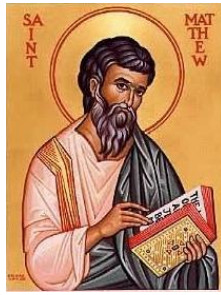


# The Gospel of Matthew



The early Church held the Gospel of Matthew in great esteem: it was placed first among the Four Gospels, and it was the most quoted one. The words and commands of Jesus in this Gospel were considered to be His plan for us. Gospel spirituality, free of frills and rooted in the basic teachings of Jesus, would automatically flow from the Gospel of Matthew. Here are a few basic ideas to help understand Matthew's Gospel, along with some suggestions for using it in your daily life.

## *What is Matthew's Gospel about?*

The *Oxford Annotated Bible* says, in the introduction of Matthew's Gospel, that it "is a manual of Christian teaching...." Matthew describes Jesus as the fulfillment of God's will. Matthew goes out of his way to show how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. He wants to establish Jesus' authority. The actions and words of Jesus are recorded from the stories people had been recalling about Jesus, and from some of the written testimony about Jesus. While the events in Jesus' life are arranged in general biographical order, Matthew groups the sayings of Jesus by subject matter.

## *What is the Gospel's unique feature?*

This Gospel focuses on the *words* of Jesus in a similar way that Mark's Gospel focuses on *actions*. Matthew's Gospel is a collection of teaching on specific themes, which cover 28 Chapters.

Chapters 5 to 7 focus on the *Sermon on the Mount*. This includes the *Beatitudes* and Jesus' words about forgiveness and generosity. In these Chapters, Jesus tells us if we are offering of gift of the altar and we remember that we have a problem with a brother or sister, we should stop. After we reconcile with one another, then we can offer our gift. These Chapters give us detailed instruction for leading the Gospel.

In Chapter 10, Jesus gives instructions to missionaries. He tells them not to take gold or extra clothes. They are to rely upon God and preach the kingdom. We need to follow these instructions: to rely on God and to preach the kingdom by the love we show in our lives.

In Chapter 13, Matthew shows us *The Parables of the Kingdom*. Jesus tells us the parable of the farmer who

went to sow seed and some fell on the footpath and it was eaten by the birds. Some fell on thorns, and other seed fell on good soil. Jesus goes on to tell parables about the weeds and the good seed and how the kingdom is like: a mustard seed, yeast and a treasure in a field. Jesus promotes sincerity, God's love and other themes. The Gospel provides a picture of what Jesus talked about in His mission.

## *What does the Gospel try to show?*

The effort is to show the majesty of Jesus. It starts out with Jesus' genealogy, beginning with Abraham. Then, the Gospel points out that Jesus had royal ancestry and connect him with King David. The *Infancy narratives* follow. Matthew takes great pains to show that Jesus is the One to whom the prophets of Israel referred. Early in the Gospel, Matthew pictures Jesus rejected by His people and accepted by the Gentiles. The *Passion and Resurrection* narratives also show the majesty of Jesus.

## *When was the Gospel of Matthew written?*

If we follow the generally accepted tradition that Matthew relied upon the text of Mark's Gospel, we can fix the date after 64 and before 80 A.D.

*How can we use this Gospel in our daily lives?* Just as the Gospel of Mark shows us the actions of God, the Gospel of Matthew shows us the words of God.

Chapters 5 through 7 show us how Jesus would instruct us in the new lessons of daily living. We can meditate on the new commands, the *Beatitudes*. We can learn just how much Jesus wants us to love one another. We even have the practical examples of giving up our possessions and submitting ourselves to others. Each one of us can translate into our own lives and figures out what we need to improve to be able to live closer to the Gospel ideal.

In Chapter 6, we learn that the real motivation for everything we do is GOD, nothing else. Attempts to get recognition and acclaim for our good actions will not lead us to our true goal. In verse 9, we learn the beauty and simplicity of prayer from Jesus Himself. In verse 22, we see the importance of filling our minds with beautiful and holy thoughts. Meditating on Matthew's Gospel will show all of us how Jesus wants us to live.

We can see why the early Church placed this Gospel in such a prominent position and considered it with high regard. The early Christians considered it as God's plan for us. It is the outline of the mission of Jesus for us. We may not be able to live it perfectly; but with God's grace, we can strive toward the goal that lies ahead, and trust that Jesus will walk with us.

