ST PATRICK'S, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S, STELLA MARIS & ST JOSEPH'S

Partnered Parishes of Mentone-Parkdale and Ricketts Point (Beaumaris & Black Rock)

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15th February 2026

St Patrick's, 10 Rogers St, Mentone

St John Vianney's, Cnr Warren Rd & Brisbane Tce, Parkdale

Stella Maris, 2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris

St Joseph's, 542 Balcombe Rd, Black Rock

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil:	6:00pm	*(Mentone)*
Sunday:	8:00am	*(Black Rock)*
Sunday:	9:00am	*(Parkdale)*
Sunday:	10:30am	*(Beaumaris)*
Sunday:	11:00am	*(Mentone)*
Sunday:	5:00pm	*(Mentone)*

'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them.' (*Mt* 5:17)

A common assumption one often finds is that 'Jesus came to relax all the laws'. Yet in today's gospel *(longer form)* we see the very opposite: he actually seems to make things a whole lot stricter. So he says we must avoid not only killing or adultery, but even abusive speech or lustful desires; and 'if your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell.' (*Mt* 5:29)

To understand more deeply what is going on, we think about two types of law:

1. Laws of basic goodness that God has written into the very nature of human beings – laws of love, mercy, truth, sincerity, justice, purity, respect, peace. Typical violations of these laws are the sins forbidden by the Ten Commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal…'

Jesus in no way lessened these laws: rather, as in today's gospel, he showed us their full power and extent. This is because these laws are not arbitrary rules that 'enslave' us: rather, following them is essential to living a life that is fully human, fully loving, fully free.

Such laws (once their core meaning has been accurately identified) admit no exceptions: we are never 'free' to violate the human dignity of ourselves or others by killing the innocent, or abusive speech, or adultery, or lustful thoughts, or lying, or blasphemy, and so on.

2. Laws not part of the very nature of things, so including a more 'arbitrary' aspect.

- These laws, given by rightful authority, rule on what is good order in a specific time and place. They might be from God himself (e.g. the ceremonial laws for Jews in Old Testament times; or the law of especially keeping every *seventh* day holy – the Sabbath (Saturday) for the Jews before Christ, or the Lord's Day (Sunday) for Christians).

- Or, they might be from the Church, in virtue of the law-making power Christ gave to the Apostles and their Successors (e.g. once Catholics turn 14 they must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; once they turn 7 they must keep holy the Lord's Day specifically by taking part in the Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday).

- Or, they might be from the State (e.g. in Australia, citizens must vote once they turn 18; we must drive on the left-hand side of the road).

Despite their inevitable 'arbitrary' aspect (why left, not right? why abstinence at 14, not 16?) such laws are good and useful. Normally (and depending on the lawgiver's intention) to break them is a sin of disobedience.

However, Jesus showed by his example (e.g. healing on the Sabbath) that we must interpret such laws with common sense. Thus, they do admit of exceptions in circumstances where keeping them would be unreasonable. For example, we may miss Sunday Mass if we are sick; we may swerve onto the right-hand side of the road to avoid hitting someone. ***[continued p. 3]***

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Justin Ford **Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Nguyen
Presbytery: 10 Rogers St, Mentone 3194 **Office:** 3 Mitchell St, Mentone 3194 **Office hours:** 9am-5pm (Mon, Tues and Thurs)
Phone: 9583 2103 **Email:** *mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au* **Website:** *www.sspjv.org*

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon 16 Feb	11:00am *(Mentone)*
Tue 17 Feb	9:15am *(Mentone)*
Wed 18 Feb	**ASH WEDNESDAY *(Fast & Abstinence)***
	9:15am *(Mentone & Beaumaris)*
	(School Masses—all welcome)
	7:00pm *(Mentone)*
	7:30pm *(Black Rock)*
Thu 19 Feb	9:15am *(Mentone & Beaumaris)*
Fri 20 Feb	9:15am *(Mentone & Black Rock)*
Sat 21 Feb	9:15am *(Mentone & Beaumaris)*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Patrick's Mentone every Friday following 9:15am Mass until 4:30 Benediction.

