



St Brendan's & St Mary's Parishes are child safe communities. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

**16 February 2025**

**First Reading Jer 17:5-8**

*A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.*

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,  
who relies on things of flesh,  
whose heart turns from the Lord.  
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:  
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,  
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,  
a salt land, uninhabited.  
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,  
with the Lord for his hope.  
He is like a tree by the waterside  
that thrusts its roots to the stream:  
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,  
its foliage stays green;  
it has no worries in a year of drought,  
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5**

**(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**

- Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
nor sits in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord  
and who ponders his law day and night. (R.)
- 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.)
- Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they like winnowed chaff  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
For the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20**

*If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And

what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

**Gospel Acclamation Lk 6:23**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Rejoice and be glad;*

*your reward is great in heaven.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel Lk 6:17. 20-26**

*Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!*

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

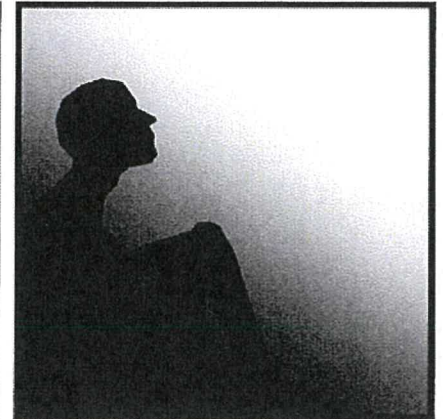
'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'



**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

*Blessed are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes?*

Jesus was not a 'pie in the sky' dreamer saying: 'You are destitute, hungry now. Don't worry, you will be okay in paradise in the long distant future.' *That would be a cruel celestial joke.*

Rather, Jesus was setting about the task of creating a new sort of society, the Kingdom of God on earth, in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are *blessed* in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

The Divine imperative is that His followers break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, much to laugh about. They must enter into the harsh reality of other people's destitute, starving, weeping lives. Woe to them if they do not.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that *other* world and recite the Beatitudes?

We might pause for a moment, recognise that Jesus' credibility is on the line, and pray that His Father's will be done on *earth* as it is in Heaven.

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# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton  
Phone: 5821 2633

Email: [shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

Website: [catholicparish.app/shepparton](http://catholicparish.app/shepparton)

Facebook: [sheppartoncatholic](https://www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic)

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr. Saji Thomas MST

Assistant Priest: Fr Adi Indra

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Safeguarding Officer: Kathy Hunt Ph: 5821 2633

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

## Readers & Commentators February 22 & February 23, 2025

6pm	Sr Bing	Dave Tarquini
8am	Sara White	Paul White
11am	Sharon Pivac	TBC

**Recently Deceased:** Philip Brady, Johnny Courtney

**Anniversaries:** Angela Rizzeri, Domenic Demasi, Jo Chilcott

## ST BRENDANS CHURCH

# YOUTH GROUP

YEARS 6-10

FEB 21

3:30 (For a 4pm start)-5.30pm

in the Pastoral Centre  
(hall behind the Church)

Join us for food, games  
and discussion

[shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

The **GARABANDAL PRAYER GROUP** will meet Monday, February 17 at 1.30pm in the Mary Mackillop room of the Parish Office (enter through the office).



## Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am



Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,

Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

St Mary's Dookie, Sunday 9.30am

## Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

## Reconciliation

Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

**Rosary**— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

## Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed

**Sacrament:** Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and  
Fridays 5pm to 6pm

## Bulletin Update

### St Brendan's and St Mary's Combined

We are now combining the bulletins for St Brendan's, Shepparton, and St Mary's, Dookie, while still remaining separate parishes.

If any parishioners from either parish community would like an announcement included in the bulletin, please email: [Shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:Shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) or contact 5821 2633.

Bulletin inserts are to be received by end of working day on Wednesdays.

