

# Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 16 February 2025 • Psalter Week 2

## COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT

LUKE 6:17, 20-26



In the Old Testament, Moses came down a mountain to announce God's word - the Ten Commandments - to his people.

In today's Gospel Jesus also descends a mountain, to announce his word to the assembled crowd. He preaches with beatitudes and woes. (Luke's account of the beatitudes is different to Matthew's. Matthew has nine beatitudes. Luke has four beatitudes but also four woes.)

For anyone who is poor, hungry, who weeps, who is hated, Jesus has comforting words. He calls these people blessed. But for those who are rich, who are full, who laugh, and who are honoured, he has harsh words. Woe to you, he tells them.

Jesus' words can seem puzzling and severe. They turn our commonly accepted notion of what is good and bad upside down. He seems to be saying that it's a good thing to be poor, hungry, weeping and hurt; a bad thing to be rich, well fed, laughing, and to be spoken well of.

But Jesus isn't lauding poverty, hunger or hurt as things to be desired in themselves. They are not to be sought after. They should be avoided, if possible. Nor is Jesus condemning a social class. As he knows only too well, virtues and vices do not belong to any one particular group.

Jesus' beatitudes are addressed to his disciples, to those who are involved in building God's kingdom. And they are words of consolation and of promise. Jesus knows that things won't be easy for them. They will suffer for preaching the Gospel. They will face rejection, betrayal, and tears. But the promise is of better things to come. Jesus is assuring his disciples that while a life dedicated to God will bring difficulties and hardships, God will overcome them. Provided they remain faithful, their tears will turn to laughter. They will be blessed. ■

### SAY

"Lord, give me the courage to speak your truth always. Amen."

### LEARN

The poor and the abandoned are especially close to God's heart. Social solidarity is a keystone of the Christian life.



### DO

Reflect on today's Gospel. What values do you live by?

### PRAY

There is so much inequality and injustice in our world. Pray for a more just world.

### REFLECT

I never got to meet him. On the very day I arrived in the Philippines - 11 July 1985 - Rudy Romano was reported missing. Rudy was a Redemptorist priest based in the city of Cebu. He left the monastery on his motorbike that day and never returned. Ominously, his bike was discovered on a street downtown, and locals described how he had been surrounded by what looked like military vehicles. He had been bundled into a truck which sped away.

Immediately, the Redemptorists began a campaign to find Rudy. Search parties were sent out, demonstrations were held, posters were distributed, local and national media were contacted. An appeal was made to President Ferdinand Marcos to intervene, while pressure was piled on him from Ireland, the Vatican and around the world. But Rudy was never found. It became clear early on that he had been murdered by the military who had then dumped his body.

Rudy was martyred because of his work for justice. He was an outspoken critic of the repressive Marcos regime, so they decided

to silence him. Rudy heard the cry of the poor, he stood alongside those without a voice, and the authorities couldn't tolerate it. He was a nuisance, so they had to shut him up. In speaking out on behalf of the poor, Rudy Romano was living the beatitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount is the first great sermon in Matthew's account of the life of Jesus. Luke doesn't have a 'Sermon on the Mount.' Instead, he has what is called 'The Sermon on the Plain.' Though shorter than Matthew's version, it contains much of the same material.

But a major difference between them is that Luke adds a series of 'woe-sayings.' 'Woe to you (or alas for you) who are rich... who have your fill ... who laugh now ...'. In using these woe sayings, Luke is going back to the Old Testament prophets, who often condemned the people to whom they preached by using woe sayings. Just as the beatitude sayings are using a different standard to judge people as fortunate, the woe sayings use a different standard to measure misfortune. One might expect the rich, those with enough to eat, those the

world considers fortunate, to be the happy ones. But that's not how Luke sees it.

In drawing this sharp contrast, Luke is pointing to Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). The mother of Jesus praises God for overturning the social and political order of the world - toppling the thrones of the powerful and lifting up those at the bottom of the heap, filling the hungry with good things, sending the rich away empty.

For Luke, reversing the oppressive order of the world is part of the Messiah's work, part of the work of the Gospel.

