All Saints ~ Year A

1 November 2020



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

No One will forget this November

After several awful months of lockdown due to this Coronavirus, Victoria is coming out of this Second Wave of Covid-19 and this month of November becomes very special for those wanting to fully participate in the Catholic Mass.

Every Month is important in the church calendar, yet November holds us all with a special time of 'remembrance' and built into our liturgy is the sacred reminder of those who have died. All the 'angels & saints' that we have known who have gone before us!

November is our month of remembering - at each mass, all those people who we love and miss, who have died. None more special than the women and men whom we know that have died recently particularly due to the effects of this virus.

Not everyone can come to these public masses - as numbers are very limited - but candles will be lit to honour and remember these souls, during the whole month of November.

American Politics

Some days I wonder if Australia is the Fifty First State of America! Why do we have to be saturated with all this Presidential Politics! So much nonsense! Our media suggests that so much of our culture comes from across the Pacific Ocean. I am amazed with the amount of time that is taken up with all things American - and I wish that it wasn't so! Surely Australian culture and life can stand on its own, with our own stories and historical narratives. More Australian content and less American influence would be appreciated by many of us locals.

Scientific Achievement at its Best

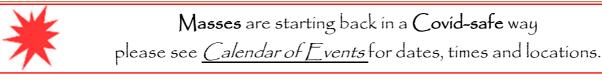
NASA, talking about America, last week landed a probe on an asteroid - several hundred million kilometres from Earth and it was so successful that it is spilling the important samples out, on its return due to a door closure malfunction! Officials behind the 'Osiris-Rex' probe, which landed on 'Bennu' say that the operation may have performed too well. Bennu - the asteroid could hold clues as to how the Solar System was formed. Japan has apparently, successfully achieved the same results with their own probes in space! To my amazement, there has been very little coverage of these extraordinary human achievements in science & technology! Simply mind boggling events to be celebrated by humans around the world! Talk about reaching for the stars! Congratulations to all involved... showing the best in science and humans!

World Coronavirus Numbers

As Melbourne and all Victorians navigate our way out of this last terrible wave of infections to join most Australian States - spare a thought and some prayers for all those countries around the world which are now deeply caught in a second and possibly third wave of this killer virus! The numbers of infections and deaths, each day in many countries exceed our Australian total after ten months! USA, India, Brazil, Russia, France, Spain, Argentina, Colombia, UK, Mexico and Peru. Our death toll is 906 and we presently sit in position 90 of 200 countries listed with Covid-19. While this time and virus has been difficult for us to cope with, so many countries and many millions of people are in a more desperate position than we can fathom.

Our prayers for all affected by this invisible enemy.

Michael





This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community. For more information visit <u>pol.org.au/eltham</u> or <u>pol.org.au/montmorency</u>. We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.

TALLALEXTELLE

PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION



<u>Parish Priests</u>

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum <u>terry.kean@cam.org.au</u> *Michael Sierakowski* - Moderator <u>michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au</u> *Barry Caldwell*

Parish Office

| | 86 Mayona Road |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | 9435 2178 |
| | Mon - Fri 9am-3pm |
| | montmorency@cam.org.au |
| Kate Kogler: | Parish Secretary |
| - | <u>eltham@cam.org.au</u> |
| Gina Ang: | Pastoral Worker & |
| | Caring Group Co-Ord— Eltham |
| | <u>gina.ang@cam.org.au</u> |
| Peter Williams: | Child Safety Officer |
| | SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au |
| Website: | www.pol.org.au/montmorency |
| | www.pol.org.au/eltham |
| | (pol stands for Parish OnLine) |
| | |

Facebook: St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items: <u>eltham@cam.org.au</u>

Schools

<u>St Francis Xavier Primary School</u> <u>Principal:</u> Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474 <u>principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u> <u>www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u>

<u>Holy Trinity Primary School</u> <u>Principal:</u> Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888 <u>principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au</u> <u>www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au</u>

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824 school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

> <u>RECONCILIATION</u> available upon request please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

| please can the ransh office 7455 2178 | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|--|--|
| Collections last weekend: 25 October 2020 | | | | |
| Community | Thanksgiving | Presbytery | | |
| Eltham | | | | |
| Montmorency | | | | |
| Please note the above figures are monies banked & do not include visa/mastercard or direct debits. Thank you so much for your contributions. | | | | |
| CDFPay : (alternate thanksgiving options) Montmorency - <u>https://bit.ly/CDFpayMontmorency</u> Eltham - <u>https://bit.ly/CDFpayEltham</u> | | | | |



Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

<u>Montmorency</u>

For the recently deceased: Brother Gerard O'Brien (much loved brother of Maree Rankin) Joyce Broadbent (mother/in-law of Danny & Anne) For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Carlo Bergamo, Antonio Chincarini (Jnr), Bernard Edmond, David Engebretson, Philip Ferrarotto, Bill Gayfer, Rudolf Jakubik, Valeria Perosin For those in need of healing, remembering especially: Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Robert Baker, Justine Best, Fr Glen Bourke, Ray Bowman, Kristina Brazaitis, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Val Hayes, Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, Angus Kossatz, Kate Lagerewskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocson, Ron Pfeil, Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Sr Amor Samonte RGS (Philippines), Maria Schroeders, Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Bruno Treglia, Isaac Treglia, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.

<u>Eltham</u>

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

For those in need of healing, remembering especially: Gina Ang, Robyn Atherton, Ray Bowman, Geoff Bunton, Andrew & Lucinda Collier, Albina Croce, Eileen Culbertson, Jon D'Cruz, Ruth Decker, Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Jack Issai, Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins, Moira Lyons, Val McDonough, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Kath Wheelahan.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House 9435 2178 or <u>eltham@cam.org.au</u>.



By purchasing a **\$30 Christmas Ornament** you are supporting *Aboriginal Children* to reach their full educational potential.

Opening the Doors Foundation

www.openingthedoors.org.au/Christmas

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS 2020

Many of us have a favourite saint we pray to for various intentions. A saint is someone the Catholic Church has canonised for their heroic witness to the story of Jesus in the world of their time. The Church has investigated their lives after their death and named them as persons who are home in heaven with the Risen Lord.

However, you and I realise that there are many people living and dead who are saints of history. If living, they will still have to make the journey to heaven, but they are people whose lives inspire us as people of the Jesus story today.

Is there someone you are thinking of as a saint we have met along life's journey? I think of Fr Bill Rovira, Parish Priest of St Pat's Murrumbeena many years ago. I was appointed a deacon to St Pat's just before my ordination to priesthood.

Fr Bill Rovira lived with a joy and a simplicity that radiated warmth in his being with people. He had a raucous laugh and he really enjoyed being with you. Even when the telephone rang and Bill answered it, you could hear his voice booming with laughter and delight as if he was privileged to receive your telephone call.

He was known for his generosity and word got around. There was always somebody at the presbytery door looking for a hand-out and they never walked away without Bill giving them money. The housekeeper on one occasion heard a man at the door saying, "Father, can you give me a bit extra?" Bill had handed him equivalent of 20 dollars or so, and that was all he could give. The man said, "How about we toss, double or nothing?" Whether they tossed and if they tossed, whatever the outcome, that man would have walked away with the equivalent of 40 dollars in his pocket.

Parishioners and friends would give him gifts, but then never see them. Bill had given them away. When sitting at table with him, he would want to pass you the salt or the sugar before you asked him. He was so attentive to your needs.

At Church he was so warm in his presiding. It wasn't what he said, but the way he said it. He was humble, warm and so grateful. He was quite funny, often losing or forgetting where he had put the microphone or the Mass texts and he would laugh at himself. That gave all of us permission to laugh. Everybody loved him. I'll always remember standing in the parish hall for a Christmas function and one of the parishioners saying to me: "There's the most loved man in Melbourne."

Fr Rovira died many years ago, but in my memory he really is a saint. He is someone who has lived the Jesus story so well. Perhaps it was his humility that inspired me most of all, but then again his simplicity, his gratitude, his joyfulness and kindness were also an inspiration. What a wonderful man for me to meet and work with just months before my ordination.

We celebrate today the feast of All Saints and we listen to a famous Gospel we call the Beatitudes. Here we listen to Jesus naming how we are to live in following him. Saints are people who have lived the Beatitudes, not necessarily all of them, but certainly some of them.

In his own special way Fr Bill Rovira has lived so many of them. A man poor in spirit, not as in depressed but in the way he shared his spirit. He gave away his love, his possessions, his gentleness, his warmth. He mourned for others in that he had a beautiful compassion especially for the homeless. He was a peacemaker. Nobody ever had a harsh word to say about him, not in my memory.

He surely knows what is it 'to rejoice and be glad for his reward is great in heaven'.

So who is a saint you remember today and who would you wish to bless your life as you aspire to be like this person? Terry





Victorian dioceses partner to bring enhanced Catholic social services to those in need.

Thursday 29 October 2020

Communications Office

The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have today released a joint statement announcing the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat, and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity: CatholicCare Victoria.

