An Australian Creed

We believe in God the Father of us all, who has given the earth to all people, and we believe in people as the image of God.

We believe in Australians -
in their courage and
spirit of adventure
in their perseverance and hard work,
in their ordinariness and at-home-ness,
in their black aboriginal beauty,
in their migrant struggles,
in their search for identity.

We believe in the Australian place, with its Asian context and its northern culture, with all its nearness and all its distance, with its possibilities for growth, in dream time, southern time, our time.

We believe in our responsibility for creation, the trust - of every mountain range, of every forest, or every harbor, of every city, of every plan to build a future.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to encourage us and to heal us, to proclaim the peace of God to all people.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who works through every man and woman.
We believe in the church moved by the Spirit to serve all people.

We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor the force of arms, nor the power of the oppressors.

We do not believe that we can fight oppression far away if we tolerate injustice here.
We do not believe that conflict and hunger are inevitable and peace unattainable.
We do not believe that all suffering is in vain, nor that our dreams will remain dreams, nor that death is the end.

But we dare to believe always, and in spite of everything, in a new humanity, in God’s own dream of a new heaven and a new earth where justice will flourish, and peace will reign, in our land, in our work. AMEN
Thank you to all those who supported the St. Mary’s Race Day. The net profit for the day is approximately $6,000, which will go towards the painting of the church and the Parish Centre. Thank you to all those who helped out on the day and those who bought raffle tickets as well.

The winners of the raffle are:
1st Mick Kelloway
2nd Jenny Hilton
3rd Jim Bayley
For those who are ill:

WE PRAY FOR Those who have entered your kingdom: including Isabel Coleman, Rosemary Lawson, Phillipa Day, Mary Wyatt (Roma), Monica Nicholas, Barbara Bishop, Marie Gore, Pat Parson (Margaret Oliver’s daughter), Sr Joan MacGinley, RSM, Alicia Devine, Desley Hawker, Greg Oliver, Sr. Colleen Carney, Sr Bess Turvey, Mary Loveday, Timothy Lawless-Pyne, Fr. Mick Skehan, Audrey Albeck, Peter Inns, David Hiles, Shirley Byrne, Mona O’Brien, Norm Hilderson, Chris Finlayson, Maria Magoffin, Mel McGuire, Alma Betts, Darren Benecke, Robert Picking, Len Collins, Vince Mullins, Mary Terry;

For all whose anniversary is at this time: including Patrick Morrissy, Brett Linton, Joan Price, Molly McDonald, Joan Turvey, James ‘Ally’ Brennan, Joyce Turvey, Georgia Bourke, Carolyn Sewell, Paul Zacka, Albert Knight, , David Webster, Leslie “Cloudy” Marsh, Willy Heynen, Kevin Percival, Joan Smith, Irene “Ronnie” Blomley, Marj McMillan, Patrick Burns, Beth Cook, Thelva O’Shea, Lynn Sutton, Rachel Cowmeadow;


We pray for all those clergy whose anniversaries occur during this month: Rev. Fr. Thomas Concannon (01/01/48) Rev Fr. William Hall (11/01/95) Rev Fr. Howard Crowe (31/01/36)

Let us pray for all those clergy whose anniversaries occur during this month: Rev. Fr. Thomas Concannon (01/01/48) Rev Fr. William Hall (11/01/95) Rev Fr. Howard Crowe (31/01/36)

Lord, be merciful to your servants, the Bishops and Priests of this Diocese, welcome them into the company of your Saints, in the Kingdom of light and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.
Introduction
In a culture obsessed with strength and success, today’s readings are startling. The qualities and behaviours identified in the Beatitudes look nothing like economic, political or social strength. Instead, they appear to demonstrate weakness. Paul tells us that God chose the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised to shame the wise and the strong. Those of us who say we follow Jesus have some soul-searching to do. How do the Beatitudes fit with our professional and life-style commitments? How willing are we to engage in the really hard practices? And what would it mean if we don’t want to?

First Reading
Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
The remnant shall be a humble and lowly people.

Responsorial Psalm
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
God chose those who count for nothing.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven
ALLELUIA!

Gospel
Matthew 5:1-12
Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes.

Prayers of the Faithful
For the church: that we may demonstrate to the world what it means to live the Beatitudes... we pray,

For the courage to be peacemakers in our homes, our town, our nation and with whom we meet... we pray,

For the will to mourn with those around us who are overwhelmed with grief and sorrow... we pray,

For the courage to insist on justice for the poor, the outcast, the alienated and the persecuted... we pray,

For the will to show mercy toward those we deem unworthy and undeserving... we pray,

For the wisdom to recognise and honour strength in those who appear weak... we pray,

For the sick, the dying and the grieving among us; and for those who have died... we pray,

Let us pray together:
God of justice, we, who are bombarded by society’s call to be successful, pray that we may be able to live humbly and justly. Give us the courage to closely examine our lives and to respond to the call to live for others instead of ourselves. We ask this in Jesus’ name.
Amen.