Exposition at Stella Maris Beaumaris every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

Wednesdays following 9:15am Mass *(Mentone)*, **Saturdays** following 9:15am Mass *(Mentone & Beaumaris)* and at 5:15pm *(Mentone)*.

Recently Deceased:

Vanessa Crowhurst, Lorna Barnett, Leo Rundle, Melvyn Docker, Amel

Anniversaries:

Adrian Hughes, Angela Sampieri, Owen Finegan, Mary Pat Hubert

We pray for those who are sick:

Fr James Grant, Aliai Coyle-Madut, Max Byers, Jim Lacey, Janis Williams, Mirella Townsend, Nick Bond, Michael Papworth, Ching Price, Alan Laver, Florence Dunn, Peter & Kaye McCall

Children's Choir rehearsals continue every Wednesday after school 3:30pm, in the Parish Music Room, 3 Mitchell St.

The choir will sing at the 5:00pm Mass, Sunday February 22nd.

St Patrick's Young Catholics Gathering Meetings resume March 2026.

BANKING DETAILS For direct credit to Parish accounts:

Presbytery:	083347 6808 76937
Mentone-Parkdale - Church:	083347 6815 62913
Nazareth Parish - Church:	083347 6864 78067

Our Parishes are committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all persons. A copy of our Child Safety policy is on the noticeboard in our churches and on our website ***www.sspjv.org***

ROSTERS 21/22 Feb

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	**Commentator/Reader**	P Mount
	Extraordinary Minister	J Mount
11:00am	**Commentator/Reader**	S Tobin
	Extraordinary Minister	M Nicholas
5:00pm	**Commentator/Reader**	J Hughes
	Extraordinary Minister	A Moore

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	**Reader**	T Warnock
	Commentator	J Short
	Extraordinary Minister	M Lindstrom

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	**Reader**	M Webster
	Commentator	G Shea
	Extraordinary Minister	K Lowe
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	K Lowe

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	**Reader**	G Stockdale
	Commentator	C Sherman
	Extraordinary Minister	Sr Patricia

Readings *next* week: 1st Sunday of Lent - Yr A

Genesis:	2: 7-9, 3: 1-7
Romans:	5: 12-19
Matthew:	4: 1-11

TODAY, SUNDAY, AFTER 11AM MASS:

[continued from p. 1] Beyond all this, regarding the Jewish ceremonial laws (e.g. temple worship; circumcision; Saturday as the holy day), with Jesus fulfilling their prophetical symbolism, these ceremonial laws are no longer binding in the New Covenant.

To sum up, an across-the-board 'anti-law' attitude is contrary to Jesus' actual teaching. As he says: 'The man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven.' (*Mt* 5:19)

So always with the laws of basic goodness written into human nature, but in normal circumstances also with the other laws, following them is the path of true love, freedom and happiness.

In today's gospel from the Sermon on the Mount, we hear the teaching of Jesus on anger and abusive speech; lustful desires; and the use of oaths. Here are some passages from the 1992 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' and the 2005 'Compendium of the Catechism' that further explain his teaching.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT: YOU SHALL NOT KILL

'But I say to you, Anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

2302 By recalling the commandment, 'You shall not kill,' our Lord asked for peace of heart and denounced murderous anger and hatred as immoral.

Anger is a desire for revenge. 'To desire vengeance in order to do evil to someone who should be punished is illicit,' but it is praiseworthy to impose restitution 'to correct vices and maintain justice.' (St Thomas Aquinas) If anger reaches the point of a deliberate desire to kill or seriously wound a neighbour, it is gravely against charity; it is a mortal sin. The Lord says, 'Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment.' (*Mt* 5:22)

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT: YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S WIFE

'But I say to you, If a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.'

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

528 *What is forbidden by the ninth commandment?*

The ninth commandment forbids cultivating thoughts and desires connected to actions forbidden by the sixth commandment.