Despite the progress of recent decades, much remains to be done to create a just world. Many millions remain hungry, the poor still weep bitterly, those who fight for justice are opposed and imprisoned. Is it all a pipe dream? Or is it a challenge to rethink the values we live by? We may not have to risk our lives, as Rudy Romano did, for the Gospel. But we must be a voice of justice and truth in our time and place, speaking always with courage. ■



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace  
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:

'Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.  
He is like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see any good come.  
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

'Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 1:1-2. 3. 4. 6. R. Psalm 40(39):5a

**R: Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the LORD.**

1. Blessed indeed is the man  
who follows not the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the path with sinners,  
nor abides in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the LORD,  
and who ponders his law day and night. **R.**
2. He is like a tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they, like winnowed chaff,  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,  
how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?  
For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.  
And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are  
still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ  
have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of  
all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from  
the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Luke 6:23ab

**R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord,  
for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

**R: Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** Luke 6:17. 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a level  
place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of  
people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre  
and Sidon. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:  
'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.  
Blessed are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your  
name as evil

on account of the Son of Man!

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in heaven;  
for so their fathers did to the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.  
Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

Woe to you, when all people speak well of you,  
for so their fathers did to the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse and renew us  
and may it become for those who do your will  
the source of eternal reward.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.*

Or

*God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always long  
for that food by which we truly live.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



St Patrick's Church  
King Street  
Wellington  
TF1 3AP

# THE BEACON

Our Lady of the Rosary  
& St Luke's Church  
Church Road, Trench  
TF2 7HG

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco

M: 07447 632733 E: fr ravi.bosco@gmail.com

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michal Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org

Safeguarding & Parish Office: Moira Shrimpton M: 07540 723614

Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423

**16 FEBRUARY 2025**

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat	15th	17:30	John Dooney (Health)	St Patrick's
	16th	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
<b>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		09:00	Tom Sellers Anniversary / Raymond Dyche RIP	Our Lady's
		11:00	Liza Mraqaj (Health)	St Patrick's
Mon	17th	<b>Ferial</b>		
Tues	18th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		12:00	Annamma Antony RIP	St Patrick's
Wed	19th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		12:00	Service of Word & Communion	Our Lady's
Thurs	20th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		19:00	Service of Word & Communion & RCIA	St Patrick's
Fri	21st	<b>Ferial</b>		
		12:00	Service of Word & Communion	St Patrick's
		18:00	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
<b>BISHOP MARK'S PASTORAL LETTER</b>				
Sat	22nd	17:30	Joyce Mary Whittle RIP	St Patrick's
Sun	23rd	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
<b>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		09:00	Kelvin Romero RIP	Our Lady's
		11:00	Dumitru Puiu	St Patrick's

### SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

**RIP:** Leith Boxer (Funeral 7<sup>th</sup> March)

We Pray for all those whose Anniversaries are at this time.

**BAPTISMS:** Please contact Fr Ravi to book a place

for the next preparatory session on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Weekly Offerings:** Total: £1257.70 - Standing Orders £728 (£539.25 Gift Aided), Envelopes £529.70 (£468 Gift Aided), Loose Plate £452.32 (Not Gift Aided). We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable. Please consider using envelopes or Standing orders and complete a Gift Aid declaration.

Thanks to some extra donations the Retired Priests Collection final amount is £695.80

**Bank details:** St Patrick Wellington

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54546760

Our Lady & St Luke Telford

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54582160

### ROTAS

**Sat 5.30:** W: Vince & Veronica, EM: Gay **Next Week:** W: Kevin & Katrina EM: Nicky

**Sun 9:** W: Alex & Janet, EM: Francis, C: Laura & Edith **Next Week:** W: Laura & Phillip EM: Terry C: Matt & Liz

**Sun 11:** W: Oluchi & Adrian, EM: Mac, C: Maggie & Gail **Next Week:** W: Mac & Carmen EM: Krystyna C: Diane & Collette

***There is no Children's liturgy session this week and next as it is half term.***

***There will be a Family Mass on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Children's liturgy will recommence on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March.***

*The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity (No.234025)*

### DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice).

**LIVESTREAM:** Our Masses from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>



**FEBRUARY MASS ARRANGEMENTS:** We are grateful to Fr Joe Donlan and Fr Bill Fitzgerald who are covering our Sunday masses this weekend and next. Fr Joe will celebrate Masses on Tuesdays.