## St Brendan's Friendship Group

We will meet at The Peppermill Inn, 7900 Goulburn Valley Highway, Shepparton for lunch on

Sunday, February 16, at 12.30pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

RSVP to Pat Simpson 0423 343 711  
(leave message)

## Enrol now for the

### 2025 Sacramental Programme

Families are asked to attend one of the following Masses. Remember to bring your Enrolment Form to the Mass and you will then be presented with your Welcome Pack.

Saturday February 22, 6pm Mass

Sunday February 23, 8am Mass

Sunday February 23, 11am Mass



## YOUNG ADULTS SUNSET SESSION

# GOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 28

AGED 18-35

All Young Adults are invited to join for a discussion in the Pastoral Centre (hall behind the church) and join us for dinner afterwards

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[SHEPPARTON.YM@SANDHURST.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU](mailto:SHEPPARTON.YM@SANDHURST.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU)

### Men's Group

Our next Men's group gathering is on Saturday February 22 at 7.30am. We are meeting at Stanley's Café at 48 High St Shepparton, for breakfast and a chance to meet in a more social setting. We would love to have you join us to meet some other men from surrounding areas.

If you have any questions, please call Anthony on 58212633 on Tuesday or Thursday or e-mail [shepparton.pastoral@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:shepparton.pastoral@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

### ST BRENDAN'S EARTHCARE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

We meet once a month usually on the third Thursday of the month. New members are needed and welcome.

Please call or leave a message on 0428 996 975.

*...a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." Pope Francis, Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, 49.*



Volunteers are needed to act, help, and assist with the Stations of the Cross. If you're interested in participating, please see Dale Wright after the 11 am Mass on Sundays.

### My Other Ministry: The Marriage Tribunal (part 1/2) by Fr Adi

While diocesan priests generally work in parishes, we are often called to other forms ministries as well. In my case, I also serve as a canon lawyer in the Marriage Tribunal of Victoria and Tasmania.

You might be wondering—what does a canon lawyer do? Or even before that, what is the Marriage Tribunal? I'll keep this one brief, but perhaps I can expand on it in a future bulletin.

The Marriage Tribunal primarily handles declarations of nullity (commonly known as annulments, though the term can be misleading...) for couples seeking clarity regarding their marriage status in the eyes of the Church. As a canon lawyer, I assist couples through interviews and also help the Court as the Defender of the Bond—essentially acting as a kind of “devil's advocate” (interesting comparison - more on that in the next bulletin!).

This ministry involves processing cases from home in Shepparton. However, every now and then I will also be away from the parish for a few days every few months—with the permission of Fr Joe and the Bishop—to work on-site at the Tribunal Office in East Melbourne.

*Please keep me, the tribunal staff, and those we serve in your prayers, that our ministry may bring God's justice, healing and consolation. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.*

### INTERNATIONAL ASPERGER'S DAY

International Asperger's day is celebrated on 18 February every year. This syndrome has been included in the autism spectrum since 2013, a disorder related to brain development. This impacts how a person perceives and socialises with others.

What distinguishes Asperger's Disorder (AD) from classic autism are its less severe signs and the absence of language delays. Individuals with AD are interested in social interaction, but have problems in communication; taking people literally and unable to interpret body language. AD is more common in males, with 8 times more males than females diagnosed.

[www.asperger.asn.au/](http://www.asperger.asn.au/)

Mary Pianta, Disability Contact Coordinator



Please join us on Thursdays after Mass in the Pastoral Centre for a cuppa and a chat.

# Holy Year Doors

In front of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, on 9 May 2024, Pope Francis delivered his Papal Decree *Spes Non Confundit* (*Hope Does Not Disappoint*) declaring that 2025 would be a year of Jubilee. The Holy Door was opened on 24 December 2024, and will close on 6 January 2026.

The Holy Door takes on special significance and is a powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. The opening of the door by the Pope constitutes the official beginning of the Holy Year.

A Year of Jubilee is a special time for remission of sins and universal pardon. It is a time of pilgrimage, reconciliation and spiritual renewal that occurs every 25 years. In special cases, the Pope may call for an extraordinary year of Jubilee. This occurred in 2016 when Pope Francis announced a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's mission to be a witness of mercy which is "the beating heart of the Gospel".

In crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, the pilgrim is reminded by John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd. The door is a passageway that ushers the pilgrim into the interior of a church. For the Christian community, a church is not only a sacred space, but also a symbol of the communion that binds every believer to Christ: it is a place of encounter and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace which awaits every pilgrim, the Church is essentially the place of the community of the faithful.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee year has been incorporated into the National Liturgy and Liturgical Music Conference to be held in Adelaide from 1-3 October 2025. The Conference is entitled **Pilgrims of Hope: Transformed Through Sacrament & Song**. Registrations will open in early February, but in the meantime please 'Save the Date'. All are very welcome!!



## On the Lighter Side

Blessed are those who give without remembering. And blessed are those who take without forgetting. Bernard Meltzer



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**Did you know**—if you attend a weekday Mass, there are 6 assigned carparks for Parishioners to use in the carpark near the tennis courts. They have painted blue lines and you can walk directly to the church through the beautiful Parish grounds.



## Prayer for the Day

God, who alone can satisfy our deepest hungers, protect us from the lure of wealth and power; move our hearts to seek first your kingdom, that ours may be the security and joy of those who place their trust in you. Amen.

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# Along the track

## Nothing Special

There's an ad on television that, apart from trying to flog us a product, reminds us of the special moments in life we so often take for granted – dinner with friends, or at home with family, visiting grandma and so on. When we are asked, what did you do last night or over the weekend we so often reply “Nothing special.” Yet these are the special moments that make life worthwhile, that help us understand who we are and that give our lives purpose and meaning.

Every year in its calendar, the church singles out special seasons to celebrate – Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. But, outside of these special times, it invites us to live out and celebrate *Ordinary time*. Perhaps we might mistakenly think of that as ‘nothing special’ time, to equate that with ‘boring,’ just life going on, same old, same old day after day. But nothing could be further from the truth. Ordinary time doesn't have big feasts to celebrate, the out of the ordinary as it were, but it asks us to be more sensitive to the ebbs and flows of our own daily lives, to appreciate them, to celebrate them and to give thanks for them.

At this time, after Christmas and Easter, Advent and Lent, ordinary time gives us the chance to reflect on those ‘big feasts’, as it were and how they find their place in our lives and how our lives find a place in them. For example, how does Easter, that great season of hope, come alive in my daily life? What are the things that give me hope, the events, the people that make life worthwhile now and into the future? How does the renewal time of Lent find its way into the ‘nothing special’ time.

How are our ‘ordinary days’ enriched through encounters with the love of God though the people, the daily events, the challenges, the joys – are we sensitive to those or do we just take them for granted and miss their message? Is each day ‘nothing special’?

Sometimes it takes the ‘out of the ordinary’ to shake us out of that way of thinking, an illness for example. When we regain health and energy after an illness, perhaps we have had to take time off work, and out of our normal routines and rhythms, nothing can be more comforting than returning to the ordinary – back home again, back to the old routine, the normal stuff of everyday life, back to the familiarity of work. Only after it has been taken away and then given back, do we realise that the simple appreciation of daily things is a treasure. And within that lies an important message that we are with God when we are in the present moment and God is with us.

During Ordinary Time, the Church's prayers and readings from the Sacred Scriptures are about Jesus' public ministry, his day-to-day life as it were. If we don't know the way of Jesus how we can celebrate it? How can we live it?

These readings remind us to accept others generously, to forgive, to be a healing presence, to be peacemakers, to be people of joy, to be the person who really does listen to others, to be patient and not judgemental, to be the person who lives humbly by not being the person who brags about success but rather wants to rejoice in others' good fortune too. These readings offer us the opportunity to refocus attention on loved ones, to do some evaluation on my personal convictions, and assess where my life is going and what changes I'd like to make.

Pope Francis tells us: “Today does not repeat itself: this is life. Place all your heart, your open heart, open it to the Lord, not closed, not hard, not hardened, not without faith...”

