



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”

LUKE 6:20

It’s All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Where we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage “Bloom where you are planted” may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won’t do much blooming. We’ll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week’s gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What’s so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that’s where we put down our roots. In other words, if that’s what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn’t come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become “like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream” (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

Reflect

Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

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or
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Fr. Joseph Morley: Acting Pastor/Vicar General
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Tentative Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By appointment: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass 3 rd Saturday 11:00 am	15 th February 2025
Kids & Youth Ministry	Sunday 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Children's Mass	23 rd February 2025
Pastoral & Finance Council	24 th February 2025
Monthly Coffee Social	23 rd March 2025

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak

www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	Gather Us In	P
Offertory:	Only This I Want	#732
Communion:	Gift of Finest Wheat	#791
Recessional:	Take the Word of God with You	#812



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 23rd February 2025

Proclaimer of God's Word	Diana Tejada
Opening/Closing of the Church	Elizabeth Card
Eucharistic Minister	Joanne Smith
Collection Counters	Annette Barclay
Altar Servers	Alessia Vianello
Music	Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Eileen Davies, Jose Garcia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 15th February For the people of **St. Josephs**
Sunday, 16th February For the people of **St. Josephs**

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday, 8 th Feb 4:00 p.m. (Reg)	9	64.00
(Maint)		20.00
Sunday, 9 th Feb 8:45 a.m. (Reg)	48	418.00
(Maint)		217.00
TOTAL:		\$719.00

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

The Kids' & Youth Ministry would like to invite you to a Pre-Shrove Tuesday Breakfast after Mass on Sunday, 2nd March. You will receive an invitation as you leave the church today.

As we will be having the BINGO then the BREAKFAST the following weekend, there will be no Coffee Social this month.

VALENTINE THEMED BINGO – Saturday, 22nd February in the Parish Centre. Time: 6:30 p.m. If you would like to donate a prize/raffle or something toward the dessert table, your kindness and generosity would be greatly appreciated.

COMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday	19 th March 7:15 p.m.	Feast of St. Joseph. Mass will be followed by a social in the Parish Centre. Bishop Wes will celebrate Mass.
Sunday	18 th May: 2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Heritage Tea – St. James' Church Hall More information to follow.
Sunday	15 th June 5:00 p.m.	Evening of Music – St. Josephs – more information to follow.
Sunday	22 nd June 5:00 p.m.	Evening of Music – St. Josephs - more information to follow.

PASTOR'S POINT:

Dear Parishioners,

SECTION 1 - CARE FOR ONE'S NEIGHBOR:

The Good Samaritan takes responsibility for the man he finds half dead, investing in him not only with the funds he has, but also with the funds he hopes to earn. Likewise, Christ invites us to such supernatural charity and to identify with everyone who is ill: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

Relationships built on the recognition of the *fragility* and *vulnerability* of the sick person are vital. Weakness makes us conscious of our dependence on God. Every individual who cares for the sick has the moral responsibility to recognize the inalienable good that is the human person and adhere to the highest standards of respect by safeguarding human life until natural death. At work here is a *contemplative gaze*¹ that beholds the existence of oneself and others as unique and unrepeatable wonders—received and welcomed as a *gift*. This is the gaze of the one who, guided by faith, finds in illness the readiness to abandon oneself to the Lord.

Medicine must therefore accept the limit of death as part of the human condition. When an illness is recognised to be terminal, this dramatic reality must be communicated to the sick person both with great humanity and with openness in faith to a supernatural horizon.

However, the impossibility of a cure where death is imminent does not entail the cessation of medical care. Communication with the terminally ill patient must make it clear that care will be provided until the very end: "*to cure if possible, always to care.*"² Adequate care must provide necessary physical, psychological, social, familial, and religious support to the sick. The pastoral care of all—family, doctors, nurses, and chaplains—can help the patient to persevere in sanctifying grace and to die in charity and the love of God. Where faith is absent, fear of suffering and death is the main driver in attempts to control and hasten death through euthanasia or assisted suicide.

God bless,
Fr. Joe, Vicar General



BISHOP'S CORNER:

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Pope Francis named the first woman to head a major Vatican office by appointing an Italian nun, Sister Simona Brambilla, to become Prefect of the department responsible for all the Catholic Church's religious orders. The appointment marks a major step in Francis' aim to give women more leadership roles in governing the church. While women have been named to number two spots in some Vatican offices, never before has a woman been named Prefect of a Dicastery or Congregation of the Holy See Curia, the central governing organ of the Catholic Church.

The office is one of the most important in the Vatican. Known officially as the Dicastery for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, it is responsible for every religious order, from the Jesuits and Franciscans to the Mercy nuns and smaller newer movements. The appointment means that a woman is now responsible for the women who do much of the church's work, the world's 600,000 Catholic nuns, as well as the 129,000 Catholic priests who belong to religious orders.

Pope Francis then announced that, starting in March, Sister Raffaella Petrini will become President of the Vatican Governorate. This means that she will direct the administration of the temporal goods of the Apostolic See, where all of the Vatican's investment decisions are made.

This marks another significant appointment of a woman to a prominent role. "The work of women in the Curia has progressed slowly but effectively. Now, we have many," noted the Pope, and added "Women manage better than we men do."

