

Living FAITH

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Secondary

“The Beatitudes”

WE GATHER

Ever Loving God;
You challenge us to see the good in every single person.
Help us to live Your love by seeing the face of Jesus,
in everyone we meet.
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

A reading from Matthew (5: 1-12a)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



For courage,
to live the Beatitudes
even when it is hard.
Lord, hear us.

For hope and trust,
that people will see that we are
doing our best,
even when we make mistakes.
Lord, hear us.

For faith,
that we are loved just as we are.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that what really matters the most to God is not what we look like, how much money we have or even how important or powerful we think we are. Instead, what is most important is our attitude and the way we treat others. Since it might be a little hard to understand exactly what Jesus meant (he was talking adults many, many, many years ago after all), it might help if we re-word them just a little, so they make a little more sense of us today.



You are blessed when you are grateful for what you have and are happy to share or go without rather than constantly wanting more. This gratefulness will help you notice all the little ways God blesses you every day.

You are blessed when you offer comfort to people who are grieving, sad or in need. You will find that others will be there to support you during those times too.

You are blessed when you talk and act gently and kindly with other people. You will find that others will be drawn to you, befriend you and want to work with you.

You are blessed when you stand up for other people and for what is right. You will feel good about who you are when you work for justice and stand in solidarity with others.

You are blessed when you forgive others, for you will find people will be more willing to forgive you too.

You are blessed when you stay true to what you believe in and who God created you to be. This will help you to see that you are made in the image and likeness of God.

You are blessed when you are a peacemaker for that means you are living the way of Jesus.

You are blessed when you stand up for your faith and your values because that shows integrity and authenticity.

You are blessed when you continue to be kind, generous and compassionate even when people do not treat you kindly in turn. God knows that is really hard to do sometimes, but you should celebrate being the best person you can be without compromise.

Will you take up Jesus' challenge live the Beatitudes?

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus,
You challenge us to authentic lives with integrity, faith and hope.
Help us to be true to who we are, so that we can in turn
we can empower others to be their best self.
In times of self-doubt, help us to know Your voice,
as we listen to the Good News and proclaim it for others.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

***"Dear young people, the happiness you are seeking,
the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face:
it is Jesus of Nazareth"***

- Pope Benedict