reading, taught to seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

The Beatitudes reveal the divine path and purpose for our lives. All our striving should be for these virtues—to be poor in spirit; meek and clean of heart; merciful and makers of peace; seekers of the righteousness that comes from living by the law of Kingdom.

The path the Lord sets before us today is one of trials and persecution. But He promises comfort in our mourning and a great reward.

The Kingdom we have inherited is no earthly territory but the promised land of heaven. It is Zion where the Lord reigns forever. And, as we sing in today's Psalm, its blessings are for those whose hope is in the Lord.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

The New Law of Love

How does the New Law in Christ differ from the Old Law of Moses?

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them.” (Mt 5:17)

[Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. (Heb 9:15)

The Old Law prepared for the New Law, which in turn perfects the Old Law.

After the Fall of Adam and Eve, God unfolded his plan of redemption gradually. An early part of this Revelation was the Old Law, the moral and liturgical precepts given to Moses and the Israelites. The Old Law is aptly summarised in the Ten Commandments, which encourage dispositions that guide humanity to live according to this love and proscribe behaviours that contravene love for God and neighbour. In this way, the Ten Commandments and the Old Law served to illuminate the consciences of humanity.

In this way the Old Law prepared the way for the coming of Christ and the establishment of the New Law embodied in the Gospel message of Christ. The images and prophecies within the Old Law prefigure elements in the New Law; where the Old Law underscored the dangers of sin and its consequences, the New Law freed us from the burden of sin by showing us the way of forgiveness, love, grace, and salvation. Where once God’s people were motivated more by fear of punishment under the Law of Moses, they could live now with their eyes on eternal happiness in the Kingdom of Heaven under the Law of Christ.

The New Law perfects the Old Law. It completes the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament and fulfils its Commandments by revealing the very root of all its moral prescriptions - the Law of Love - and seeking to convert the human heart by teaching the human person to seek perfection according to the example of Christ. All that the Old Law had done in preparation is now directed toward the ultimate goal of the Kingdom of Heaven. Without negating the Old Law in any way, the New Law summarised its moral prescriptions in a single New Commandment: that we love one another as Christ loves us.

Not only is the New Law a Law of Love but also it is a Law of Grace because of the divine gifts available to us through faith and the Sacraments of the Church; it is also a Law of Freedom because we can fulfil the letter and spirit of Divine Law by acting always out of Christian love in keeping with our identity as adopted sons and daughters of God.

From the Didache Bible

1950 The moral law is the work of divine Wisdom. Its biblical meaning can be defined as fatherly instruction, God’s pedagogy. It prescribes for man the ways, the rules of conduct that lead to the promised beatitude; it proscribes the ways of evil which turn him away from God and his love. It is at once firm in its precepts and, in its promises, worthy of love.

1952 There are different expressions of the moral law, all of them interrelated: eternal law—the source, in God, of all law; natural law; revealed law, comprising the Old Law and the New Law, or Law of the Gospel; finally, civil and ecclesiastical laws.

1953 The moral law finds its fullness and its unity in Christ. Jesus Christ is in person the way of perfection. He is the end of the law, for only he teaches and bestows the justice of God: “For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified” (Rom 10:4)

1965 The New Law or the Law of the Gospel is the perfection here on earth of the divine law, natural and revealed. It is the work of Christ and is expressed particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. It is also the work of the Holy Spirit and through him it becomes the interior law of charity: “I will establish a New Covenant with the house of Israel.... I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Heb 8:8, 10; cf Jer 31.31-34)

1966 The New Law is the *grace of the Holy Spirit* given to the faithful through faith in Christ. It works through charity; it uses the Sermon on the Mount to teach us what must be done and makes use of the sacraments to give us the grace to do it:

If anyone should meditate with devotion and perspicacity on the sermon our Lord gave on the mount, as we read in the Gospel of Saint Matthew, he will doubtless find there ... the perfect way of the Christian life.... This sermon contains ... all the precepts needed to shape one’s life. (St Augustine)

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church