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THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | SUNDAY 1ST FEB

In Matthew's Gospel these eight blessings stand at the head of the Sermon on the Mount, pointing out eight ways in which we can welcome God into our lives. They are ways of living out God's blessing. The first and the last knit them all together with the phrase 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. In his Gospel, Luke also begins his Sermon on the Plain with four such blessings – only his blessings focus more on those who are materially poor and in need, whereas Matthew's concentrate on the spiritual attitudes required of the Christian, 'poor in spirit, hungry and thirst for justice'.

Jesus came to proclaim the kingship of his Father, and these are ways of living it. For each beatitude, do you know someone who exemplifies the attitude? Which is your own favourite? For most of them there are gospel incidents in which Jesus illustrates how to live out the beatitude, like the entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the gentle king, or the love he shows in his welcome to sinners, or his bringing peace to those tortured by disease or contempt, or his purity of heart in his single-minded pre-occupation with his Father's will, or finally his acceptance of persecution for what he knew to be right. Which of these qualities would you like to have more of?

Dom Henry Wnasborough OSB

✠ THIS WEEK AT ST MATTHEW'S ✠

Sunday 1st February 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am - Brian Glancey
Monday 2nd February <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	NO MASSES TODAY
Tuesday 3rd February <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am - In honour of the guardian angels
Wednesday 4th February <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am - Nellie Musgrove (HW)
Thursday 5th February <i>St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr</i>	10:00am - Anne Bramhall
Friday 6th February <i>SS Paul Miki & his companion</i>	10:00am - The deceased members of the McCormack and Satchell Families
Saturday 7th February <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	NO MASSES TODAY
Sunday 8th February 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am - Vic McGuinness

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MISSAL

We are now using the New Translation Missals for Sundays and weekdays. There are several differences in the text, so could readers please read through the readings to familiarise themselves before getting up to read.

THE SVP

Meet every month on a Sunday evening in the sacristy at 7pm. They would like to invite you to come along and consider joining them. The next meeting is Sunday 1st February.

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Pope Leo has proclaimed a special 'Year of St. Francis' to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. Our department for education shares this prayer to mark the beginning of the Franciscan Jubilee Year

"Lord, help me to live this day quietly, easily. To lean upon Thy great strength, trustfully, restfully. To wait for the unfolding of Thy will, patiently, serenely. To meet others peacefully, joyfully. To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously".

TODAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

This Sunday, 1st February we celebrate Racial Justice Sunday. The theme this year is: *"Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes.* Where racial justice is concerned, we must never tire of repeating what has been said before, though we always seek new ways to convey our message. Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. In an increasingly tense climate, it is imperative that we listen to, and learn from, the experiences, challenges and opportunities encountered in the mission of promoting racial justice in Catholic parishes today. Our parishes should be places where we can all truly grow in ever-deeper knowledge and love of each other, ourselves and God.

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

We now have a supply of pre-printed Mass Intention envelopes. Please use these to request a Mass at St Matthew's. Whilst Sundays are in demand weekday Masses are available on most days of the week.