

The Living Word

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

23 February 2025

First Reading 1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. *(R.)*
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear
him. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!



Gospel Lk 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to **love** their enemies and to **do good** to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

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HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Family 101 Hitchcock Av Barwon Heads	Our Lady Star of the Sea 68 John Dory Drive Ocean Grove	Holy Trinity 34 Stevens St Queenscliff
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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Linh Pham
Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutera
Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Sr Nola Morrissy RSM

For all parish ministries, including Holy Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Baptism & Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY
34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225
Telephone: (03) 5258 1673
Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00am to 1:00pm (closed public holidays)

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS
St. Aloysius, Queenscliff
Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
Principal: Ms. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am
QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
is available prior to each weekend Mass, and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS
Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office
www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/

COLUMBARIUM
Please visit www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING
NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Please visit our website for all information:
<https://holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-1/>

Please send in bulletin notices by 1:00pm on Thursdays
If you would like a deceased loved one(s) prayed for on their anniversary, please contact the parish office on 5258 1673 or queenscliff@cam.org.au by 1:00pm on Thursdays.

PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THEIR BULLETINS HOME
AFTER MASS

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Anniversaries 23rd February to 1st March: James Considine and Ronald Forbes.

Please pray for those who are Sick: Naomi Bianco, Frances Blaine, Jacqueline Blake, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Sue Casey, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Mary Gladwin, Martin & Mary Grundy, Justin Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Susan Hardy, Peter Harrington, Jeanette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Melissa Keogh, Hilda Koerntjes, Margaret Lomas, Michelle Mahoney, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Picc, Mavourneen Ray, Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Kevin Teasdale, Deanne Warren, Cathy Williams and Peter Williams.

ROSTERS

If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day, please arrange a substitute. Thank you!

COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM),
WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

OCEAN GROVE: 2nd March at 9:00am:

(C) Janine Fitzpatrick (L) Lachlan Fitzpatrick (SM) Judy Considine, Fiorentina Romeo (W) Michael & Barbara Hardy.

QUEENSCLIFF: 2nd March at 11:00am:

(C) Adrian Scott (L) Diana Scott (SM) Terry Philp, Maria Sammut (W) Sam Sammut.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 25th February at 10:00am:

Emanuel Baglieri & Ken Caffyn.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

Jubilee 2025 at Holy Trinity: Bishop Martin Ashe, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, will celebrate Mass at Holy Trinity Church on **Sunday 2nd March** at 11:00am to launch the Jubilee Year for pilgrims to visit during Jubilee Year; to experience God's compassion and love through prayers and pilgrimage. All are welcome to join us for Mass and hospitality.

Trinity Singers music practice: as Lent approaches, a practice is scheduled for this Sunday, 23rd February, in the church from 4pm to 5pm. All are welcome especially new members. Contact: Von 0438191196.

Ocean Grove Rotary – Event Promotion: School of St Jude in Africa was started by an Australian, Gemma Sisia, about 20 years ago. It currently provides free education for about 2000 students. Gemma is speaking at a free event at Ocean Grove Bowling Club on Sunday February 23 at 5.45pm. All welcome. See flier in entry to our church.

Hospitality Sunday: will take place on **Sunday 2nd March** following 9:00am Mass (including children's liturgy) at Ocean Grove and 11:00am Mass at Queenscliff. All welcome!

An elderly Ocean Grove parishioner is seeking transport to Sunday Mass at Ocean Grove. If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office.

Thought for the Week:

If you don't believe in miracles,
perhaps you have forgotten you are one.

-Karen Salmanshan.

+ LENT 2025 +

This Lent, the Faith Development Group have sourced the booklet: 'START ANEW IN CHRIST.' Unfortunately, our stock has sold out, however, if you are interested, you can order directly from the Diocese of Brisbane, as follows:

<https://archdiocesanministries.org.au/lent-resource/>.