## Parish Week / Sunday, 10 August 2025

### Saturday, 9 Aug. / St. Eusebius of Vercelli, *bishop*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Bernadita Lumanlan Abogado (Anna & David)  
1.00 pm Wedding: Chris Ramlock Han & Princess Baniqued  
5.00 pm Mass: † Mike D'Mello (Jane Abraham)  
6.00 pm KOC Movie Night, featuring BEN HUR

### SUNDAY, 10 AUG. / 19-C

- Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo
- CWL: National Convention begins (Downtown Toronto Marriott)

- 9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Rufino Gomez (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (Brother)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

### Monday, 11 Aug. / St. Clare, *virgin*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Emile Tisseverasinghe (Mary)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Orazio Giovanni (family)

### Tuesday, 12 Aug. / St. Jane Frances de Chantal, *religious*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Caroline & Cyril Bastiampillai (family)

### Wed., 13 Aug. / Ss. Pontian, *pope* & Hippolytus, *priest, martyrs*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Domingo & Rose Garcia (Go Family)  
7.00 pm ► Mass at Christ the King Cemetery

### Thursday, 14 Aug. / St. Maximilian Kolbe, *priest & martyr*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Michela & Teresa Cifaldi (Irma Pisciola)

### Friday, 15 Aug. / Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Restituto Neiser De Angkinay (Edna & Carmelo)  
7.00 pm Assumption of Mary feast day Mass

### Saturday, 16 Aug. / St. Stephen of Hungary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Reynaldo Mercado (Staff of St. Maria Goretti School)  
1.00 pm Wedding: Jason Cruz & Pamela Mulla  
5.00 pm Mass: † Cyrilda Alagaratnam (Shirani Hemachandra & Leslie Alagaratnam)

### SUNDAY, 17 AUG. / 20-C

- Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Canadian Missions

- 9.00 am Mass: † Emilino Mawirat (Fely)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (Brother)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## The Knights of Columbus

- 9 Aug. **Movie Night**, featuring Ben Hur  
13 Sept. **Dinner Dance**, 6 – 10 pm



## Mass Intentions Requests for 2026

The *Mass Intention* book for 2026 is now open. The Parish Office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.



## Focus on the Word

### 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Wisdom 18.6-9; Hebrews 11.1-19; Luke 12.32-48

*Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Amen.*

### Catholic Cemetery Masses 7.00 pm, 13 August



The annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES this year will be offered at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 13 August. Our Parish will provide the liturgical support at Christ the King Cemetery; Bishop Nguyen will preside. See the posters on the Vestibule bulletin boards.

### Toronto Archdiocese Jubilee Pilgrimage *Martyrs' Shrine, 24 August*

Our Parish has a bus to join the Toronto Archdiocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to the MARTYRS' SHRINE: Sunday, 24 August, 8 am to 6 pm. Cost: \$35. To sign up, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425.

**T-SHIRTS:** Pilgrims may be interested in getting *Jubilee T-shirts*. We have a supplier who can provide the shirt in your choice of 7 colours for \$25, with the official logo imprinted. See the bulletin board posters for further details, and to order your shirt.

### RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

#### *The next meetings:*

RCIA Adults: 5, 12 September - 7.30 pm

RCIC Youth: 6, 13 September - 10.00 am.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: 17 August, *Canadian Missions*

Next Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection is for the *Canadian Missions Shared Collection*.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA (CMIC) was established in 1908, to provide support to Catholic missionaries (Priests, sisters, brothers & lay people) who dedicate their lives to proclaim the Gospel throughout the poorest regions in Canada.

CMIC and some selected DIOCESES IN NORTHERN CANADA, help sustain and extend the Catholic faith to hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada. See the website bulletin for more details.

## COMING UP

7019025

- 26 Aug. **Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic**, death anniversary (2011)  
28 Aug. Feast of **St. Augustine**  
31 Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Maintenance**  
7 Sept. ► **Canonization: Carlo Acutis, Pier Giorgio Frassati (Rome)**  
13 Sept. KOC Dinner Dance (6.30 pm)  
14 Sept. St. Vincent de Paul **Bundle Sunday**;  
- **Pope Leo XIV, birthday (1955)**;  
- ► **Annual Rosary Sunday** (Martyrs' Shrine)  
19 Sept. Memorial Mass: † Profetiza Diaz  
20 Sept. ► **Dine for the Shrine**: St. Theresa Parish Dinner & Dance (Qssis)  
21 Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Needs of the Church in Canada**;  
- SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS resumes at 10.30 am Mass

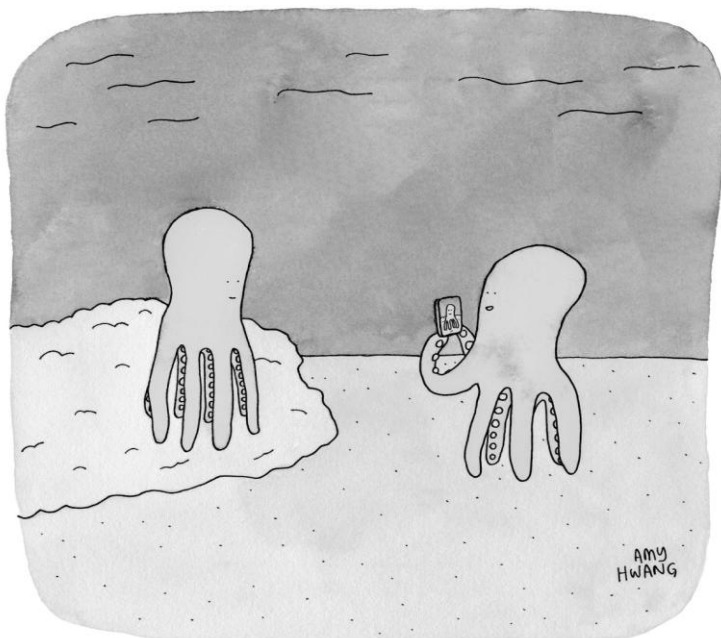




"Sometimes to get the last bit you have to tilt them."