Clergymen, tremble! 😊

Enjoy your weekend and have a good week!

Bishop Wes

Please be advised that due to Bishop Wes' absence **there will be no Portuguese Mass at St. Patrick's** on Wednesday, 19th February.



6th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Stewards

Proclaim

"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." - LUKE 6:22

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to live **Stewardship**. Proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

Dear Padre,

I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



REIMER / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Monday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday

February 18

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday

February 19

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

Thursday

February 20

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

Friday

February 21

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

Saturday

February 22

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

Sunday

February 23

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,

12–13, 22–23

1 Cor 15:45–49

Lk 6:27–38

Our Sunday Readings

JEREMIAH 17:5-8
 PSALM 1:1-4,6
 I CORINTHIANS 15:12,16-20
 LUKE 6:17,20-26

Blessings & Woes

JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Reading closely

1. What are some reasons God's people would be wrong to trust in human beings?
2. What imagery does Jeremiah use to describe those who don't trust in God?
3. What imagery does Jeremiah use to describe those who *do* trust in God?
4. How powerful do you find this imagery?
5. Which image seems to fit Jeremiah? Why?
6. How might the people have reacted to these words?

Living the word

7. Describe a time you trusted in God. What did that require of you?
8. When does it seem appropriate to trust in human beings?

THE FIRST READING

Clear and present danger

Jeremiah lived when the southern kingdom of Israel was constantly threatened by stronger nations, from Assyria to Egypt to Babylon. The northern part of Israel fell to Assyria in 722 BC, so Jeremiah knew full well the dangers faced by the people of the remaining southern kingdom.

Familiar imagery

Writers of this era frequently used imagery in which they contrasted dead or dying vegetation with flora that was healthy and flourishing. They used such imagery in order to inspire people to live virtuously. The reward of virtue was a long and happy life.

In Psalm 1, for example, the healthy tree represents people who uphold God's laws. These people, *the just*, enjoy a long, prosperous life just like trees that are near flowing water.

Trusting in God

For Jeremiah, the healthy trees represent those who trust that God will protect them from foreign nations and tribes. Israel shouldn't ask Egypt to help them fight Assyria, for example.

Other Israelites wanted to form such alliances. Whenever Israel formed a military alliance with a foreign nation or tribe, however, the Israelites inevitably began to worship the other people's gods and goddesses. By not entering such alliances, the people were far more likely to be obedient and faithful to God, who had promised to protect them.

LUKE 6:17, 20-26

Reading closely

1. What might be some differences between the *great crowd* of disciples and the other people who gather around Jesus?
2. Why do you think Luke notes that Jesus teaches people on *level ground*?
3. How are the first three beatitudes interconnected?
4. In what ways are the first three beatitudes related to the fourth beatitude?
5. How are the woes interconnected?
6. How might people have reacted to these beatitudes?
7. How might people have reacted to the woes?
8. Does Jesus condemn the rich?
9. How do you think Jesus wants the rich to respond?
10. What does this passage reveal about God?
11. What does this passage reveal about God's kingdom?

Living the word

12. Does anything in this passage surprise you?
13. What aspects of your life does this passage challenge you to change?

THE GOSPEL READING

Jesus' teaching

By this point in Luke's Gospel Jesus' ministry is well under way. He has expelled demons, cured the sick, and called disciples, including the Twelve. Now we begin hearing some of what Jesus preached. These passages parallel Matthew 5–7.

There are notable differences between the beatitudes in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Although the Gospel-writers modified the words of Jesus that had been passed down to them, Jesus himself probably did not say the exact same thing every place he went.

Beatitudes and woes

Beatitude comes from the Latin word for *blessed*. In the Old Testament, people are happy because God has *blessed* them for being good and acting well. (See Psalm 1, Proverbs 3:13-18, and Sirach 14:1-2.)

Woe to you is an expression that many prophets used in order to warn people that they would be filled with *sorrow and great distress* because of their sins. (See Isaiah 5:8, Amos 5:18, and Zephaniah 3:1.)

The Great Reversal

A major theme of Luke's Gospel is the lifting up of those who are poor, suffering, or in otherwise vulnerable positions. God simultaneously humbles those with wealth and power. This theme is in Mary's Magnificat, for example (1:46-55). Luke thus pairs these particular beatitudes with their corresponding woes.

Poverty

Luke's beatitudes are in the second person. Jesus speaks them directly to his listeners, making them sound like a prophet's pronouncement of judgment as well as a call to rigorous self-examination.

These beatitudes highlight Luke's critique of wealth. The *blessed* are the economically poor, those who hunger physically and suffer because of it. God favors these weaker members of society.

God's concern for the most vulnerable members of society is evident throughout the Bible, yet society tends to favor the rich and powerful. Jesus insists that God welcomes into his kingdom those whom others have neglected or excluded. Jesus strongly rebukes those who ignore the poor and relish their wealth and status.

PRAYER

by St. Clement of Rome

We beg you, Lord, to help and defend us.

Deliver the oppressed,
 pity the lowly, raise the fallen,
 show your face to the needy, heal the sick,
 bring back those who have gone astray,
 feed the hungry, lift up the weak,
 and deliver captives.

Let all nations know that you alone are God,
 Jesus Christ is your Son,
 and we are your people, the sheep you pasture.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.