

Blessed are the poor

Have you been with a dying relative or close friend who gently said farewell to dear ones with love and gratitude for their care and friendship during life? It can be truly heartrending, but beautiful also, particularly when people die with their hearts full of hope and trust that God will welcome them joyfully in an eternal home.

It is as if such a dying person were giving a blessing to family and friends. This custom of blessing is something we have perhaps forgotten in our age, but it is deep in our history and very strong in the Bible, as when Jacob blesses his sons. Blessing invokes God's love and protection. As St Luke reminds us today, Jesus draws on this power of blessing, in accord with his mission to bring Good News to the poor.

In our ordinary civic affairs, the accolades often go to the successful, the rich, the powerful, the fashion gurus, famous writers and movie stars. It was something similar in Jesus' time.

But in the Beatitudes, Jesus turns such views upside down. 'Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.' This astonishingly blunt sentence captures Jesus' core message. It must have been as arresting for those listening to Jesus as it is for us. Unfortunately some gospel translations use 'Happy are the poor', missing the force and meaning of 'Blessed'.

Luke is very insistent. He is not talking in metaphors, but saying the poor are those who experience real hunger, who weep in their troubles, and who are despised and treated as criminals because they believe in Jesus. God blesses such people not because they are more worthy, but precisely because they are considered worthless. The Beatitudes tell us what is deepest in God's heart: his compassion and astonishing concern for people in such distress. The 'poor' is the Bible's code word, and as Pope Francis reminds us often, it includes everyone experiencing pain or suffering which is most keenly felt by the vulnerable and impoverished.

Jesus then sternly warns that the rich and comfortably off are not blessed by God. This is very discomfiting for us who are all relatively rich, as we can easily turn away from people in distress, thinking we are too busy or are powerless. Pope Francis responds that we can all do something, no matter how small, even if it is just a smile or a friendly word to a lonely person or someone begging on the street. Even giving a glass of water to a thirsty person reflects God's concern.

Together, we can do much more. Pope Francis urges us to support global efforts to eliminate hunger and the worst forms of poverty through the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and at the same time preserve the Earth from climate change. In this way, with St Francis, let us bless the Earth

Bruce Duncan CSsRRedemptoists 2019

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

Fr Richard Ross PP

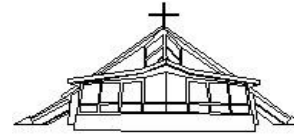
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Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

24th May 2019

Today's Reading:

Acts 15:1-2,22-29;

Apocalypse 21:10-14;

John 14:23-29

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ascension of the Lord Year C

Acts 1:1-11

Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53



Weekend Mass times:

Saturday 6:00pm Vigil Lindisfarne,

Sunday 8.30 am John Paul II

10.30 am, 6:00pm Corpus Christi

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 10:45am Freemasons Home

12:00 Church of the Incarnation Lindisfarne

Wednesday 12:00noon Corpus Christi

Thursday 10:00am John Paul 11 Rokeby

Friday 9:30am Corpus Christi Bellerive

Dear Parish Family,

I am excited to announce that we are now a presence in the on-line world! Our parish website, Facebook page and Instagram account all went live this week, and we need your help to get them working for us. The more these sites are visited, liked and interacted with, the more prominent they will be for the various Internet search engines, and so the easier they will be to find. If that makes sense to you, then great, if not, don't worry you are not alone!

Please save the following to your favorites list and keep an eye on them as they continue to take shape.

Website: cdtas.org.au/bellerive

Facebook: **Bellerive-Lindisfarne Catholic Parish**

Instagram: **@belleriveparish**

The parish newsletter will be up-loaded each week, as will daily Mass times and other news and parish events. Hopefully, these platforms will help with our efforts to engage and invite people on the fringe of our community into more active participation. My thanks go to Mel Aylett, Michael Hangan and Rachelle Smith for their expertise in making this a reality.

We welcome members of the Palavra Viva community who will speak briefly at the end of each Mass in the parish about the up-coming Mission Evening presented by Archbishop Porteous and his team. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Have a great week,

Fr Richard

WALK WITH CHRIST – Hobart City, Sunday 23rd June 1:15 to 3:00 pm. Celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ by walking with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through the city of Hobart. Be at St Joseph's Church (Harrington St) by 1.15 pm, and walk with us to St Mary's Cathedral for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction concluding at 3:00. There will be a 'cuppa' afterwards. If you can't do the walk come to the Cathedral at 2:00 for prayer and Adoration.

NO GREATER LOVE



Bible Study: Genesis to Jesus - An Overview of the Bible. The Verbum Domini Institute is offering a survey of the bible from the Catholic perspective. Starting with the narratives of creation and Noah's ark, we will trace the history of salvation as it unfolds in a series of covenants that God makes with his chosen people. The course covers the pivotal events and characters of the Old Testament leading up to their fulfilment in Jesus and his Church. **When:** Wednesdays 6.30- 8.30pm, 29th May, 12th & 26th June. **Cost:** \$20 for study guide. **Where:** Murphy Room, Diocesan Centre, 35 Tower Rd, New Town. **Register:** 6208-6236.

UNIT RENTAL ACCOMODATION REQUIRED. A parishioner with three small children is seeking to relocate from a larger rental accommodation to a smaller, more affordable, unit or granny flat type rental accommodation. If you can help, or wish to discuss, please contact Fr. Richard on 0408 377 807

'Clemente Tasmania is a supported fee free Certificate in Liberal Arts for adults whose education pathway has been disrupted due to life's circumstances and it operates in Hobart as a result of an arrangement between the Archdiocese of Hobart, the Australia Catholic University and the University of Tasmania. The next unit is Drawing and it commences on the 23rd July and runs for 8 weeks with 1x3 hour session per week from 5-8pm on Tuesdays. It will be held at the UTAS Creative Arts Building in Hunter Street. No experience in drawing is required and it is a very relaxed environment. If interested contact Dallas Williams, Coordinator Clemente Tasmania, on E: dallasbwilliams@gmail.com