


THE BULLETIN

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2026



The gospel of Matthew is keen to cast Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'. Moses was revered in Jewish history not only as the one who led the people out of Egypt, but even more importantly as the one who received the Ten Commandments from God. The first five books of the Bible, known to Jews as the Torah, or the Law, were accredited to Moses for a very long time. So Moses was seen as the one who received the Commandments from God and who also wrote down the Law of the people, the Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the Jewish people. When the gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses it emphasises the way in which Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses to fulfilment and bring about a new understanding and appreciation of both the Law and God. Jesus introduced a new way of perceiving God; as a God of compassion and mercy, rather than the jealous, vengeful God that is often expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

*Our Mission:
Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community*



Parish Administrator:

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

Chief Executive Officer:

Michael Darragh

Administration Officer:

Jennifer Oliver

Pastoral Associate:

Margaret Ryan

Church

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

Parish Office

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell
NSW 2452. Office Hours are
Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Church Mass Times

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

*Reconciliation every Saturday 5:30pm
no appointment necessary*

Chapel Mass Times

Our Lady of the Way at SCC

Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

Friday 9:30am



PARISH GIVING

First & Second
Collection + Donations

Notices



Lenten Groups: SIGN UP NOW!

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner, so it is time to begin thinking about our Lenten Prayer Groups. This year, we are providing the Archdiocese of Brisbane resource 'The Journey Home', with reflections by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge at a cost of \$5 per book. If you are interested in joining a prayer group, please add your name to the sheet at the doors of the church under your preferred time. Alternatively, if you'd like to order a book for private prayer, there is space for you to request this. Books will be distributed once the groups have been finalised.



Formed - Free sign up

FORMED is a premier, on-demand digital platform created by the Augustine Institute that provides over 4,000 Catholic programs, movies, audio dramas and e-books for adults and lots of wonderful content for children. Once you set up an account, and link to our parish, you will receive free access!

We will be providing tech support after all Masses this weekend. You can also pop into the recreation room at SCC after Mass on Wednesday at OLOW Chapel and we will help you get signed up. Morning tea will be provided.

See separate flyer with instructions on how to sign up.

First Reading *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3*

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

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 mourn: 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.'

Children's Liturgy is back!

Starting again this week, a Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held during the 9am Mass during school terms. If you are interested in leading these liturgies, please contact the Parish Office. It's really easy and training and support will be provided.

First Holy Communion

We will be celebrating First Holy Communion in our parish on Sunday 22nd March. We will be holding a Parent Information session for all families with children preparing for this sacrament at 5:30pm on Tuesday 17th February at Mary Help of Christians School. If your child does not attend MHOC School, is in Year 3 or beyond, and has already made their first Reconciliation, please contact the Parish Office to register and organise preparation for this Sacrament.

Mass Roster

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 8th February 2026

Please add your name on the sheet at the front doors if you can help

	6pm Mass	7:30am Mass	9am Mass
Co-Ordinator	Greg Ryan	S. Latham	D. Kirkaldy
Commentator			
Welcomer			
Ex. Minister			Wal Samut
Offertory		Graham family	
Reader			Brigid
PowerPoint Op			
Altar Server + Sacristan	L. Michalik	L. Hollyman	J. Baiada
Music	Ann	Marie/John/Johan	Kathy
Child. Liturgy			

WEEKLY EVENT
CENACLE ROSARY - EVERY TUESDAY
3PM IN THE CHURCH

The Sick

Tracey de Wan

Peter Rose

Pat Verity

Nadia & Roger Bridge

Leo Rawlings

Fr John Goulding

Brian Beynon

Helen Duyster

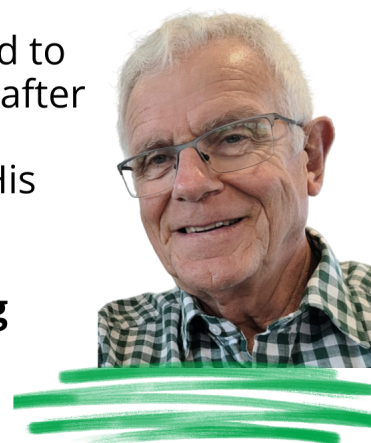
Mike Maxwell

Goodbye to Fr David

It is Fr David's last weekend here in Sawtell.

Parishioners are invited to stay for a morning tea after the 9am Mass to say goodbye and thanks. His service to our parish is greatly appreciated.

We will be welcoming Fr Paul Mahony next weekend.



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

18th February
 Ash Wednesday
 Mass at OLOW, 9:30am

Sunday, 22nd February
 Project Compassion collection begins

3rd April (Good Friday)
 Collection for Holy Places



Diocesan Investment Fund

Interest Rate—3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