529 *How does one reach purity of heart?*

In the battle against disordered desires the baptised person is able, by the grace of God, to achieve purity of heart through the virtue and gift of chastity, through purity of intention, purity of vision (both exterior and interior), discipline of the imagination and of feelings and by prayer.

530 *What are the other requirements for purity?*

Purity requires modesty which, while protecting the intimate centre of the person, expresses the sensitivity of chastity. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with the dignity of persons and their communion. Purity frees one from wide-spread eroticism and avoids those things which foster morbid curiosity. Purity also requires a purification of the social climate by means of a constant struggle against moral permissiveness which is founded on an erroneous conception of human freedom.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT: YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN

'But I say to you, Do not swear at all…
Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No".'

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

2150 The second commandment forbids false oaths…

2151 …A false oath calls on God to be witness to a lie.

2152 A person commits perjury when he makes a promise under oath with no intention of keeping it, or when after promising on oath he does not keep it. Perjury is a grave lack of respect for the Lord of all speech. Pledging oneself by oath to commit an evil deed is contrary to the holiness of the divine name.

2153 In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained the second commandment: 'You have heard that it was said to the men of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you, Do not swear at all…Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.' Jesus teaches that every oath involves a reference to God and that God's presence and his truth must be honoured in all speech. Discretion in calling upon God is allied with a respectful awareness of his presence, which all our assertions either witness to or mock.

2154 Following St. Paul, (cf. *2 Cor* 1:23; *Gal* 1:20) the tradition of the Church has understood Jesus' words as not excluding oaths made for grave and right reasons (for example, in court).

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15th February 2026

HYMNS:

Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday
Parkdale 9am Sunday
Mentone 5pm Sunday

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin
Entrance: 543 Lord of Creation, To You Be All Praise
Offertory: *Pastorale* in F major BWV 590 - J. S. Bach
Communion: 560 Now Let Us From This Table Rise
Recessional: 561 Now Thank We All Our God

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin
Entrance: 543 Lord of Creation, To You Be All Praise
Offertory: Motet: *Ubi Caritas* - M. Durufle
Communion: Motet: *Ave Verum* - W. Byrd
626 This Is My Will, My One Command
Recessional: 561 Now Thank We All Our God
Postlude: *Finale Jubilante* - Healey Willan

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance: 802 Seek O Seek the Lord
Offertory: 397 Lord, I Love Your Commands
Communion: 739 Lord of Creation
Recessional: 758 O Breathe On Me

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Seek O Seek the Lord
Offertory: Pray God Grant Us
Communion: O Breathe On Me
Recessional: Create A New Heart

Today's readings: 6th OT Year A

Sirach: 15: 15-20
1 Corinthians : 2: 6-10
Matthew : 5: 17-37

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!
Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Parish Census

Our parish is currently undertaking a Parish Census to help us better understand our parish community and support its ongoing life and mission.

By completing the census card available at Mass, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also assist the parish to plan effectively for ministries, important events, and future parish initiatives.

Census cards and pencils are available at the end of pews, or in the church foyers. Only one card per household needs to be filled in.

If you took your census card home last week to fill out, please return it in either the First or Second Collection.

If you are only collecting your census card today, you can either fill the card out at Mass, and place it in either of the Collections; or you can take it home with you to fill out, and return it in next week's Collection.

Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your participation.

Lent begins this Wednesday, 18 February : Parish Mass Times for Ash Wednesday

9:15 am *(Mentone) (School Mass)* 9:15 am *(Beaumaris) (School Mass)*
7:00 pm *(Mentone)* 7:30 pm *(Black Rock)*

Ash Wednesday - Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. Abstinence from meat binds those aged 14 and over; fasting binds from our 18th birthday until our 59th birthday. The sick are excused.

On a 'day of fast', as a minimal requirement we eat only one full meal - with the possibility of one or two snacks, but together not adding up to the full meal; there is no eating between any of these meals, though drinking is permitted.

Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's and Stella Maris – Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm – starts this Friday