THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 15 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING — Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM — Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. R.

2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. R.

3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. R.

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. R.

SECOND READING — 1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

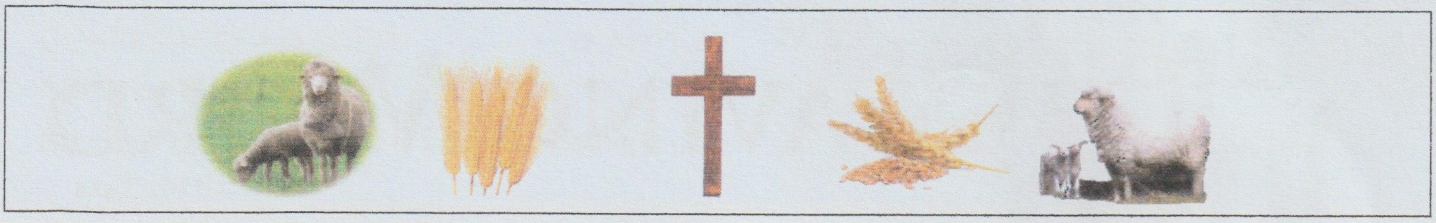
God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age,

it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.



The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN OT **A/2** **15 FEBRUARY 2026**

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	**No Mass**
Tuesday:	**9.00am Mass**
Wednesday: (Ash Wednesday)	**9:00 am Mass School Mass; 6.00pm Mass**
Thursday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Friday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Saturday:	**6.30pm**
Sunday:	**10.30am**

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

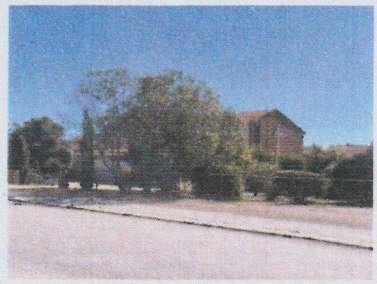
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

CHURCH ROSTER:

	14/15 FEBRUARY 2026		21/22 FEBRUARY 2026	
	Saturday 6.30 pm	**Sunday 10.30 am**	**Saturday 6:30 pm**	**Sunday 10:30 am**
Readers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	P. Riethmuller	G Dizon
Collection:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Offertory:				
Church Cleaners:			P. Riethmuller	
Sacristy	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Altar Servers:				

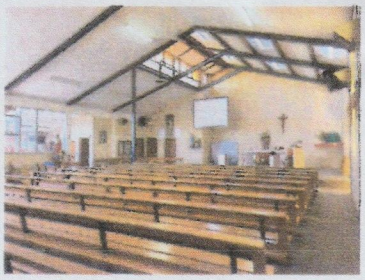
Happy Lunar New Year

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



St Mary's Catholic Church and
St Mary's School
will be combining to celebrate our
Centenary
Sunday 2 August 2026
10.00 a.m. Mass
12.00 Lunch

More details to come



Parish Meetings

Parish Pastoral Council	Tuesday 17th Feb 7.00pm	Presbytery
Centenary Committee	Wednesday 18th Feb 7.00pm	Presbytery
Parish Finance Comm	Tuesday 24th Feb 7.00pm	Presbytery

Parish Notice Board

Mary MacKillop Centre - Breakfast in the Garden Saturday 14th March
Merredin CRC - Invitation to a Paint and Sip Evening Friday 20th February

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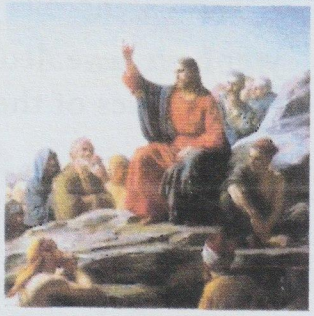
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week
Tue 17 The Seven Founders of the Servite Order, St Fintan of Clonenagh
Wed 18 Ash Wednesday



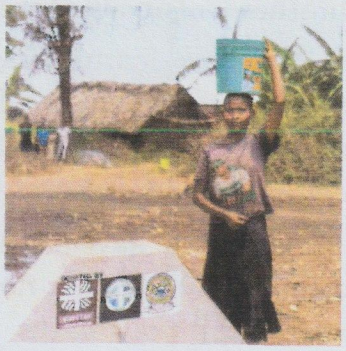
Lent - Ash Wednesday

Mass will celebrated at 9.00am (school Mass) & 6.00pm
Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten Season. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCI 97, 1251f)
Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised.

Lenten Program

A Lenten booklet for reflections and prayers on the daily Lenten Masses are available. It can be used for private prayer or for group meetings. Booklets are available in the foyer. They are free.

Project Compassion Sunday



Many people were astonished, to say the least, last year when one of the richest people in the world proclaimed that 'the fundamental weakness in Western civilisation is empathy.' The gentleman was clearly not familiar with the New Testament. Compassion is the calling card of Christians. We announce our presence by acts of love. That is what Jesus did and taught.

If you look at the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), we get an idea of just how empathy and compassion are signs of strength, not weakness. The story says that the Samaritan came across somebody who'd been assaulted and robbed. The stranger 'looked at him with compassion'. He doesn't just look. In the next few lines, he takes ten separate actions: he goes over, he bandages the man, he pours oil on his wounds, he lifts him onto his donkey, he takes him to an inn, he looks after him, he pays the innkeeper, he asks the innkeeper to help, he promises to return, he commits to paying the bill. Compassion is as action not just a feeling.

This week, we begin our annual journey of Lent and with it our annual commitment to Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia. For generations, Project Compassion has helped us express our Lenten commitment to prayer, personal sacrifice and almsgiving. Our focus this year is a call to 'Unite Against Poverty'. It is a powerful call. Every day the news brings us distressing stories about how the divisions in the world bring disastrous consequences for the most vulnerable people. Our work for Project Compassion is a significant way to bring healing to God's family.

This week, the readings ask us to travel to deeper places in our lives. The Gospel warns us against shallow virtue which 'goes no deeper to that of the scribes and the pharisees'. St Paul speaks about mature wisdom, a view of the world that is at odds with those who have power. 'The masters of this age' seldom understand compassion and the way in which, 'the Spirit reaches the depths of everything.' Those depths will take us to the margins and stir in us a longing to Unite Against Poverty.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

HONOURING THE TORAH

As we continue to hear Jesus' teaching in Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount', we now move into a very Jewish-oriented section. Matthew's audience were Jewish followers of Jesus. They were very familiar with the teachings of the Old Testament, from the Torah (the 'Law') and the Prophets. Jesus now reflects on these teachings stressing that he has come, not to abolish them, but to 'complete them'. In other words, Matthew is not rejecting the Jewish teaching heritage of the audience but deepening it. This preservation and honouring of the Torah is central in Jesus' teaching.

In fact, the one who keeps and teaches others the injunctions of the Torah will be regarded as 'great' in God's Kingdom. Matthew moves to explicate some of the key moral injunctions of the Torah. Each begins with the same formula: 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors…' Then follows Jesus' interpretation of the Torah for Matthew's Jewish listeners. It is important to note how this teaching is presented. The usual translation has '…But I say to you…' This is not what the Greek text has. There is no contrast, no 'but', between what the ancients said and what Jesus teaches. There is no contrast between the old (the Torah) and the new (Jesus' teaching), and no rejection of Judaism or its ancient wisdom summed up on the Torah.

Jesus deepens the meaning behind these different aspects of Jewish law concerning murder, adultery and oath-breaking, getting to the heart of each. Undergirding each is the invitation to integrity of relationships. This, too, is the invitation to us, to live with a wholeness of being to others, God and the world.

Fr Michael Trainor