

THE *Beatitudes*

MATTHEW 5: 1-12

(REVISED STANDARD VERSION BIBLE)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And, He opened his mouth and taught them, saying ...



BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

How truly open are we to God's spirit? Do we seek to discern God's will through prayer, reflection, conversation, and the insights of each other? Are we willing to be shaped, moulded even transformed by the promptings of the spirit of God?



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

How compassionate are we? Are we willing to walk with the pain of another? Are we building authentic communities of love?



BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

Do we practise virtue, unpretentiousness, openness, simplicity, and hospitality? Would people experience us as living in cooperation with one another and being inclusive?



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED.

Do we strive to release people from oppression and ensure that everyone has what he or she needs? Do we serve the common good and exercise the social teachings of the Catholic church in daily living?



BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.

Do we show mercy to those who are struggling and misguided? Is our understanding and expression of mercy in keeping with the mercy shown to the prodigal son by his father?



BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

Are our Catholic educational communities places that foster the human soul and heart? Do we nourish them through prayer and the Eucharist? Are we a living expression of the Body of Christ?



BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

Are we artisans of shalom? Do we authentically model justice and actively create harmony and peace in our communities?



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 SO PEOPLE PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

Are we courageous enough to accept the prophetic call of Christian baptism? Do we seek to discern God's voice and follow it as we move through the events of our days? Are we prepared to challenge that which counters the Gospel message?