Chinese dog panda (*Chow Chow*)



"Do something with your arms."



"No, he's not aggressive. But he's not very pleasant, either."



# Season of Creation

## 1 September – 4 October

*“To hope and act with God’s Creation”*

**Fr. Luis M. Melo**, Director, Office for Promoting Christian Unity

The SEASON OF CREATION challenges all Christians to care for God’s creation in prayer and action. In his message for the ‘*World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*’ in 2024, Pope Francis stressed that Christians are called to live in faith and charity, caring for the environment as “a task freely undertaken in obedience to Jesus’ commandment of love.”

As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

In his message for the 10<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, **Pope Leo XIV** denounced “environmental and social injustice; God’s creation is not intended to be a battleground for vital resources.”

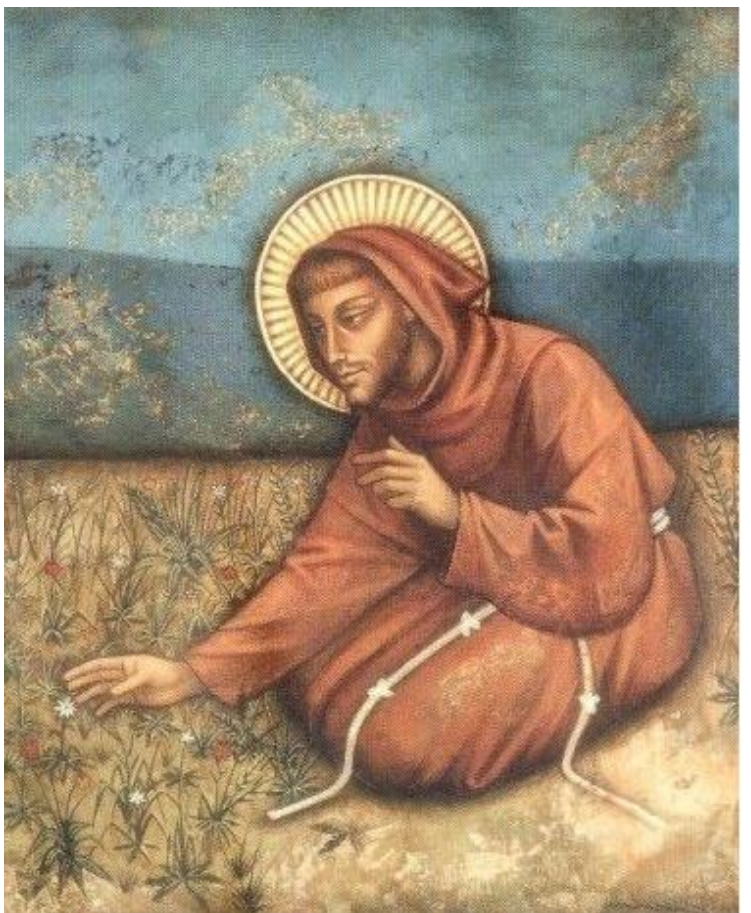
The SEASON OF CREATION began with **Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I** announcing a ‘*Day of Prayer for Creation*’ for the Orthodox Church on 1 September 1989. Many European churches followed, making it part of their calendar in 2001.

In the encyclical “*Laudato Si*” (2015) on *Care for our Common Home*, **Pope Francis** called the Church to observe this day as the beginning of a season ending on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.

The annual theme for the SEASON OF CREATION is chosen by an ecumenical committee. This Season may be observed with flexibility; resources may be adapted to local situations.

Here are some Intercessions we will be using on the five Sundays during the SEASON OF CREATION in the *Prayer of the Faithful* at Mass.

- That we may receive the grace to respect and care for God’s creation. We pray to the Lord.
- God of the land, the sea, the sky: Open our hearts to the rhythm of Creation in the swells of the ocean, the movements of air and wind, the breath of all living things. We pray to the Lord.
- God of Light, Life and Love: Help us understand the roots of the ecological crisis and give us wisdom to live resiliently in harmony with your Creation. We pray to the Lord.
- God of truth and justice: Guide us in paths of righteousness that help us to tread softly on the land and sail gently on the sea. We pray to the Lord.
- God of hope: Help us to trust that your reign of love is manifested in our common love- for you, for ourselves, for our neighbour and for your creation. We pray to the Lord.
- May St. Francis’ love for all creatures be reflected in our care for the environment. May we revere God’s handiwork in the world which surrounds us. We pray to the Lord.







Renovation & upgrading of the St. Maria Goretti School grounds, Summer 2025







