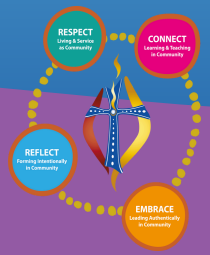


Family Prayer - Mission Month

"Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples."

by Jacinta Roberts

Consultant Formation - Identity and Outreach Directorate



Speaking to Country

This prayer was written on Gimuy Walubara Yidinji country. The lands, seas, skies and waterways of the region now known as Cairns, were, are and always will be those of the Yidinji people. I pay my respects to the Elders past and present, for they are the knowledge holders, the storytellers and teachers in the family, community and beyond. We can learn so much from First Nations peoples on this Country and across other parts of the Diocese about being in relationship with others and the world.

I encourage you to take time to pause...to feel the land beneath your feet...to focus on what you can see of the Land or water around you. Consider the Country you have travelled over...remember the Country where you grew up. Take the time now to honour the people who have cared for these lands and waterways for thousands of years...and all those who continue to connect, to care and to teach.

May we continue to work towards a sustainable future where the land is nurtured, respected, and shared by all.

Context - Mission Month

In January this year, Pope Francis declared that the theme for World Mission Day would be, 'Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples.' It is to remind members of the Catholic Church to be messengers and builders of hope, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Call to mission is a big part of the Christian identity. Catholic Mission is the Pope's international Mission agency in Australia. They partner with communities all around the world, supporting a range of projects, building capacity and serving those in need.

Catholics share the Good News by not only sharing the Word, but by action. Catholics are called to live the Gospel messages of compassion and love, encountering those most in need, those who may be different to us, those on the fringes of society, those who have no voice, those who go without and those lost and forgotten. People struggle every day not having access to clean water, to the food they need or to an education. Even the small things we do can help to make a difference.



"...the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts" (Gaudium et Spes)¹.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Cairns
Learning with Faith and Vision

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12 NRSVCE

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“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 receive 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 for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

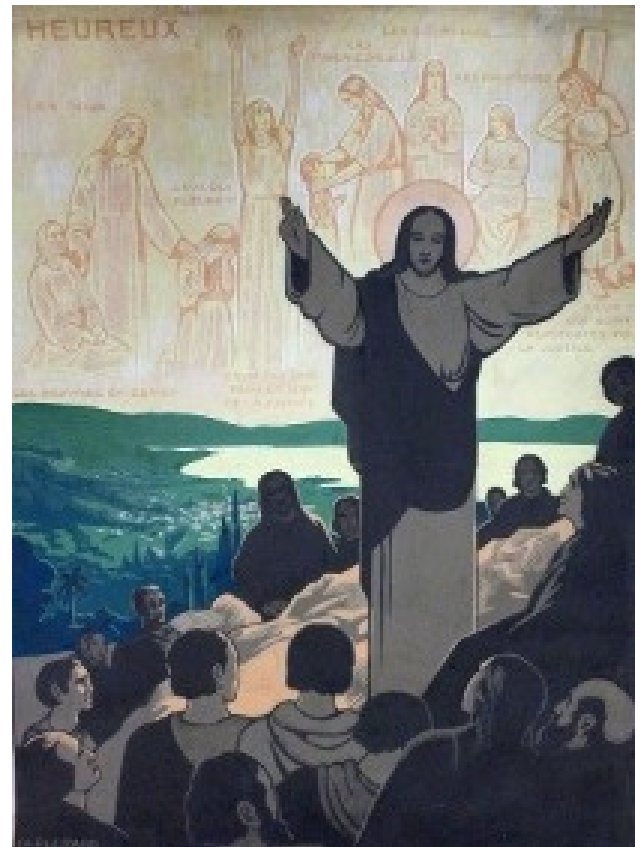


Figure 1: Depiction of the Sermon on the Mount, Charles Plessard. Sacred Art Meditations, Accessed October 9, 2025 <http://sacredartmeditations.com/life/detail/44>

Reflection

This reading is the beginning of Jesus public ministry in Matthew’s Gospel. The Sermon should shape and characterise the life of the Christian community. Jesus addresses his disciples in the presence of the sick. The disciples come to Jesus as Teacher. He is to tell them who they must be and how they should live, for themselves and for the betterment of all people.

The Beatitudes are invitations to adopt certain attitudes and live out values in a particular vision of God. Sometimes when we live in this way, it can make us different to others and people can be persecuted for it. To be poor in spirit (as well as being actually poor); to be gentle and unselfish, rather than on the make; to be prepared to weep alongside the unfortunate rather than avoid them; to work for justice and peace; to exercise mercy and be single-minded in pursuit of the good (‘pure in heart’); to be ready to face tough times for the sake of the gospel: all these things can make one vulnerable here and now and it can be hard. But then we have to note the second part each beatitude, the reason for the ‘blessedness’. ‘Shall be comforted’, ‘shall be satisfied’, ‘shall have mercy shown to them’, and the others, tell us of the action of God.²

The Beatitudes teach us that those who follow Jesus or adopt his way of life, are blessed. It is a bit like saying congratulations. Be humble, be compassionate, stand up for what is right, trust in God.



Prayer

O God, you send us out as messengers
of joy, peace, and justice.

May your Spirit guide our every step.
As missionaries of hope, may we lift each other up,
care for creation and bring your love to the world.
Amen.

Call to Action

- The Catholic Mission website gives a clear message on the need to act. "Together, we have the power to create change and build a more just world for people everywhere. By supporting missionaries in their work, we can create life-changing opportunities for countless children, families, and communities worldwide. Join us in making a difference for our sisters and brothers."³
- Investigate the Catholic Mission website to stay up to date with some of the projects they are involved in around the world, such as those in Zambia, Timor-Leste and Myanmar.
- Help to promote organisations such as Catholic Mission in your families, your parish, your communities.
- Donate to a missionary project or cause within or outside of Australia.
- Get involved through schools with special initiatives such as Socktober, by wearing crazy socks or playing a game of soccer with handmade soccer balls.
- Explore the 'Get Involved' section of Catholic Mission's website for ideas on how to contribute:
<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved>
- Pray for those in need in the community and the world. Join a prayer group, spend time in prayer with Jesus through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Monday to Saturday at Holy Cross Church), attend a local Mass or pray at home with your family.
- Dialogue around the dinner table on the themes of mission and compassion.

References

1. Paul VI Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World). Encyclical Letter. Vatican website. 1965 https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html
2. Byrne, Brendan. Lifting the Burden: Reading Matthew's Gospel in the Church today. St Pauls Publications, 2004
3. Author Surname, First Name. "Let's Celebrate World Mission Month!" Catholic Mission. Accessed 2nd October, 2025. <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth>.