So this is life, what we experience each day. Some days are out of the ordinary, they bring with them new experiences, the wonder of something new. But most days are ordinary and within them lasting happiness and peace may lie.

Pope Francis again: “We go home with these two words only: ‘How is my ‘today’?...’ But how are you, my today, in the presence of the Lord? And how is my heart? Is it open? Is it firm in the faith? Is it led by the Lord? With these two questions we ask the Lord for the grace which each of us needs.”

Regards  
Jim Quillinan

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)

# Children's Liturgy of the Word

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
16 February 2025 - Year C  
*"Happy are the poor."*

## Something to Think About

Think about the many ways in which you are blessed. Can you name some of your blessings?

## The Story

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the people about the things that God values. God gives special blessings to those people who are hungry, sad, or poor. People who are rejected or insulted by others, and who feel sad or unloved, can look forward to a reward in heaven. Jesus is reminding us that the ways and values of the world are not necessarily the ways and values of God.

## The Scriptures

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke* (6:17, 20-23)

Jesus and his apostles went down from the mountain and came to some flat, level ground. Many other disciples were there to meet him. Large crowds of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon were there too.

Jesus looked at his disciples and said:

"God will bless you people who are poor. His kingdom belongs to you!  
God will bless you hungry people. You will have plenty to eat!

"God will bless you people who are crying. You will laugh!  
God will bless you when others hate you and won't have anything to do with you.  
God will bless you when people insult you and say cruel things about you,  
all because you are a follower of the Son of Man!  
Long ago your own people did these same things to the prophets."

"So when this happens to you, be happy and jump for joy!  
You will have a great reward in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Group Discussion

What do you value? What do your parents and grandparents value? What values have you been taught at school?  
Which of these are the same values that Jesus talks about in the gospel today?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader 1:* We pray that people with power will use it to help others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for people who are poor and hungry. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for all who are sick or suffering. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray that we might comfort those who are sad or lonely. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray for our own needs. *(Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions).* Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,

Help us to share your love and comfort  
with one another and to be a blessing to  
those around us this week.

Amen.

## Video (optional)

Watch the video and sing along together: [The Blessing](#)  
Turn on the CC subtitles to see the words as the children sing.