'On 1 January 2021, the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Diocese of Ballarat, the Diocese of Sandhurst and the Diocese of Sale will unite in common mission to advance the ministry of Catholic social services in Victoria,' the statement says, calling it 'a landmark endeavour for the Church and for the people of Victoria, particularly the most vulnerable.'

With a combined service of more than 180 years, the individual agencies have responded to needs in their communities with compassion and care.

As CatholicCare Victoria, the combined agencies will have enhanced capabilities to respond to those in need, to sponsor initiatives at the breadth and scale that are most effective, and to advocate about and address the root causes of poverty and injustice, thus fulfilling the Church's commitment to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by proclaiming God's love for each person and promoting their fullness of life.

'Building and supporting individuals, families and communities in times of need, especially those who are most disadvantaged, vulnerable and/or marginalised, is key to advancing human dignity and to fostering the common good in our society,' the statement says.

'In coming together, we reinforce our shared commitment to social service ministry; offering works of mercy, charity and justice to meet the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised in Victoria, now and into the future.'

'Our Christian mission in action is a call to go to those most in need. This new state-wide approach to offering social services in the way of the Gospel will have at its heart the going out in love, justice, assistance and friendship,' said Melbourne Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

For the people of Victoria, this will mean a greater choice of services, and improved access to those services.

Each agency has specialist programs that can be scaled up and replicated in other areas of Victoria. For example, Centacare Ballarat's expertise and experience in providing social housing would be a great asset to establishing similar programs in other areas of need.

CatholicCare Sandhurst has a strong track record as a provider of children's support services, which can be leveraged to enhance and grow programs across the state.

And CatholicCare Melbourne has a strong School Counselling program which could be scaled up to support student wellbeing statewide.

This solution will ideally help in addressing the root causes of poverty and disadvantage in this state. With statewide data and a deeper understanding of the issues affecting families, CatholicCare Victoria will be better able to inform and influence long-term solutions for the structural causes of entrenched disadvantage.

CatholicCare Victoria:

- Will draw on a combined 184 years of experience in delivering excellence in a broad range of child, family and community services. It also consolidates leadership and expertise in the areas of school counselling, pastoral services, social housing, employment and advocacy services.
- Will operate from 20 office locations and a further 107 delivery sites, including offices in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Shepparton and a footprint that extends to all corners of Victoria, from Mildura to Warrnambool, and Wodonga to Traralgon.
- Will have a workforce of 500 staff and 200+ volunteers working together, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, in a shared mission for a stronger, more inclusive society where everyone can reach their potential and live life to the full.
- Will support 50,000 people each year: children, individuals and families experiencing difficulty or disadvantage, people in prisons, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, people with disabilities, people who are sick, unemployed, or who are homeless.

To read more about CatholicCare Victoria, visit https://www.ccam.org.au/

'Hallows' was given a makeover for a younger audience in 2007 in the final Harry Potter novel

In medieval England, All Saints' Day was known as All Hallows' Day. We don't use the word "hallowd" very much except in the Lord's Prayer; in All Hallow's Eve, or "Halloween"; and in the formal way we refer to "hallowed ground", or to a "hallowed institution". The word was given a makeover for a younger audience in 2007 when the final novel in the Harry Potter series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, was published and went on to sell 65 million copies.

J.K. Rowling tells her readers that the three deathly hallows are the Elder Wand, the Resurrection Stone and the Cloak of Invisibility. Whoever owns all three hallows gains mastery over death, and so we start to see the relationship between Rowling's text and the mystical traditions she has inherited.

Hallows' All Dav sees 115 celebrate the memory of the holy ones in Heaven with God. The three pathways to being declared a saint are heroic virtue, mysticism and martyrdom. In the last category there are four subdivisions: white martyrdom, where you are persecuted for the faith, but never shed blood; green martyrdom, where you do extreme penance and fasting for the love of God: red martyrdom, where you are killed for the faith; and the recent category, most introduced in 2017 by Pope Francis, a martyr of charity, where you dies as a result of putting yourself at risk in the service of others.

The first people honoured as saints by the earliest Christians

were martyrs. The word "martyr" comes from the word "witness". In fact, All Saints' Day, celebrated throughout the Church on 1 November, has its roots in the early Church's Martyrs' Day, attested to by a hymn written in 359 by St Ephraim. The name was changed to All Saints' Day in the seventh century.

Our Christian foremothers and forefathers counted themselves blessed to suffer and die as Jesus suffered and died. Indeed, the requirement that a child being baptised must have godparents comes from the time of Christian persecution. Those who had left their Jewish or Gentile families to join the Christian community knew they might be martyred for their faith; to ensure their children would not be returned to their non-Christian extended families they would ask other Christians in God's name to swear they would take them into their homes and raise them as their own if they were to die.