There will be three reflection groups as follows:

- Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm in Ocean Grove
- Tuesday mornings, 10:30am in Barwon Heads
- Thursday evenings 7:30pm in Point Lonsdale

If you would like to join a reflection group (commencing the 4th/6th March), please contact:

- Sandra Gould, Ocean Grove: sandra@salmandra.com or 0418 537 941.
- Kerin Fox, Barwon Heads: foxeskb@gmail.com or 0407 519 585.
- Sue Hanley, Point Lonsdale hanleysusan6@gmail.com or 0408 809 636.

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Tuesday 25th February – Weekday, Ordinary Time 7

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

11:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Sea View Manor, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 26th February – Weekday, Ordinary Time 7

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

11:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Arcare, Point Lonsdale

Thursday 27th February – Weekday, Ordinary Time 7

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Friday 28th February – Weekday, Ordinary Time 7

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 1st March – Weekday, Ordinary Time 7

Sunday 2nd March – 8th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Project Compassion

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Catholic Education Week – Geelong Pilgrimage of Hope - A Sacred Journey Through Geelong's Catholic Heritage:

Walking in Faith, United in Hope

As Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024, declaring 2025 the Jubilee Year of Hope, our Geelong Catholic school communities prepare to embark on an extraordinary journey together. In his papal bull "Spes Non Confudit" (Hope Does Not Disappoint), Pope Francis reminds us that hope dwells in every heart as we anticipate the good things to come.

A Pilgrimage of Unity and Discovery

On March 19th, 2025, our Geelong Catholic school communities will unite in a historic pilgrimage that weaves our rich Catholic heritage, deep connection to the country, and shared commitment to service. This remarkable journey will trace the footsteps of those who built our faith community, from the earliest days of Catholicism in Australia to our vibrant present.

Our Sacred Path

Our pilgrimage will unfold through significant landmarks that tell the story of our faith: The Chapel of Remembrance. Beginning at the historic Catholic Chapel in Geelong Cemetery, we'll gather among the final resting places of the priests, bishops, and nuns who shaped our community's foundation. Their legacy of faith and service continues to inspire us today.

First Light of Faith: We'll walk past the site where Fr. James Dixon celebrated Australia's first Catholic Mass, a profound moment that marked the beginning of our Catholic journey in this land.

Seeds of Education: Our path leads us to the site of Geelong's first Industrial School, where education and faith first intertwined in our region, and to the historic St. Mary's School, our oldest Catholic educational institution.

Culmination in Glory: Our journey reaches its pinnacle at the magnificent St. Mary's Basilica, where we'll celebrate Mass together as Pilgrims of Hope, united in faith and purpose

Breaking Bread Together

The day will commence and conclude with a gathering from the Geelong Cemetery to the grand Geelong Town Hall, where we'll share a meal and hear inspiring stories from Julia Roach from Geelong Mums, connecting our historical pilgrimage to our present-day call to service.

Why We Journey: This pilgrimage is more than a walk through history—it's a living expression of our shared identity as people of hope. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Everyone knows what it is to hope." In coming together, we strengthen our bonds as a community and renew our commitment to being bearers of hope in our world. The African concept of Ubuntu—"I am because we are"—resonates deeply with our journey. Just as God declared, "I AM WHO I AM" to Moses, we recognise the divine presence that connects us all. This pilgrimage celebrates this profound connection and our shared calling to be instruments of hope in our community.

Join Us on this Sacred Journey: As we walk together as Pilgrims of Hope, we invite our entire school community to be part of this historic celebration. Together, we will:

Honour our rich Catholic heritage

Celebrate and experience the spiritual and physical cleansing of

a smoking ceremony Strengthen our community bonds

Deepen our understanding of faith

Answer our call to service

Share in the joy of hope

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts." - Romans 5:5



Anthony & Letitia Dowling
with the friendly team you know and trust.

2 Park Lane, Ocean Grove VIC 3226

Phone: 5255 5655

Email: info@oceaneyes.com.au

Visit: www.oceaneyes.com.au



Phone: 03 5221 7411 | Email: bellarine@npts.com.au

CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, handyman, gardening, and cleaning. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas.

Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email

charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.