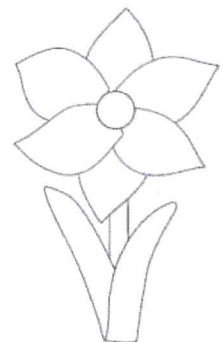


## Group Activity (optional)

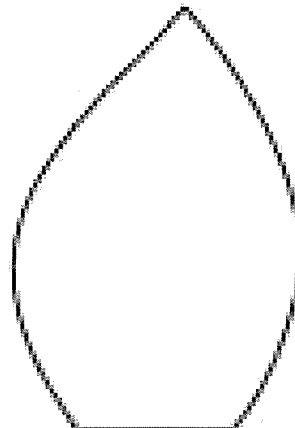
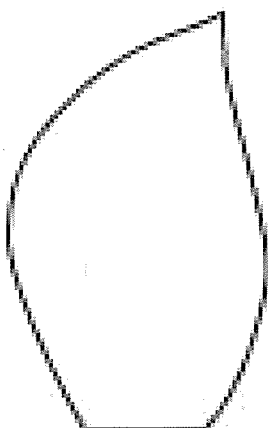
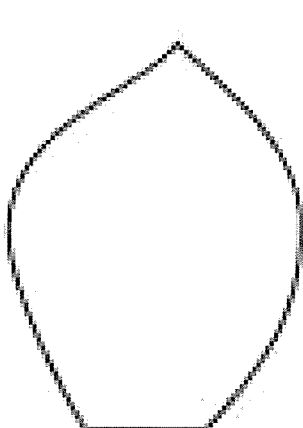
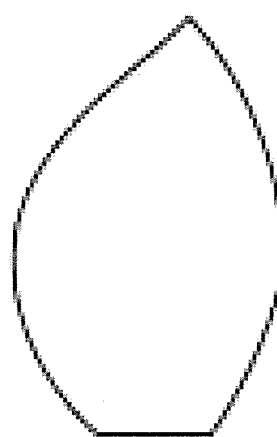
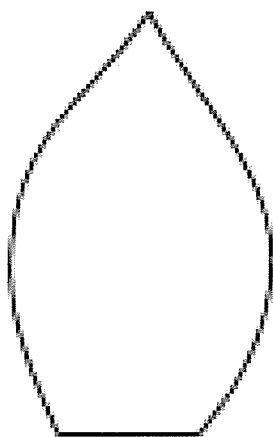
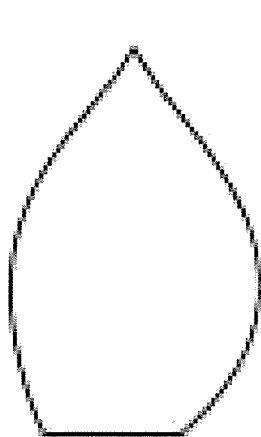
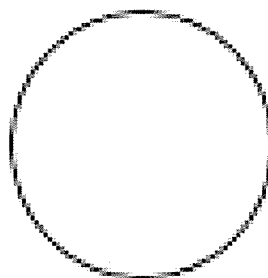
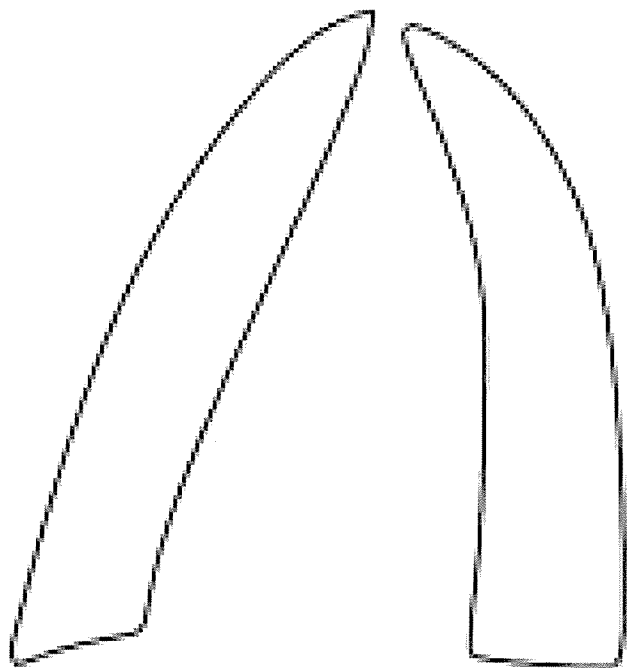
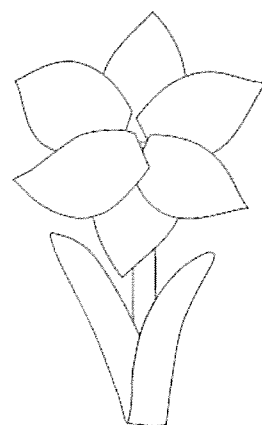
### GOD'S BLESSINGS TO ME

*You will need: printed flower template for each child (possibly pre-cut for small children), coloured pencils or markers, glue, coloured paper to glue the finished flower onto.*

1. Brainstorm with children the blessings they are thankful for in their lives.
2. Invite children to write or draw one blessing on each of the petals and decorate.
3. Cut out the pieces, if not pre-cut, and glue the pieces onto another sheet of paper to make a beautiful flower.



# BLESSINGS FROM GOD





If others hate you and say cruel things about you,  
**GOD WILL BE CLOSE TO YOU AND BLESS YOU.**

Those of you who are poor or hungry or crying,  
**GOD WILL BLESS YOU. YOU WILL LAUGH.**

JESUS SAYS,  
**BE HAPPY AND  
JUMP FOR JOY**

*Put on some music. Dance, jump and clap your hands to show God you are happy.*