Prophets and martyrs are often linked. They are put to death because they threaten the social and religious leaders of their time and place so much that they have to be silenced.

The glorification of suffering and martyrdom can attract fanatics. As uncomfortable as it is for Christians to admit, some of our martyrs did not die with the healthiest of motivations. We only have to read their letters to discover that some actively went looking for death: longing and praying that "the crown of martyrdom" would be granted to them. Paradise awaited. There is an important distinction between being killed as a result of one's faith and

zealously seeking to die; between being martyred and being on a suicide mission.

A saint is someone whom the Church believes is in heaven with God. When we declare that someone has bee "canonised" (in late Latin: canonizare" "admit to the authoritative list") we are saying that because of the way they lived their Christian lives God could not deny them heaven, so they have to be the added to roster of recognised saints. Wrongly, we often think saints are perfect, but their greatest witness is how they coped with the difficulties of life and how they reflected the love of God.

We hallow what God has done through them because we hope to join them. St Paul though saints were everywhere. I think he was right, canonised or For most of us, otherwise. sanctity and martyrdom will not come in dramatic ways. The daily routine of looking after a sick child or spouse or elderly parent, or of living with a mental, physical, emotional or spiritual illness, or bearing the scourge of being unemployed, homeless or addicted, or being unable to shake off the feeling that we are unlovable: they all bring with them the reality of sharing in the lot of the martyrs and the saints.

This is the holy cloud of witnesses who saw God in this world and are now fully alive to him in the next, cheering us on in this life and all the way to the next.

Richard Leonard SJ is the author of Hatch, Match and Dispatch: A Catholic Guide to Sacraments (Paulist Press).

| | Ca | llendar of Events | | |
|--|-------------|--|--|--|
| Saturday, 31 October - All Hallows Eve | | | | |
| 6:00pm | Montmorency | Mass (10 people) | | |
| Sunday, 1 November - All Saints | | | | |
| 8:30am | Montmorency | Mass (10 people) | | |
| 10:00am | Eltham | Mass (10 people) (live-streamed <u>https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</u>) | | |
| Monday, 2 November - All Souls | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Тис | esday, 3 November | | |
| 9:30am | Montmorency | Mass (10 people) | | |
| | Wedi | nesday, 4 November | | |
| 9:30am | Eltham | Mass (10 people) | | |
| | Thu | rsday, 5 November | | |
| 9:30am | Montmorency | Mass (10 people) | | |
| | Fr | iday, 6 November | | |
| 9:30am | Eltham | Mass (10 people) | | |
| | Sati | urday, 7 November | | |
| 6:00pm | Montmorency | Mass (10 people) | | |
| Sunday, 8 November - Special Collection: Catholic Deaf | | | | |
| 8:30am | Montmorency | Mass (10 people) | | |
| 10:00am | Eltham | Mass (10 people) (live-streamed <u>https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</u>) | | |
| | Roste | rs - 7 & 8 November | | |
| | | Montmorency | | |
| Co | llins, Leo | GRDN | | |
| Gaffney, Peter | | CLNR | | |
| McKinna, Jane | | PRYR | | |
| | | Eltham | | |
| Dunell, Linda | | Altar Society | | |
| Rough Family | | Pilgrim Rosary Statue | | |
| Saltalamacchia, Carmel | | Altar Society | | |



Thank you for thinking of me. Your beautiful messages, phone calls, flowers, food, transport and most of all your prayers have helped me through my recent trauma.

I count my blessings having you as my friends, both loving and caring parishioners of OLHC and SFX.

I am progressing very well and you will be seeing me and hearing from me very soon. God Bless, Gina

Live-Stream Masses

As the glory of the morning sun shone into the Church at Monty last Sunday during Mass, it appeared that Marisa and Fr Terry had been transfigured! We would never wish to dim that beautiful light but while we are thinking of ways to address this situation, things have changed. Our church doors are gently creaking open, we see in our minds eye a trickly of people tentatively entering into a new and sacred space, with eyes and hearts open, a wonderland. We sense we have been here before; in awe we bow and give thanks. We will learn to live again in a new way. Until our churches are full again, or for now at least, we will continue with live-stream Mass this Sunday at 10:00am. We are coming home with tears of joy, with one heart and one mind in Christ, we give thanks.

