



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Vicariate website: rcvbd.com

PARISH PRIEST: REV. FR. PAUL SHIE

No.36, Jalan Bunga Raya, P.O.Box 143 Kuala Belait KA1189

Tel: 3334207 / Email: stjohchurchkb@gmail.com



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

Reading I: Zephaniah 2:3. 3:12-13

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

For Private Circulation Only

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Revised Roman Missal: 494

REFLECTION

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favored. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

DISCUSSION

1. What difference does it make to you to consider the Beatitudes in terms of your identity rather than moral obligations?
2. Which of the Beatitudes do you like? Why? Which of them is difficult for you? Why?
3. When have you been aware of being blessed in Christ?
4. How has the blessedness in Christ been manifested whenever you were poor, mourning, meek, hungry or persecuted?

SECOND COLLECTION

Let's support our priests' future well-being. A second collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend for the Priests' Retirement Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS CLASSES 2026

Registration for Religious Classes will be today after the 9.00am Mass in the Parish Hall. Registration fee is at \$25 per child. This will be followed by Parents' General Assembly.

BIBLE SHARING SESSION

Everyone is invited to a Bible Sharing session tomorrow, Monday, 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for everyone young and old to discover the extraordinary Word of God with one another. You may bring your bibles for a different translation. The Sunday School kids will be in the Conference room.

DEVOTIONS TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

The First Friday of the month on 6th February will be devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The First Saturday of the month on 7th February will be devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

FR PAUL'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Next Sunday, 8th February, we will be celebrating Fr Paul's Birthday after the 9.00am Mass in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to join in the celebrations.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Meet Parish Priest SIX MONTHS before the intended date of marriage.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Baptism and Confirmation Certificate.
- ◆ Marriage Preparation Certificate if you are from another Parish.
- ◆ Civil Marriage Certificate if applicable.
- ◆ IC's copy for both candidates and witnesses.
- ◆ Photo (Passport size).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ADMIN AT WHATSAPP 8348855

REGISTRATION FOR INFANT BAPTISM

Open for children aged 7 years old and below.

SCHEDULE: Every THIRD week of the month.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Child's Birth Certificate.
- ◆ Parent's Sacrament of Matrimony Certificate.
- ◆ Godparent's Confirmation Certificate

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ADMIN AT WHATSAPP 8348855

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

It is available 30 minutes before Sunday Mass or you may request for an appointment through the Parish Office Admin at WhatsApp 8348855

OLD BLESSED PALM LEAVES

Please return last years' blessed palm leaves by placing them in the box provided. These palms will be used for Ash Wednesday, 18th February.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ORDINATION TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS

We are delighted to announce **our seminarian, KAREL ANAK TINGANG**, will be called to the Order of Deacon (Transitional) on **Monday, 23rd February, at 5.00pm** at our Parish.

Let us offer our prayerful support as he continue his sacred journey of service to the Church in the Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam.

DATE	TIME	READINGS
2 February—Monday The Presentation of The Lord	5.30pm (Mass)	Mal 3: 1-4 Heb 2: 14-18 Lk 2: 22-40
3 February—Tuesday 4th Week, Ordinary Time	5.30pm (Mass)	2 Sam 18: 9-10, 14: 24-25, 30—19: 3 Mk 5: 21-43
4 February—Wednesday 4th Week, Ordinary Time	5.30pm (Mass) <i>(NO Holy Hour)</i>	2 Sam 24: 2, 9-17 Mk 6: 1-6
5 February—Thursday 4th Week, Ordinary Time	5.30pm (Mass)	1 Kgs 2: 1-4, 10-12 Mk 6: 7-13
6 February—Friday 4th Week, Ordinary Time	5.30pm (Mass) <i>(Followed by Devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus)</i>	Ecclus 47: 2-13 Mk 6: 14-29
7 February—Saturday 3rd Week, Ordinary Time	5.30pm (Mass) <i>(Followed by Devotion to Immaculate Heart of Mary)</i>	1 Kgs 3: 4-13 Mk 6: 30-34
8 February—Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am (Mass) 6.00pm (Mass)	Is 58: 7-10 1 Cor 2: 1-5 Mt 5: 13-16