**LENT 2025:** All are invited to our Ash Wednesday masses as we mark the beginning of Lent on 5<sup>th</sup> March, with children from our two parish schools joining our daytime masses: 10am at St Patrick's; 2pm at OLOR&SL; 7pm at St Patrick's.

Fr John Rafferty will lead our Lenten reflections on the weekend of 5-6 April.

Lenten Reconciliation celebrations led by Fr Chris Walsh will be on Wednesday, 9 April at OLOR & SL and Thursday 10 April at St Patrick's, both at 7pm.

Easter Triduum (17-20/4) schedule will be announced after our Parish Conversations.

**PARISH CONVERSATIONS:** We continue to discern our life and mission together as we listen and learn from one another at our parish conversations – Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at St Patrick's and Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 10am at OLOR&SL. All are welcome.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**BAPTISM:** The next preparation course is at 12 noon at St Patrick's on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. All those families preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish are strongly encouraged to attend at least one preparatory session before the celebration and to attend Sunday masses in our parish regularly.

**RCIA:** Eight candidates, who have been participating regularly in our Sunday masses for about a year, have now begun their RCIA journey together with their sponsors and parish catechists on Thursday evenings. We look forward to the Easter vigil when they will be baptised/received into full communion in the Church. The candidates and those accompanying them are invited to a day of Reflection with Bishop Mark at St Columba's Chester on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, from 10am onwards and to the Rite of Election at Shrewsbury Cathedral on Sunday, 9 March at 2.30pm.

### FIRST FORGIVENESS AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We have Classes have begun and we have 54 Candidates this year.

**MARRIAGE -** A marriage preparation course for couples getting married this year will take place on two Saturdays at **Our Lady of the Rosary Church Road, Trench on 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May**. Please email Jane Deegan: [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) to register.

**DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE:** The 2025 Diocesan Mass for Marriage will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at Holy Angels, Hale Barns. Parishioners celebrating a significant marriage anniversary please contact the office with your names (couples), address and which significant anniversary is being celebrated during 2025 for an invitation from Bishop Mark.

Please email Jane Deegan to register:

[jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)



**DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025:** During this Jubilee Year our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be our principal Jubilee Pilgrimage.

The dates for 2025 are: By air: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July. By coach: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 01<sup>st</sup> August.

**Information packs including application forms are now available from the porch tables.**

**Youth Pilgrimage:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Friday 01<sup>st</sup> August. Please apply directly with Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team. [youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK** is an important aspect of our parish mission and we have around 47 people in our parish who receive regular visits from Fr Ravi and communion visits from our parishioners. Please do let us know if anyone needs a visit and they will be included in Fr Ravi's Lenten visits in March.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: FRIDAY 7TH MARCH AT 1PM AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH TF2 9LT:** Resources for this year's service have been developed by women in the Cook Islands.

Please come, bring your friends and join us as we re-introduce this annual event to Telford. All are welcome. The service will be led by local women.

Parking is available at St George's Social Club and refreshments will be available after the service. For further information, contact Catharine Dixon or Pauline Heffernan ([paulineheffernan60@gmail.com](mailto:paulineheffernan60@gmail.com))

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** CWL would like to thank parishioners who bought our Raffle tickets, donated gifts or attended the Annual Parish meal. The Raffle raised £370 for Mary's Meals. If you have won a prize please come to the Meeting Room after Mass to collect it.

**WALSINGHAM UPDATE:** It has been decided that the Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place: **depart Tuesday 30th September, return Friday 3rd October (3 night stay)**

Accommodation at Elmham House: standard rooms £74 per person per night £222 in total, ensuite rooms £93 per person per night £279 in total: includes breakfast and evening meal. Travel available via a minibus, cost c£110 per person.

**If you are interested and wish to confirm your place and room requirements, please contact Alex & Janet Beyer on 01952 410315 or email [a.beyer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:a.beyer@blueyonder.co.uk)**

**Deadline to confirm your booking and pay your deposit of £75 per person: Sunday 2nd March 2025. Details of how to pay next week.**