We leave the steps below in case you still require them to help stay connected:

- 1. Go to <u>www.google.com</u>, type: olhc sfx youtube (click search)
- 2. OLHC SFX YouTube will appear (click on it)
- *3*. You will see the thumbnail of Masses already streamed
- You will see somewhere on the screen 'subscribe' (red box) (click it)
- 5. Then click on any of the Masses or watch the live-streaming of Mass of the day

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)

(below: Carlos, Patsy & Gerard in action - THANK YOU)



SVdP Christmas Cards 2020

As indicated in last week's bulletin, the Montmorency conference of SVDP is pleased to advise that SVDP Charity Christmas cards are now available for any folk especially for those who wish to send a card overseas. This year the cards are in packs of 5 rather than 8 as in previous years. With just 5 cards per pack we have reduced the cost to \$2.50 per packet. This is slightly cheaper per card than last year, but all we wish to do is to cover our costs and offer cards about the real meaning of Christmas.

For the moment, due to Covid-19 restrictions, you may purchase the cards from any of the following SVDP members:

| John Ramsdale | $0410\ 128\ 821$ |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Bob Fraser | 0404 960 337 |
| Mike Said | $0417\ 221\ 245$ |
| Vinka Heagerty | |

We hope to have other distribution points once there is a change in Covid restrictions.

Prayers of the Faithful for 25 October 2020 **All Saints**

Sisters and brothers, the Saints walked the way of Jesus and now share God's Celebrant: endless glory. Through their intercession we bring these petitions to the Father of all.

For the Church - that we may seek steadfast commitment to the Gospel, prayerful discernment of God's will and hunger for the peace of Christ to dwell in our hearts.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our praver.

For inspiration - that we may draw strength and courage from the witness of the saints, both the famous and the ordinary, who have touched our lives.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our praver.

For all people of faith - that we actively pursue peace, understanding, healing and unity between people of different faith traditions.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For peacemakers - that those who create wars and make violence seek new ways of resolving conflict through dialogue and patience.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the people of the USA - that the Spirit will guide them in fulfilling their civic responsibility through voting this week and that Gospel principles may inspire their choices. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our praver.

For all who are seriously ill, or nearing death - that through the support and loving care of family, friends and professional staff, they recognize with gratitude the loving presence of God throughout their life and rest in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all Victorians - may the easing of restrictions reawaken our sense of community and bring a renewed responsibility to work for the safety and good of all.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our praver.

For all who have died - that Mary and all the Saints, who live in the glory of God, will welcome them into their heavenly home and give comfort to all who mourn. We remember Brother Gerard O'Brien and Joyce Broadbent. We also remember those whose anniversaries are at this time, including Carlo Bergamo, Antonio Chincarini (Jnr), Bernard Edmond, David Engebretson, Philip Ferrarotto, Bill Gayfer, Rudolf Jakubik and Valeria Perosin.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our praver.

- Celebrant: All-holy God, you call your people to holiness. As we keep the feast of your saints, give us their poverty of spirit, a thirst for righteousness and a purity of heart. May we share with them the richness of your kingdom and be clothed in the glory you bestow. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.
- All:



Larry and Brenda Andreatta who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.



Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who morn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'



Reflection

Given the extreme familiarity of this text, it may surprise some to learn that Sunday Mass-goers hear the gospel of the beatitudes no more than once every three years, and that's early in Year A. They only hear it a second time in the cycle when the festival of All Saints falls on a Sunday. Of course a number of the congregation are likely to have heard it read or sung at other celebrations they have attended, especially funerals.

Presiders are sure to have read this passage out many times over. Their challenge is to proclaim it freshly, as if no-one had ever heard it before. A simple exercise may help. Checking out two or three other translations or looking up a new commentary could spark a new insight. This in turn might invigorate the presider's delivery of the text as well as inspire his homily.

There is no doubt about the importance of the passage as far as Matthew is concerned. It is the overture to the first of the five discourses that he gives to Jesus in memory of the five books of the Torah. The beatitudes are steeped in the tradition that Jesus absorbed from his family and townsfolk as he grew up. At the same time they open out on to a new future. Past wisdom and future promise combine in these paradoxical sayings whose meaning we can never exhaust. They carry an implicit warning: wrestling with them may leave us wounded like Jacob (Gen 21:22-32).

Break Open the Word 2020



Our appeal to you:

Each year, we make our annual Ephpheta Appeal where donations go a long way to helping us improve our service to the community. We do not receive any government funding so your gift will be a lifeline that ensures JPC's Pastoral Care and Family Support Service can instantly reach even the most isolated Deaf people.

All donations will be gratefully received - donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. <u>Read about our appeal HERE</u>.